



A Picture is Worth Thousands of Moves

Tideworks' Terminal View Helps Speed Cargo through Manzanillo International Terminal in Panama

Success as a terminal operator hinges on the ability to move cargo as quickly, safely and cost effectively as possible. At the average container terminal, container handling equipment like rubber tired gantries (RTGs) and terminal tractors serve a dedicated quay crane with the help of yard clerks who dispatch work assignments to equipment operators on a first-come, first-serve basis. This process utilizes sizable labor and equipment resources, often requiring equipment operators to chase container moves up and down the terminal, wasting fuel, increasing emissions, causing congestion, and delaying operations.

This was once the case for one of the largest container transshipment hubs in Latin America, Manzanillo International Terminal (MIT) Panama. The 1.4 million TEU per annum terminal transformed this resource intensive work order dispatch process into a seamless, automated one with the help of Tideworks Technology's Traffic Control™ with Terminal View™. Traffic Control dynamically controls the terminal's container handling equipment by automatically dispatching container move instructions via wireless computers to the optimal container handler at the optimal moment. Using zoning and pooling strategies, the system creates, sequences and dispatches work instructions that minimize equipment travel time and maximize equipment utilization. Terminal staff run operations from a command center that features Terminal View, a three-dimensional live rendering of terminal activity that helps manage every aspect of the operation — more efficiently, cost effectively and safely.

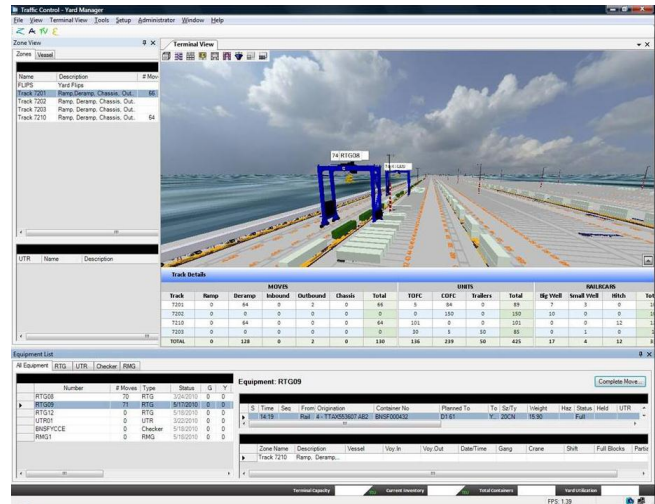
“We were able to add 160,000 container moves to our operation without needing to purchase additional lifting equipment or hire new workers.”

— Robert Ahern
Vice President of Operations
Manzanillo International Terminal

Interactive 3D Visualization Tools Deliver Valuable Efficiency Gains

Unlike other terminal visualization tools that render the terminal using two-dimensional drawings, Terminal View is an immersive virtual world in which personnel can control the operation visually and interactively. Users of Terminal View can pan from left to right, up and down, and zoom in and out to view equipment, inventory, move status, vessels and trains. They can apply temporary color coding to areas of the yard or container subsets to identify potential issues. They can also forecast the operation's status at different time intervals using a Look Ahead feature, which, according to MIT's Vice President of Operations, Robert Ahern, “provides an immensely helpful picture of where the equipment and containers are, where the operation is going, and where it will ultimately end up.”

This revolutionary approach to running terminal operations yields sizable cost savings and service improvements for MIT and its customers. “In addition to the safety improvements we made by removing clerks in small vehicles from the yard, the efficiency gains have been huge. We were able to add 160,000 container moves to our operation without needing to purchase additional lifting equipment or hire new workers,” says Ahern. The savings have been especially helpful during these tough economic times. Meanwhile, as business begins to pick up, MIT is positioned to handle volume increases smoothly and cost effectively thanks to this innovative software.



About Tideworks Technology

Tideworks is a leading provider of cost-effective, reliable software solutions for growing terminal operations and shipping lines worldwide. The company helps more than 50,000 users and nearly 90 facilities run their operations more efficiently and profitably. From optimized equipment utilization to faster turn times, Tideworks works at every step of terminal operations to maximize productivity and customer service. For more information about Tideworks Technology, visit www.tideworks.com/.

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