

Easson's Idea - combination of different fleets into one database

Overview - we have developed and implemented a new truckmate database bringing 4 of our fleets from 2 databases into 1 database. This involved finding ways to keep the freight, equipment, drivers, and trips segregated to maintain a narrow enough focus for operations staff of the respective fleets while at the same time ensuring a simple and easy way to share the same items seamlessly.

Process - we dedicated time from our admin, IT, and ops staff over the past 16 months to rethink our entire truckmate configuration and desired outcomes to make segregating and sharing of resources simple. The first 10 months were spent bringing all fleets into the same IT infrastructure, developing and testing the new truckmate database and respective systems and processes. The following 6 months involved training and implementation followed by some tweaking and error correction.

Goal/Benefit - Our primary goal was to make the operations process (pickup through delivery) seamless and without duplication of data entry as freight moved through our fleets and terminals. This ensures that a dispatcher from fleet A can easily "flip" freight over to fleet B with one click. Fleet B can then haul the freight to fleet C and one click flip it to them. This process involves no additional data entry in terms of freight details and gives us clear audit trails on freight throughout our divisions. At the end of the month revenues and interliner costs are allocated to the various fleets through a set of situational rules.

Benefits summary

- 1) no duplication in freight data entry
- 2) complete history and audit trail for freight
- 3) clarity when sharing trailers/equipment
- 4) no inter divisional invoicing (admin efficiency)
- 5) reduced duplication in local terminal/P&D operations
- 6) no barriers to fleets working together or future duty segregations for operations staff
- 7) streamlined internal reporting with all data and financial info coming from the same source

Current Status - final implementation stages were completed end of July. Tweaking was largely complete end of August. Now we are working on catching up on our regular work! Expecting the full benefit of new systems to be realized by end of Dec.