Virtual Factory®

Case Study

A multi-billion dollar aerospace company contacted Orbit Technology to improve the efficiency of their jet engine assembly plant.

Problems for workers:

- *I can't find an engineer to solve my problem.*

- *My manager blames me for working slow, but he does not understand what I'm doing.*

Problems for managers:

- ***Efficiency is low***, *especially in the test rigs where small problems can cause long delays.*

- ***Response time is poor.*** *Workers wait too long for an engineer to solve a problem.*

- *When I'm at my desk, **I don't know what's happening on the shop floor**. I don't know when someone runs into a problem that needs my help.*

- ***I don't know the best way to improve**. I don't have hard data on which cells perform best, nor which problems occur most often.*
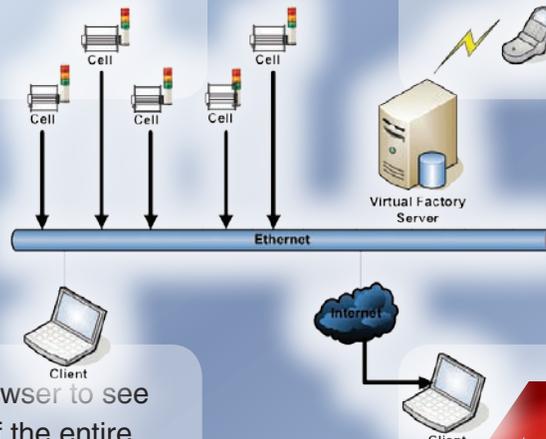
The Virtual Factory® Solution

1 Install a switch box and light tower at each cell, connected via a local network.

2 When a worker encounters a problem, he turns a light on. Virtual Factory captures the signal, and notifies the correct engineer by cell phone text message and email.

Cell

Cell

Cell

Cell

Cell

Virtual Factory Server

Ethernet

Internet

Client

Client

3 Use any browser to see the status of the entire factory at a glance. Problems are color coded, same as the lights, for easy understanding. The amount of time in each problem is shown.
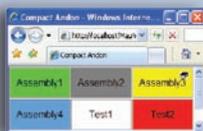
4 Reports show uptime, downtime, and response time for each cell, or any combination of cells. "Pareto of Issues" report focuses attention on the main problems.
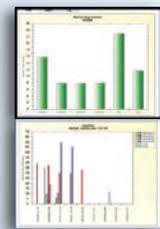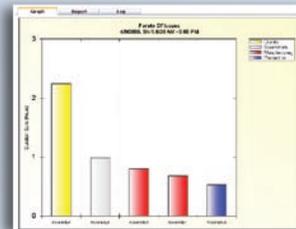
Results

- *Dramatically improved response time*
- *High visibility at several levels*
- *New focus on continuous improvement*

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