



SKCAC Industries uses state-of-the-art Vertex solutions to effectively track employee time and productivity

Information powered results for human services.

Overview

SKCAC Industries sought to replace an outdated software system with proven technologies that could help the organization effectively track employee time and productivity and handle complex subminimum payroll tasks. SKCAC turned to Vertex Systems Corp., which implemented a powerful and effective solution designed especially for organizations that serve people with disabilities. The system, which consists of Vertex ProductivityTrac and Vertex e-Timecard, provides SKCAC with a powerful, state-of-the-art technology base.



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About Vertex Systems

Vertex delivers superior information management solutions and support services that help unlock the potential of human services organizations and maximize their ability to make a difference. Our vision is to be the premier and preferred provider of information management products and services to human services agencies.

“Vertex has brought us into the world of new technology.”

Mark Kantonen, Executive Director
SKCAC Industries

Situation

SKCAC Industries was organized in 1967 as a not-for-profit corporation to help people with disabilities become an integrated part of society. Based in Kent, Washington, SKCAC provides both production and employment services for people with disabilities. Approximately 90 people participate in SKCAC’s sheltered work program, performing small- to medium-sized assembly, collating, fabricating and packaging projects.

In the past SKCAC used bar code readers to enter workers’ piece rate and productivity into an internally developed timekeeping system based on Smart Software. That information then flowed to the organization’s ADP payroll system. In recent years, however, timekeeping and payroll processing tasks became increasingly difficult as the 15-year-old system began to fail. Around the same time, the programmer who had been keeping the system running passed away.

As a result, SKCAC found itself in a potentially dire situation. “The technology in our old system had passed its prime,” says Mark Kantonen, SKCAC’s Executive Director. “It was based on a DOS environment, and it wasn’t upgradeable. Even if we could fix it, we would still be working with an obsolete system.”

Solution

Faced with an outdated, failing system, and determined to avoid the time-consuming and costly process of entering time and production information manually, SKCAC quickly began searching for a new solution. It needed to be easy to use, based on a modern, stable technology platform and allow SKCAC to quickly and easily track productivity and handle the complexity of a subminimum payroll.

In the midst of the search for a new solution, Debbie Meyers, SKCAC’s Associate Director, received a fortuitous phone call. On the other end was a representative of Vertex Systems, eager to tell her about the company’s powerful, new hand-held solution for collecting the same information SKCAC had been collecting via bar code readers. “We get sales calls all the time,” Meyers says, “but in this case the timing was great, and I said, ‘please tell me more.’”

SKCAC researched Vertex and, impressed with what it heard, chose to replace its aging system with a state-of-the-art solution from Vertex. SKCAC’s new solution consists of Vertex e-Timecard™, which allows all workers to submit time and pay-related information via electronic handheld devices, and Vertex ProductivityTrac™, which efficiently handles SKCAC’s piece and hourly

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Debbie Meyers, Associate Director
SKCAC Industries

rate subminimum payroll. The handhelds initially were Palm-based units, but SKCAC is currently deploying Pocket PCs that will allow an even more efficient capture of time sheet information.

Benefits

In addition to helping SKCAC track employee time and productivity and handle complex subminimum payroll tasks, Vertex Systems also provides SKCAC with many benefits, including:

- Time and cost avoidance. Using e-Time-card, SKCAC is able to avoid the time and expense associated with regular, keyboard-based entry. The organization estimates that using e-Timecard allows it to avoid the expense associated with one additional full-time data entry position.
- More flexible assignment of work. The Vertex system allows SKCAC to break its production jobs into an unlimited number of discrete steps, or subtasks. This is a vast improvement over the organization’s previous software, which allowed the organization to divide a job into only a maximum of 10 steps. By breaking a job into simpler steps, SKCAC can assign tasks to a wider group of workers, which is particularly important because some workers may only be able to accomplish certain, specific tasks.
- State-of-the-art technology base. With the Vertex solution, SKCAC benefits from having a stable new technology platform, and no longer needs to worry about system obsolescence. “Vertex has brought us into the world of new technology,” Kantonen says. In fact, SKCAC is eagerly spreading the word about the benefits of the Vertex system. “I have told many of the community rehabilitation providers we work with that if they’re still using paper time cards, they’d see a real time savings using the Vertex system,” says Meyers.
- Timely support. In addition to having a state-of-the-art system, SKCAC has been thrilled with the support it has received from Vertex. “The support from Vertex has been terrific,” Meyers says. “They’re willing to take the time to help us any time we call.” When SKCAC recently experienced difficulties with a server, the first call the organization placed was to Vertex. “I don’t even know whose software the problem was with, but Vertex was more than willing to help us through it,” she says. “They’ve always been very helpful.”



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