VIZIYA®

Empowering ERP Asset Management Solutions

Why Analytics are Vital to your Maintenance Strategy

By – VIZIYA WorkAlign® Analytics Team.

Many maintenance strategies are focused on reducing downtime, optimizing output, managing costs, and maximizing resources. In order to achieve any of these, there are a number of different variables that need to be tracked and analyzed at any given time in order to provide insightful outputs to help drive decision making within the organization. Unless an organization can identify where inefficiencies lie, it will be very difficult to understand how to improve current processes. Identifying these inefficiencies can prove quite difficult however as most companies have thousands, if not millions of data points to sift through. Once an inefficiency has been identified, it needs to be made known to the appropriate party to ensure that it will be acted on. The majority of companies have figured out how to gather data, but many still struggle with what to with that data – in other words – how to make the data actionable to advance their business strategy, or in this case, their Maintenance Strategy.

Analytics: How We Got Here

More and more, companies are investing money into Analytics. Whether it be to analyze past trends or to gauge the efficiency of current processes, analytics play a major role in companies' overall business strategies. However, in order for analytics to be truly impactful, they must be focused on a micro-level – analyzing all aspects of the business including all of the various departments that lie within the organization. And because each department has its own set of goals and strategies, it is important for a company to have an analytics solution that understands each department and where the efficiencies and opportunities exist. Therefore, it is becoming essential for organizations to invest in a pointed analytics solution, such as VIZIYA WorkAlign® Analytics, that understands the nature of the business and each department within. Without a proper report suite that identifies meaningful data, an analytics solution would just be a computation of data points lacking insights.

In order to exploit asset data and enable maintenance decision makers to take appropriate actions, maintenance teams need to assess two main areas: what they can know and what they need to know. Maintenance teams should focus on what they need to know, rather than what they can know, to prevent being overwhelmed by the data and to make the best decisions and take the most appropriate actions.

Focus on What You Need To Know

Assets are complex and can have multiple parts which can fail. Maintenance teams need to be able to quickly and accurately determine why the asset failed and what is needed to fix it. The integration of asset data and maintenance analytics software is necessary to get a full understanding of your asset health, determine the probability of a failure and find routes to prevent failures.

Decision making depends on the data, specifically on the maintenance failure and reliability data. This means that data collection and analysis is fundamental for decision making and processes need to support the accurate, timely, and completeness of data collection. Better data and analysis, as well as a better understanding of your Key Performance Indicators (KPIs), makes it easier to find the root cause of failure and in turn, make appropriate decisions to prevent or repair a failure.

Maintenance Strategy and How Analytics Fits In

As mentioned above, analytics need to be part of all business processes and not just the overall processes. From finance to human resources, all departments are becoming reliant on analytics, especially the Maintenance organization.

Maintenance has typically been considered a cost centre – when an asset breaks, it gets fixed and all the costs associated with that work are captured, updated, and stored. As organizations continue to update their maintenance organizations from reactive to preventive, analytics are becoming much more advanced in how they are captured, stored, and used to provide valuable and actionable insights. To do this is proving quite the challenge, thus the reason VIZIYA built WorkAlign® Analytics - a solution that is not only able to gather the data and make the data actionable according to KPI's and organizational goals, but also enables that data to flow between any and all systems that may be part of the organization as a whole, from their ERP to their CMMS, and even their Data Historian.

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Promote Information Sharing

The first benefit of an analytics tool that often comes is related to ease of information sharing. Data is organized and analyzed in reports that can be downloaded, shared and reviewed to promote collaboration and teamwork.

Identify Problem Areas

Identifying problem areas, finding ways to fix them and preventing them from reoccurring is the goal of most maintenance initiatives. When you can't trust your data, it is impossible to identify, fix and prevent problem areas.

Advance Data Transparency

Data Transparency is crucial to ensuring that what people are reporting is honest and not an unintentional fabrication from what they perceive to be true. When people are tasked with self-reporting on their performance, they often will see themselves or their work in a favourable light. With accurate data and a maintenance analytics software like WorkAlign® Analytics, it is almost impossible to fudge data. Everything is recorded and available for analysis.

Improve Business Intelligence

Knowledge and analytics have the power to improve business intelligence. When you have promoted information sharing, identified problem areas, and advanced data transparency, you can see and act upon the opportunities for process improvements. WorkAlign® Analytics gives you the control to look at data trending – to see if your maintenance organization is moving in the right direction and what is preventing you from improvement.

Looking Forward: Analytics and AI

Analytics are becoming increasingly important for businesses and will continue to be a point of emphasis as Analytics and AI become more closely linked. The ability for a human to analyze data and create rules or processes based on data findings is a lot slower of a process than what is possible when algorithms are adaptive through machine learning. The ability to incorporate machine learning into analytics will serve maintenance organizations well as it will allow for even deeper learning along with previously unidentifiable observations and relationships that can drive even more efficient processes.

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About VIZIYA

Headquartered in Hamilton, ON, Canada with offices in Madrid, Perth, Atlanta, Belgium, The Netherlands, and Dubai, VIZIYA is the industry leader providing bolt-on software products to enhance ERP- based asset maintenance systems. VIZIYA's proprietary WorkAlign® Product Suite delivers seamless integration into existing ERP systems. With over 55,000 users at 850 sites across 6 continents, the world's best companies use VIZIYA products to help them better maintain their assets. Visit viziya.com for more information.