

CSCMP hottopics

APRIL | 2022

Optimizing Warehouses: 3 Ways Location Data Can Help

*By Erminio Di Paola, Vice
President of Product
Management, HERE
Technologies*



Indoor Tracking

1

Asset Utilization

1

Enhancing Digital Twins

2



*Educating and Connecting the World's
Supply Chain Professionals.™*

The growth of eCommerce and supply chains has resulted in the need for more warehouses worldwide. Costs are rising, as well. This means operating efficient, productive warehouses and distribution centers is more important now than ever before. Asset tracking can help reduce costs, boost warehouse efficiency and improve productivity.

Location-powered asset tracking can help optimize your warehouses and distribution centers. Some of the key uses are indoor tracking, asset utilization, and enhancing digital twins.

INDOOR TRACKING

Whether you operate one warehouse or many, if equipment is mobile or used by multiple teams (eg, forklifts, roll cages, pallets and more), it can be easily misplaced. This leads to disruptions and delays. Tracking down missing items requires pulling employees away from their daily tasks. Some companies even have full-time employees dedicated to retrieving lost equipment.

Without visibility into indoor locations, companies can't track crucial pieces of equipment to prevent loss or misplacement. For example, a company that lacks sufficient asset traceability may be forced to buy backups of each asset so that production time isn't disrupted when one goes missing. This is neither cost-effective nor sustainable. Fortunately, there's a better way with location technology.

How does asset tracking work? Asset tracking solutions help reduce the time and money spent on missing equipment by providing necessary visibility. They allow you to track and monitor mobile assets in a supply chain for optimal utilization and efficiency.

It all starts with a tracking device or unique identification number. By monitoring the tracking device via asset tracking software, you can accurately follow its movements.

Hopefully your assets make it to their destination without a hitch, but if they don't, you'll know exactly where they are and what went wrong.

HERE Asset Tracking is an end-to-end solution that offers real-time visibility of your asset's location and status. It is the ideal way to keep track of all mobile equipment on or off the warehouse floor.

Additionally, with working-from-home on the rise, HERE Asset Tracking enables managers to improve employee productivity levels within warehouses and seamlessly track movements of assets and material handling equipment utilizing already available networks.

ASSET UTILIZATION

Imagine a postal company has over 500,000 roll containers. Without proper knowledge of the location or utilization of those containers, unnecessary costs can quickly add up. Let's say 3% – about 15,000 roll containers – are stolen every year. If each container is \$100, that becomes \$15 million over a 10-year period. And, those costs continue to rise because this company is unaware that up to 40% of their roll containers sit idle for several months outside of the busy holiday season.

Unfortunately, this example is all too common. But thankfully, there's a way to reduce those inefficiencies and costs.

About CSCMP Hot Topics

Issues of *CSCMP Hot Topics* may include early results from ongoing research being conducted for CSCMP or other organizations; new supply chain practices, thought-provoking ideas, or emerging trends; discussions of changes in the broader business and regulatory environment that may impact the supply chain and logistics field.



*Educating and Connecting the World's
Supply Chain Professionals.™*

Companies who track their assets also gain valuable insights into their usage patterns. Asset tracking solutions reduce over- and underutilization, enabling optimal asset use while preventing loss, theft and more.

Atos, a global information technology service and consulting company realized that many of their customers shared similar goals: cost reduction, secure supply chains and sustainability. To tackle these challenges, they proposed their customers implement location tracking devices onto their roll containers. For their asset management solution to work, they needed accurate, real-time visibility both indoors and out, so they selected the HERE Asset Tracking solution. Now they can now provide their customers with asset management as a service solution, to facilitate roll container tracking, prevent loss and collect data for optimization. Today, this company's customers can:

- Track the movement of all roll containers
- Enjoy improved indoor and outdoor visibility
- Find missing assets and determine exactly where things went wrong
- Decrease costs associated with replacing and overstocking roll containers

ENHANCING DIGITAL TWINS

A supply chain digital twin is a realistic virtual representation of operations and facilities that includes assets, warehouses, logistics and inventory positions. Let's talk data. When mapped to a warehouse or distribution center, data coming from sensors, trackers and other IoT devices becomes inherently more valuable. For example, when companies track the whereabouts of their roll containers to reduce loss and theft, they can use that data to analyze the downtimes of those assets, too.

Some companies are taking it a step further by feeding their data into modeling tools known as digital twins. Digital twins help businesses make informed decisions on how they can streamline operations and utilize the maximum capacity of their facility through infrastructure planning, asset tracking and workforce management. They also allow them to simulate changes – such as a new warehouse layout or automated process – before investing or disrupting operations.

Yojee, a cloud-based software as a service (SaaS) logistics platform, teamed up with HERE to leverage location intelligence and create a solution that transforms warehouse operations and management through digitization.

The solution combines Yojee's logistics software expertise along with HERE Asset Tracking and HERE map-making capabilities to uncover crucial data from the warehouse floor. By feeding the real-time and historical data into an AI-powered data analytics dashboard, businesses receive a digital representation of their warehouse operations. Through customization and maintenance, the connected warehouse solution can help users improve overall logistics planning and reduce operational costs.

Now, customers can benefit from next-generation real-time tracking and can track materials, equipment and workforce movement faster and more accurately. They can reduce costs by optimizing the utilization of labor, utilities and storage space. And they can achieve a seamless workflow by using the data collected by IoT devices to determine the best warehouse layout and configuration.

Whether you're looking to cut costs, achieve sustainability goals or improve operational efficiency, location technology can help make it happen. The asset management conversation doesn't have to end. Find additional resources on [here.com](https://www.here.com) or [reach out to us](#); we'd love to hear from you.