

Z³ Graphix Boosts Productivity with OPrint



*“The **OTPrint** solution offers extreme flexibility allowing us to adapt the software to fit our business model. The ability to easily add new equipment, change existing, and capture the production activity is fantastic. With **OTPrint**, our entire team sees the same up-to-date view of plant operations, instantly at any time during the day.”*

Jeff Goff, Director of Operations - **Z3 Graphix**

Serving the Kansas City market since 1969, Z³ Graphix (formerly Buzz Print) is the 28th largest on-demand printer in the nation. Z³ provides complete design, printing, and full mail services to their clients.

Why OPrint?

Z³ Graphix had been using various print management systems over the past 12 years that they describe as very inflexible. There was no reasonable ability to track jobs through their lifecycle and no method to capture production activity. They heard about the flexibility of the **OTPrint** solution and decided to evaluate the software.

Jeff Goff, Director of Operations at Z³ Graphix, liked the fact that **OTPrint** uses FileMaker Pro® as the foundation; giving his operation the power to adapt the software to fit their business model. “Cost savings resulted with the ability to capture and analyze the “real” data with powerful reporting tools. It gives our organization quality information at the job level, product level and customer level. The OnTrack view of the plant is excellent in reviewing efficiencies of equipment, costs associated with each job, where we are making money, and to quickly identify and isolate problems”, says Goff.

An “Instant View” of the Plant Improves Communication

Prior to **OTPrint**, the morning meetings to determine the status of each job in the plant took the scheduler at Z³ about 2 hours to track down the information. Within one hour following the meeting, the production information was again out-of-date. “With **OTPrint**, the entire operation sees the same instant OnTrack view of the plant”, says Goff. The scheduler at Z³ Graphix also spent 1 hour at the end of the day preparing a report that is now done automatically by the system. He now spends the three hours saved on the shop floor being proactive with customer orders instead of reactive. The scheduler easily evaluates efficiencies, and the strengths and weaknesses of individuals on each press. This individual job performance analysis helps Z³ identify the areas where operators need more training.

Asked how *OTShop* has improved the ability to look at work-in-process, Goff replied, "It is easy to view the current capacity and determine bottlenecks in the plant and how to solve them". Using the data from OnTrack, Z³ classifies the printer errors and uses this data to track the trends of every job to determine solutions. Retrieving the archives has made it much easier when running a job. The software has also given them a more accurate count of material requirements for each job, eliminating excess inventory.

In regards to the advantages of the estimating capabilities of *OTEstimating*, Goff states that "One screen for estimating, detailed by cost center and hourly production realization, is a huge benefit. It's easy to evaluate the final price and make informed decisions when estimating."

Goff stated that, "Communication with our customers has been a real advantage. We can easily track their job right on the screen, without running out to the plant to find it." Z³ Graphix uses web-based ordering that integrates with **OTPrint**. When the order ships, an e-mail message is automatically sent to the customer with a link to track their shipment.

Fast and Effective Implementation Process

Goff comments, "The implementation process for **OTPrint** was fast and extremely effective. Prior to the installation, we assembled all of our costs associated with running our business using an easy to understand format supplied by OTview. OTview prepared the Z³ Graphix system with our costs and standards then visited our plant for the installation. We were trained using our data and within a week were fully functional using **OTPrint** throughout our plant. All users at Z³ were trained on the features that were important to their department, even press operators with no computer experience learned quickly".

Although Z³ Graphix installed **OTPrint** in October of 2003, they have realized enormous early benefits. For the first time, Z³ Graphix has dependable up-to-the-minute data that allows them to make informed business decisions. **OTPrint** is now a key tool in linking their operation to the success of their customers.



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