# user member showcase



**COMPANY:** US Digital Corporation

## **INTERVIEWEE:** John Arnold, software engineer

WEBSITE: www.usdigital.com

**HEADQUARTERS:** Vancouver, Washington

**PHONE:** 360-260-2468

ESTABLISHED: 1980

NUMBER OF EMPLOYEES: 120+

MICROSOFT DYNAMICS GP USER SINCE: 2012

NUMBER OF USERS: 30

GPUG<sup>®</sup> MEMBER SINCE: 2012

### DYNAMIC BUSINESS Award Winner Saves Time (2 Years!) and Money (\$1.9M!) by Not Reinventing the Wheel

ince 1980, US Digital Corporation has created and designed innovative encoder solutions (unique sensors) for the motion control industry, from industrial automation and robotics to renewable energy. With everything designed and manufactured at its headquarters in Vancouver, Washington, US Digital gives a whole new meaning to "in-house control". Because of this (and a particular solution to be named soon), their "build to order" model is exceptionally efficient and error-free, allowing them to offer fast turnaround times...really fast! For example, a part ordered this morning would ship out today. John Arnold, software engineer/geek/ nerd (his words) at US Digital says, "A lot of our competitors have at least a six- to eight-week lead time because they outsource a lot of what they do."

John joined US Digital in 2008 and in 2011 was asked to create a home-grown accounting system from scratch for the company's build to order processes. John wasn't particularly interested in reinventing the wheel, so he started researching ERP systems that could fit US Digital's manufacturing model. After taking a closer look at Microsoft Dynamics GP, John told his executives, "I could write the code from scratch, but it will take me at least two years and I'll need 10 engineers... or we can implement Microsoft Dynamics GP and customize it to our needs for much less time and money."

#### MICROSOFT DYNAMICS GP TO THE RESCUE!

US Digital chose the Microsoft Dynamics GP route, and after just four months and one engineer, they were up and running in January of 2012. In addition to saving \$1.9 million in salaries, Microsoft Dynamics GP created huge efficiencies, such as a 15 percent increase return on equity and a 23 percent increase on cash flow. That first month also brought in record sales that Microsoft Dynamics GP handled with no hiccups.

Adopting Microsoft Dynamics GP so efficiently and effectively made US Digital a prime candidate for a Microsoft Dynamics Customer Excellence Award, and at Convergence 2014, they were honored to receive the Dynamic Business: Small and Medium Business award from Microsoft.

#### IS THERE ANYTHING MICROSOFT DYNAMICS GP ISVS CAN'T DO?

Efficiency is the name of the game at US Digital, and John says ISV solutions are making so many things a reality. "The possibilities of what we can do with Microsoft Dynamics GP are endless. By looking at what we can purchase out of the box, we can save so much time, hassle, and money!"

US Digital added Warehouse Collect for GP from AccellosOne, which allows for scanning barcodes on parts instead of keying numbers



into a computer. John says, "We used to do a full inventory check over an entire weekend, but now we can start in the morning and be done that same day." With this efficiency, US Digital is also moving parts from 34 large bins to a couple hundred smaller bins since it's a lot easier to track bin numbers, item numbers, and lot numbers.

Experlogix Design Center enables US Digital to customize its order process, ensuring that only valid part configurations are put on sales transactions and bill of materials are created without having to write code for a configurator. This flexibility in the system makes it possible to offer great customer service, meeting every unique need of every customer. "The only thing we need to type in is the quantity, and Experlogix handles the other specifics," John says. "With more than 145,000 permutations of how customers can order parts, this is essential."

Avalara's Avatax has simplified tax management at US Digital, and Nodus Technologies, Inc. manages credit card transactions for all their orders. John says, "Just ask Target: we don't want to deal with credit card transactions."

US Digital also uses GP PowerPack from WilloWare, SmartFill from Rockton Software, and vShip from AccellosOne to help round

out its Microsoft Dynamics GP solution. John says, "One of the main reasons we chose Microsoft Dynamics GP is because of its ISV network, and they have not disappointed us!"

US Digital is upgrading to Microsoft Dynamics GP 2013 this summer and is currently testing its customizations (Modifier, VS Tools, C#, and VBA) and ISV applications to see what it needs to bring over and what Microsoft Dynamics GP 2013 offers in its mainstream functionality. John says, "The very fact that I don't need to update the code for our ISV applications in Microsoft Dynamics GP 2013 saves me time, and I can rest assured the software will come feature-rich."

#### GPUG: THE MORE YOU KNOW ...

The more you grow, or in John's experience with GPUG, it's the more you realize you didn't know. John says, "Microsoft Dynamics GP is such an evolving product line with regular updates and having daily forums and email notifications available through GPUG makes it possible to stay up to speed without spending hours researching and finding the right resources." John continues, "It's my job to be the Microsoft Dynamics GP expert at my company, and GPUG makes that a little, or maybe a LOT, more possible."

