Increased Insight into Assets Gives This Utility Company More Energy

INSPECTIONS FOR POWER UTILITIES

One of the largest energy companies in the United States manages a significant amount of its asset data using IBM Maximo®. However, after utilizing Maximo for almost a decade, they needed a tool that would provide additional insight into their assets, particularly the data necessary to make informed decisions regarding their asset life cycles.

THE CASE FOR MOBILE

With paper-based inspections, the inspectors and the asset managers experienced critical information gaps. Inspectors had to print out and make notes on paper inspections to later be uploaded into the database. Because of this delay, asset managers oftentimes did not see critical inspection information for days or weeks. This gap in reporting created vulnerabilities for compliance and for asset repair and replacement. In the field, inspectors could lose the printed inspections, write notes they later could not decipher, or not recall important inspection workflow.

THE SOLUTION

The company employed an adaptive mobile solution with DataSplice. After an implementation period of less than six months, this utility realized several benefits.

Compliance improved. The company imported and converted their existing inspection job plans into DataSplice. Technicians completed inspections for compliance items such as batteries, fire extinguishers, emergency lighting, stray voltage, and smoke alarms faster and more accurately.

As the utilization of the initial system increased, the utility added more capabilities to the system. These included:

- **Gas calls:** When an SF_6 Gas Call is created, DataSplice tracks the location, equipment, SF_6 cylinders, and the amount of gas added.
- **Pump house readings:** With DataSplice, the user enters pump house tank level readings and can compare them to prior readings. Managers can review the readings to ensure there are no oil losses or leaks.
- **Drum logs:** DataSplice enables the users to enter the type of waste (hazardous or non-hazardous) and the amount of waste, then it generates a tracking number that a technician affixes to the container. Now managers have a complete history of the when, where, and how of waste removal.

Field personnel are empowered to do their jobs. The application works on many mobile devices, including iOS, Android, and Windows. Technicians can use the device regardless if they are connected to the network. DataSplice helps field personnel do their job with high accuracy because it guides them through a series of applicable questions, as if navigating a flow chart.

This capability facilitates accurate data collection and saves field personnel time. Inspectors do not have to guess what needs to be done next or remember all the compliance rules. Inspectors no longer transcribe detailed field notes to a separate application. With this approach, they never see an irrelevant question.

EAM administrators and managers are better equipped to make timely, effective decisions to reduce costs and outages. In the past, paper and filing cabinets stored asset history. With no comprehensive view of their assets, managers could not make well-timed decisions concerning their assets or be assured that regulatory requirements were being met. The data they collect today, using DataSplice, is more reliable than data collected previously.

DataSplice has been one of our foundational asset management tools for nearly a decade.

THE RESULT

Information is key for this organization. This dynamic and adaptive solution supports their evolving asset management and keeps them competitive as one of the world's largest energy delivery systems.

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