

NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

New job tracking and scheduling MIS

A busy printing establishment has dozens of jobs on the go all the time. Every job is unique. Every job is made up of separate tasks that must be done in a specific order. All tasks must be coordinated so that the whole job is ready for the client on time, done right.

The ideal management information system (MIS) would identify every task within every job, assign it a due time in accordance with the ultimate due time of the whole job, and then track every job component to identify tasks that are to be done. And flag tasks for extra attention if late. This system would also identify who is to do the task, when, and permit employees to log on line in real time to see what their next tasks are, what their overall workload is, and to set up and control efficient production runs. It would flag managers when there are conflicts that require resolution.

The new real time scheduling system at Cielo has all the above MIS components, and more. It is fully integrated with our current MIS that uses one-time-only data entry for the quote>work order>prepress>data archiving>production >finishing>shipping>billing>receivables process. Cielo uses bar code readers and real time monitors throughout the office and production floors to schedule and track every task within every job.

Each team member has a computer workstation where he or she can see at a glance the real time list of tasks to be done, when they are due, and what other components of the entire job have been done. Never again will a press be idle because the plates weren't yet made. Or the folder operator unable to find a job to fold because the press hadn't yet printed it. Even our shipper knows in advance what jobs should be going out so that she can make sure they do go out, on time.

For many months, Cielo has been implementing this tracking and scheduling system throughout the production process. It is now working reliably. Today, people depend on the system to remind them of tasks to be done, proofs to be received from clients, etc. Instances of one task being late and cascading into a mad rush for the all the subsequent tasks to be done in order to meet a crucial deadline are now rare.

No system is perfect, because it depends on the interaction of two dozen team members, and accurate job entry in the first place. In the coming months, our system will be growing to give us feedback on the amount of time it takes to do the individual tasks within the job. This will feed back into the job planning end of the process so that a reasonable amount of time is allocated to do the job in the first place. Managers will be able to reallocate resources when certain production areas are overloaded.

Cielo is investing in practical management information system technology and processes to increase dependability, and more accurately control job turnaround times. For our customers' benefit. For our employees' benefit.