Core Cloud Systems

Automation Everywhere — From Field to Finance

The Challenge

For over 40 years, Al J Mueller Construction Company has provided general contractor, design-build, and construction management services to a variety of high-profile commercial and industrial facilities. Based in Missouri, their expert contributions and lead roles in prestigious projects throughout the metropolitan area have earned them three *Excellence in Construction* awards from Associated Builders & Contractors Inc.
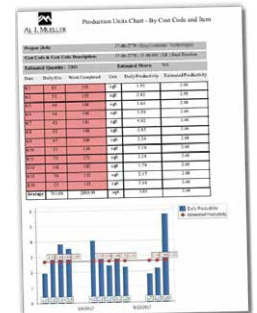
AL J. MUELLER
DESIGN/BUILD CONSTRUCTION

Al J Mueller leverages technology including back-office software systems that supports their administrative and field staff that ultimately helps them maintain their reputation for quality, on-time project delivery. Together, members of the management team including finance, human resources, project management, and even the president of the company, identified processes that were creating inefficiencies, which could be eliminated using a single system. Inefficient paper-based production unit tracking, time & materials authorizations, and an antiquated paid time off system were replaced with a sophisticated solution that alleviated burdens for the staff including field personnel.

The Solution

With high demand for business intelligence by execs in every industry, it's no surprise Al J Mueller's president, Larry McPhee, wanted better, faster visibility into production unit tracking across all of his jobs, on a daily basis. The project managers and field crews had been using spreadsheets to track production and record field conditions causing delays in the delivery of this crucial information to superintendents and McPhee. Both the project management team and McPhee sought a mobile solution that would speed up the feedback in an effort to enable a more agile environment for meeting project cost and delivery goals.

A business consultant recommended Core Cloud Systems (CCS), a solution from Core Associates, LLC, that could integrate with their existing construction accounting system and also expand to enhance productivity. Al J Mueller staff worked with the CCS team to develop a custom **Production Units by Cost Code** solution, first. Al J Mueller's controller, Meri Markt, stated "We sat down with the CCS team to outline data requirements and report views to match our exact requirements."
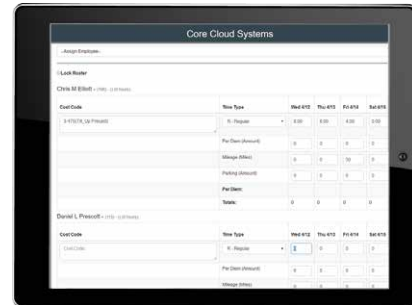
Today, field crews use mobile technology to record and report production units at their job site, document field conditions, and submit them to project managers. Superintendents and McPhee receive feedback

through automated reports from all of their sites, daily, and are now able to easily adjust schedules, quickly address worksite condition issues, and better understand overall production across the company at any point in time.

The second CCS solution that went to work for Al J Mueller was the **Time & Materials Authorization for Work**. This form-based application allows field personnel to easily produce electronic service tickets from anywhere. Using a tablet, superintendents can type in labor, materials, and equipment used to complete a job and collect customer sign-offs—all in under ten minutes. This is a task that previously took hours and utilized paper with carbon-copies, which bogged down the business. "This is the superintendents' favorite", Markt reveals of the Time & Materials Authorization for Work application adding, "It's gone beyond our expectations as it allows us to also track extra work while providing the documentation we need to create change orders."

The third CCS solution implemented by Al J Mueller was the **Paid Time Off Request.** This solution turned an inconvenient, paper-based process into a time-saving, digital experience. "Field workers no longer needed to stop into the office to drop off time-off requests and now fill them out electronically in the field or wherever they are instead," Markt says. The solution greatly facilitates job staffing to help them eliminate unnecessary project delays.

Successes and Outlook

The Al J Mueller team has managed several projects now using the CCS suite of solutions. "We're working to get the Credit Card Reconciliation solution going right now," Markt reports. "This is the solution I am most thrilled about but I'm also excited to be able to create my own forms with CCS in the future."

About Core Cloud Systems

Core Cloud Systems (CCS) offers a simple way to manage business workflows, forms, portals, and more, all in one place. With many, configurable solutions readily available, users can create or customize their own business applications from virtually anywhere including:

- **CCS Daily -** Daily Production Reports
- **CCS Pay -** Payroll
- **CCS Credit Card -** Credit Card Reconciliation
- **CCS PO -** Purchase Orders
- **CCS Inv-Control -** Inventory Management
- **CCS Time -** Worker Time Tracking

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