

Helping our clients address today's challenges

Using virtual warehouse tours to help retail and consumer goods companies improve their supply chains and meet today's challenges

Context

As retail and consumer goods companies move away from bricks and mortar and expand their e-commerce offerings, the performance of their supply chain is having a greater impact on their overall profitability. For middle-market companies that were once reliant on large retail chains to distribute their products, they now face the challenge of competing against the world's most efficient supply chains, including the likes of Amazon, Walmart and Wayfair.



Today's challenges

Companies are facing a range of warehouse challenges, including:

- Increased number of daily shipments, including drop shipping and smaller parcels direct to consumers
- Increased demand from consumers for same-day shipping
- Warehouse layouts optimized for bricks and mortar deliveries
- Increased competition for premium warehouse space with the latest technology (e.g. automation)

As we work with companies to meet these challenges, we start by addressing 5 fundamental questions:

1. How effective is the current operation in serving the bricks & mortar and customer direct channels (space optimization, DIFOT performance etc.)?

2. What is the current and projected number of SKUs picked by full case and eaches?
3. Are current systems adaptable to each picking small orders with zero fault efficiently?
4. Are the current end-to-end costs for bricks & mortar and customer direct competitive, what is the target operating cost?
5. Can current facilities be reconfigured to meet future needs at the target operating cost, what investment is needed?

Helping our clients

Technology is synonymous with warehouses where robotic picking, smart carts and vendor IT integration are becoming the standard, not the exception. Technology is also making analytics and layout optimization quicker and more affordable. Experts, including Ian Levitan from MERU, are now able to conduct facility tours virtually in 2-3 hours, avoiding lengthy travel times and costs and expanding the number of tours they can complete in a day. This enables our clients to find opportunities quickly and start expanding their margins.

"We did not expect the virtual tour to be so insightful. This will be our new way of assessing DCs going forward."

- Supply Chain Executive

Strategic Partner



Ian Levitan has 35+ years experience in leading edge logistics projects across the globe. He specializes in warehouse designs, logistic networks, optimizing back door to retail shelf and diagnosis of operating effectiveness.