

Global Food Distributor

Turns Seasonal Demand Planning Nightmare into A Dream of Delivery Efficiency with Aptean Routing & Scheduling

Industry

Logistics services

Challenges

- » Manually planning 2,000 deliveries per week in trucks of differing sizes
- » Meeting diverse delivery requests increased overall transportation costs

Benefits

- » Increased truck utilization by 3%
- » Reduced average travel distance per route by 1.5%
- » Shortened average driving hours per route by 6.2%
- » Gained ability to combine customers' orders in trucks



A leading global food distributor, serving supply chains and food establishments around the world, has partnered with Aptean to better manage their end-to-end logistics operations. Faced with several operational challenges – largely due to manual planning and distribution processes, this major logistics provider needed a solution that would better enable them to plan efficiently, increase vehicle utilization and improve driver productivity. All while still catering to the diverse delivery requests from customers.

The Challenge

As operations grew, the company was constantly bumping up against the limitations of an inefficient manual routing system. The approach involved generating plans on Excel spreadsheets, then checking delivery receipts against the original manifests. Labor costs were skyrocketing. With over 2,000 deliveries per week, performed by 200 drivers operating 170 trucks of five different sizes—from 3.5 tons to 35 tons, the company were struggling to maintain and manage operations. Plus, customers were increasingly demanding super-specific and reliable ETAs.

Wrangling the endless permutations of load size, destination, and truck size to plan routes that would get deliveries to customers on time was averaging out at 2 hours per customer each time. Added to that was the inability to plan and load multiple customers' orders in the same route. During peak seasons, planners would generally work 18-hour days, pushing costs—and stress levels—through the roof.



The Solution

After careful consideration, this leading food distributor decided to implement Aptean's routing and scheduling software to reduce transportation costs by optimizing routes, improving truck utilization and shortening planning time. All while maintaining excellent customer service.

The Benefits

With Aptean Routing & Scheduling *Paragon Edition*, the operation quickly adopted a daily dynamic route planning approach that instantly increased truck utilization and reduced delivery time and miles. It also brought an end to manual planning misery—with each route taking minutes to plan instead of more than 2 hours.

The Aptean system also has a feedback system that allows them to compare actual routes taken to the route planned to promote continuous route improvement. That means route schedules are increasingly more predictable, with ETAs customers can trust.

A game-changing benefit is that the system in place combines different customer orders in the same truck when it makes sense. That has dramatically increased route efficiency. Warehouse processes are also streamlined, so workers can now pick and load multiple customers' orders onto the same truck.

Planners no longer need to carry detailed knowledge about specific customer delivery requirements in their heads. Or exactly where a customer's parking lot is located. Or which road is jammed solid at lunchtime. That's all now automatically incorporated in the route plans generated by Aptean's algorithms. This major food logistics distributor can now continue to offer world-class delivery services, confident it can conquer challenges well into the future.



Are You Ready to Learn More?

Discover how Aptean Routing & Scheduling can optimize your transportation operations.

Contact us at info@aptean.com or visit www.aptean.com.



About Aptean

Aptean is one of the world's leading providers of industry-specific software. Our enterprise resource planning and supply chain solutions are uniquely designed to meet the needs of specialized manufacturers and distributors, while our compliance solutions serve specific markets such as finance and life sciences. With both cloud and on-premise deployment options, Aptean's products, services and unmatched expertise help businesses of all sizes, across many industries, to scale and succeed.

For more information, visit www.aptean.com.