

5 Reasons to Overhaul Your Legacy SPC System

MODERNIZE QUALITY MANAGEMENT TO TRANSFORM YOUR
MANUFACTURING OPERATIONS.



Is your SPC system holding you back?

An outdated SPC system—such as one that depends on paper-and-spreadsheet data management—severely limits your options for addressing critical challenges:

- › Improving product quality
- › Optimizing processes
- › Reducing costs
- › Ensuring compliance

When you modernize SPC, you get the quality intelligence you need to maximize agility, performance, productivity, and product quality.

Statistical Process Control is a bedrock of modern manufacturing. It's time to overhaul the way you use it.

As soon as we invented mass production, we needed a way to control production processes.

Statistical Process Control (SPC) methodology is the standard for detecting variance in manufacturing processes. SPC enables manufacturing process control—and reveals the insights we need for continuous improvement.

However, many SPC systems have not evolved at the pace that manufacturing requires. These legacy SPC systems limit the adaptability and resilience of manufacturing organizations.

The future of manufacturing demands rapid decision making supported by accurate information—and the ability to instantly adapt to disruptions and changing demands.



What Does a Legacy SPC System Look Like?

Since the end of the 20th century, manufacturing has leveraged SPC-based computing systems on the plant floor. When these systems first appeared, they were revolutionary. They made the labor-intensive, slow, and error-prone approach to SPC at that time easier, faster, and more ubiquitous.

But over time, many legacy SPC systems went into “maintenance” mode. Updates turned into bug fixes, and occasionally new versions would support the newest operating systems. But real innovation slowed to a trickle.

And when new features and functions were added, they happened without a fundamental rethink of the overall design and architecture of the software. Over time, these constant feature additions led to highly complex, cumbersome, unwieldy SPC software applications.

These legacy SPC systems are still largely in use today. Systems that were once useful—perhaps even cutting edge in their day—have since become an afterthought for many manufacturing companies... if even a thought at all.



Digital Transformation isn't a Buzzword—It's an Imperative

Manufacturing optimization is a major focus for manufacturers: prioritizing technology solutions enables them to maximize agility, performance, productivity, and product quality.

76% of manufacturing executives intend to increase their investments in digital initiatives.

*Deloitte. 2021 Manufacturing Industry Outlook

In manufacturing, digital initiatives should start with the SPC processes and data you already collect. When you move legacy SPC systems to a modern digital quality intelligence solution, you change how data is captured, stored, accessed, analyzed, and used.

With a digital quality intelligence solution in place, you have the foundation you need to be agile, productive, and cost effective—across all your operations. That is the real transformation.

Are You Ready for an Overhaul? Top 5 Reasons

Imagine walking around the offices of a large manufacturing organization and finding salespeople managing customer information using a Rolodex. Or executives in a planning meeting using acetates on an overhead projector. Or the procurement office issuing purchase orders using a telex machine.

Now, imagine walking the plant floor at that same manufacturer. The production supervisor is writing machine settings for the next shift on a board next to the machine. The quality engineer is writing the results of a critical quality check on a clipboard using a blunt pencil. And the plant manager is locked in an office, crunching numbers across an array of spreadsheets.

In the first thought experiment above, you would have no doubt pointed out that the examples were absurd—totally outdated. But the second thought experiment is far from absurd: in fact, it is a reality in many manufacturing organizations today.

Let's take a look at the top five reasons to overhaul your legacy SPC system.

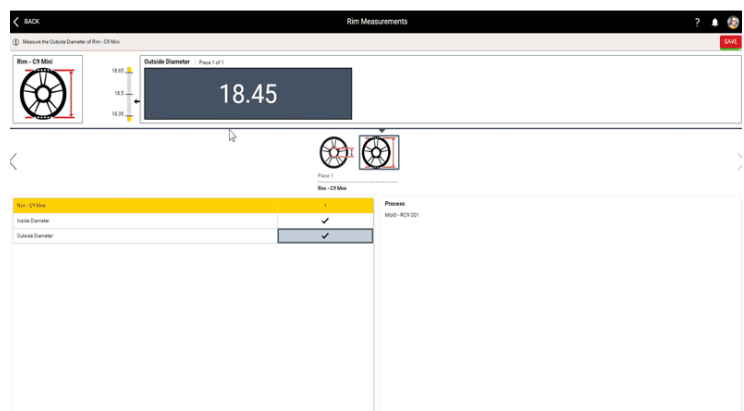
REASON 1: YOUR DATA IS SEPARATED AND SILOED.

Legacy SPC systems typically rely on local, file-based data storage. That means that the data you're collecting is accessible only on the workstation or device where the software is installed—creating “data islands” that can't connect or communicate with each other. These islands of data prevent you from seeing the big picture of your manufacturing quality—and limit your ability to make improvements. Although SPC is a process-centric technique, its value is greatly amplified when you apply it consistently—across all facilities. Legacy SPC systems do not support that.

The Overhaul:

A modern quality intelligence solution:

- › Streamlines and automates data collection
- › Stores data in a centralized, unified data warehouse
- › Empowers users to see—and respond to—issues in real time
- › Enables you to see and compare data across all processes, lines, and plants—to truly understand the holistic view of your operations



REASON 2: YOU'RE BOGGED DOWN BY INEFFICIENCY.

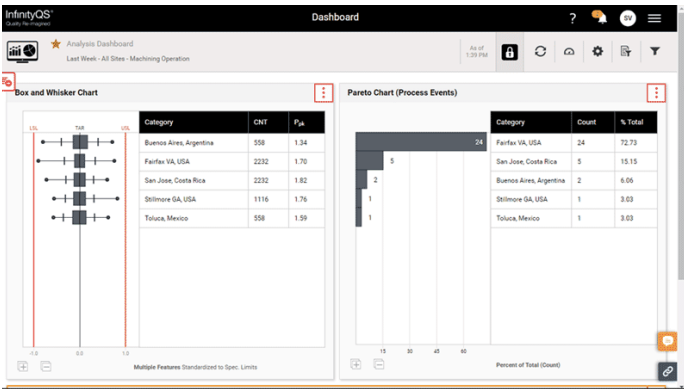
Efficiency and productivity rule today's modern manufacturing environments. Cutting-edge manufacturers employ continuous improvement teams that leverage Lean Six Sigma, manufacturing excellence, GMP, and more to constantly propel their organizations forward.

A legacy SPC system slows that momentum to a crawl. When data is not easily accessible to these teams, they spend most of their time collecting, preparing, and importing data... then performing manual analysis in complex sets of spreadsheets. That leaves them very little time to act on the results—and often, by the time they realize what action is needed, the opportunity is gone.

The Overhaul:

A modern SPC solution saves time from start to finish

- › Start with accurate information by configuring entry limits and automating data collection
- › Easily compare multiple products, shifts, and processes in a single view
- › Enable real-time analysis from within the SPC system
- › Identify and share best practices to improve efficiency across the organization



REASON 3: LIMITED CAPABILITIES DELIVER LIMITED BENEFITS.

Modern manufacturing is fast paced—and requires you to instantly respond to issues and changes. Manufacturers are in a constant race to find new and innovative approaches to maximize efficiency, productivity, and quality—while minimizing risk. Yet most legacy SPC systems still provide only basic, rudimentary reporting capabilities, requiring users to deep dive to discover meaningful information and improvement opportunities.

The Overhaul:

A modern quality intelligence system empowers quick decision making with:

- › Configurable, role-based dashboards that make the most important data easier to spot
- › Intuitive data filtering and flexible notifications that give you a quick snapshot of where your process quality stands
- › Graphical data visualizations that quickly show where to focus your attention for the greatest ROI—and most effective quality wins

Site(s)	Weight	Length	Width
Buenos Aires, Argentina	A1	B1	A2
Fairfax VA, USA	B2	C3	B3
San Jose, Costa Rica	A2	B2	B1
Stillmore GA, USA	B1	A2	C1
Toluca, Mexico	A3	A2	A1

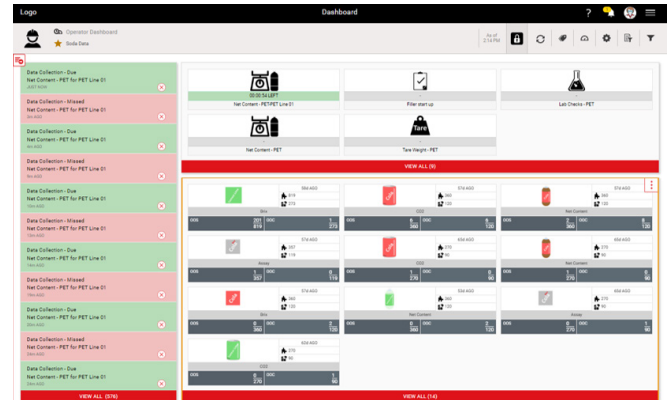
REASON 4: YOUR COMPLEX SYSTEM CAN'T MANAGE YOUR COMPLEX ENVIRONMENT.

Modern-day manufacturing is high volume, highly automated, and highly complex. To succeed, you have to manage that complexity in real time—and there is little room for error. Every person in the organization must have the ability to see and respond to the information they need most to do their jobs. Yet many legacy SPC systems are also highly complex, requiring a great deal of skill, knowledge, and training to use. When only a few people can respond to critical information, your whole operation is limited.

The Overhaul:

A modern SPC-based quality solution helps combat complexity with:

- Intuitive, web-based user interfaces and extensive self-help to get users up to speed easily
- Timed reminders—to ensure compliance and reduce operator overload
- Automated alerts and notifications that empower users to spot and correct issues immediately
- Easy drill-down capabilities to pinpoint the cause of problems—and speed resolution



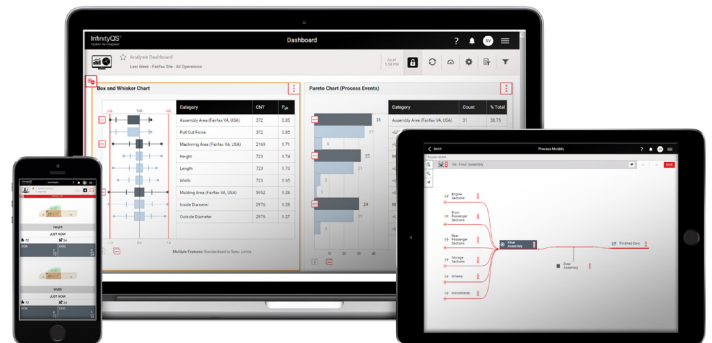
REASON 5: YOU'RE SPENDING ALL YOUR RESOURCES MAINTAINING YOUR SPC SYSTEM.


Manufacturers face myriad competing priorities for budget allocation and resource availability. Investments are prioritized for projects that deliver the biggest operational returns—both in terms of short operational performance and long-term growth. Legacy SPC systems, which are costly to implement and maintain, are often not compatible with these constraints.

The Overhaul:

Modern SPC solutions deliver game-changing operational advantages:

- Simple cloud-based infrastructure that's easy to deploy—without burdening IT teams or requiring hardware investments
- Easy configuration and scalability to ensure a smooth rollout
- Software as a Service (SaaS) licensing, so you pay only for what you use
- Automated updates that eliminate software maintenance costs.





“ Quality transformation is a high priority for manufacturers in today’s competitive market.

Enact allows for statistical process control (SPC) quality intelligence in the cloud, enabling a complete quality transformation for manufacturers. ”

Frost & Sullivan, 2021 Product Leadership Award

Overcoming Roadblocks: It’s Time to Rethink Your Legacy SPC System

“If it ain’t broke, don’t fix it.”

Manufacturers today have abandoned that outdated mantra. The experiences of 2020—and the continued disruptions that reverberate across industries—have proven that a digital transformation is essential.

The manufacturing world—and the consumers we serve—are very different now than when our legacy SPC systems were installed in plants around the world. It’s time for quality and SPC software to not only keep pace—but to drive manufacturing operations forward.

If you know it’s time for an overhaul, remember: this is not about upgrading for the sake of upgrading. This is about mitigating inherent risk—and pursuing opportunities you didn’t know existed.

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