



Statement of direction

Infor VISUAL



Introduction

Infor VISUAL® continues to change the way that manufacturers—especially those who specialize in complex, make-to-order sales—tackle the challenges of a global economy. Your ability to compete in this ever-changing, fast paced, and competitive global market is largely determined by how well you can deliver on quality, price, and on-time delivery.

Born out of firsthand experience working through the shortcomings found in traditional manufacturing solutions, Infor VISUAL introduced a next-generation solution that goes beyond the standard MRP II bill of materials concept. That solution is the Engineering Master—the engineering structure of a product and actual production capacity to determine material needs and delivery expectations. Infor VISUAL also delivers advanced functionality designed to help you increase productivity and make critical business decisions, such as helping you determine potential throughput and delivery gains, based on a variety of what-if shop-floor scheduling scenarios.

“Over the past two years, we transformed the Infor VISUAL user interface by adding built-in contextual views and user-configurable dashboards—aimed at increasing productivity and alerting users to potential problems. Additionally, we expanded the document lifecycle view so that employees can easily determine the status of an order, access related attachments, and drill down to business activities associated with each step in the process. Furthermore, users can now set up automatic lifecycle event notifications, notifying internal and external stakeholders when an event occurs, like the receipt of a critical material needed to complete an order. Companies can now measure delivery performance across products and functional areas of the business to assist in continuous improvement initiatives. We are confident that these new tools will allow our customers to become even more responsive to their customers’ needs, which after all, is our mission statement—to create solutions that help our customers deliver a quality product on time and within budget.”

**—Richard Lagoy,
Infor VISUAL Product Director, Infor**

With Infor VISUAL, you get a highly visual system that includes:

- **Manufacturing window:** Get a 360-degree graphical view of an order's production status and performance—this is the heart of Infor VISUAL.
- **Scheduling window:** Use an interactive view of the shop floor schedule to alert you to late orders and resource contention. You can use drag-and-drop to move work to alternative resources and reschedule high-priority orders.
- **Throughput window:** Use graphical production throughput comparisons based on what-if scenarios driven by finite or drum-buffer-rope scheduling methodologies.
- **Built-in customizable dashboards:** Monitor the pulse and performance of your organization with complete drill-down to the lowest level of detail.
- **Graphical purchasing and sales lifecycle management:** See details of the events of the entire order lifecycle.
- **Lead-time performance management analytics:** Drive your company's continuous improvement initiatives.
- **Material Planning window:** Get a running picture of demand and supply netting with exception- and action-based messages.

With Infor VISUAL, you get years of manufacturing experience built-in, on a technology platform that can scale to support your current and future needs.

Solution overview

Infor VISUAL is a feature-rich and highly scalable end-to-end ERP solution that's easy to use, easy to implement, and has a proven low cost of ownership. Designed specifically for order-driven manufacturers, Infor VISUAL gives you the tools you need to address your complex manufacturing and quality needs.

The Infor VISUAL core productivity solution set includes:

Engineering management

- Graphically depicts the multi-level build structure of a product, indicating all operations, materials, and assembly points.
- Integrates to all leading CAD solutions
- ECN/ECO functionality
- Full Infor Quality Management integration

Sales management

- Opportunity to cash with graphical lifecycle window showing all aspects of an order's sales lifecycle
- Graphical work order display showing real-time production status, current cost, and cost projections
- Configure, price, quote functionality
- EDI input and output
- Shipment labeling
- RMA

Supply chain management

- RFQ to payment with graphical lifecycle window showing all aspects of an order's supply chain lifecycle
- Item labeling and barcoding
- Receiving inspection with full Infor Quality Management integration

Inventory management

- Inventory costing: actual, average, standard, FIFO, and LIFO
- Full shop-floor automation with mobile devices
- Dimensional inventory
- Serial number and lot control
- Physical inventory and cycle counting

Planning and scheduling

- Full production scheduling using either infinite, finite, or drum-buffer-rope methodologies
- Scheduling window graphically showing the entire shop schedule
- Mobile functionality indicating resource schedules, what jobs are available to work on, and overall job status
- MRP and APS
- Material planning Window with netting, with alerts and recommendations

Financial management

- Multi-entity, multisite throughout Infor VISUAL—can run multiple entities within a single database
- Full multi-currency support
- General ledger
- Accounts payable
- Accounts receivable
- Cash management

Performance management

- User-configurable dashboards with complete drill-down to detailed information
- Lead-time performance management
- Throughput management

Other

- Document management
- API toolkit
- Over 750 configurable reports
- Macros
- Workflow
- Messages and notifications
- Document activities.

Optional modules

Infor VISUAL offers several fully integrated modules for companies that need to support business concerns beyond the core solution feature set.

These modules include:

- Multi-Entity, Multisite
- Advanced Planning & Scheduling
- Time & Attendance
- Project Management for Aerospace & Defense
- Material Automation/Mobile
- Labor Automation/Mobile
- Master Product Configurator
- Easy Lean Scheduling
- Plant & Equipment Maintenance
- Payroll & HR (US only)
- Infor VISUAL BI (Synoptix)
- Infor VISUAL CADlink
- Over 20 country packs

Solution extensions

In addition to the optional modules, Infor VISUAL also integrates seamlessly with the following Infor solutions:

- Infor Quality Management
- Infor EAM
- Infor CRM
- Infor Back Office Connect for Salesforce®
- Infor Query & Analysis

Recent solution advancements

With the release of Infor VISUAL 8.0.0, and most recently Infor VISUAL 9.0.0 in early 2017, we introduced numerous enhancements aimed at increasing overall company efficiency by incorporating graphical views, increased drill-down functionality, mobility, and tools to extend your use of the solution.

Major enhancements over the past few years include:

Improved navigation: Through the use of increased graphical views and intuitive hyperlinks, users have quicker access to related information, which can help increase overall productivity.

Role-based personalized home screen: Users are now able to turn their Infor VISUAL homepages into desktops containing the most-used applications.

Graphical dashboards: Users can now select from a series of manufacturing, sales, purchasing, and financial analytics, or create their own custom analytics with complete drill-down to document and transactional detail.

Graphical document lifecycle: Sales and purchasing personnel now have a graphical view of the entire lifecycle of an order with drill-down to document details, activities, and attachments. Everything about an order is now at your fingertips.

Mobile shop floor: The production dispatch app, which indicates what should be worked on next, is now available on any mobile device. Shop-floor personnel now have a complete view of the work schedule with the ability to report labor and issue material right from the dispatch screen.

Document activities: Activity categories and types can now be set up and used to record all activities associated with an order's lifecycle. For example, you can record a call from a customer requesting an increase in their order size, or make notes associated with invoice collection activities. You decide what information you want to collect as part of your standard operating procedures.

Lifecycle notifications: Sales and purchase lifecycle notifications can now be established to alert internal and external stakeholders when an event within the lifecycle occurs, such as when product is shipped, or when a critical item that is needed to complete a customer order is received.

Query tool: A table relationship wizard is now available in the query tool. Users can build queries with drag-and-drop, save the query to the database, export the results to Excel®, and add the query to a user-personalized toolbar.

Lead-time performance management: Companies can now set up product line standards and measure delivery performance against the item, product line, or business function within the organization.

API toolkit: Companies can create custom extensions using the Infor VISUAL API. You'll be able to eliminate the complexities associated with creating custom applications by having to understand the database schema.

Graphical view panels: Contextual view panels are now available throughout Infor VISUAL. These panels provide a quick view of inventory position, business partner status, costs, and gross profit.

AutoRun service: Process activities, such as the global scheduler, MRP, and costing can now be set up to run automatically throughout the day or after hours.

Audit history view: A complete audit history can now be seen from each document indicating who changed what and when, and the old versus new values.

Estimating—Excel import and bid rates: Companies can now import quoting estimates into Infor VISUAL from an Excel spreadsheet. Additionally, companies can create bid rate categories where quoted cost rates can be compared to actual resource rates.

Advanced planning daily view: Planners using the advanced planning mode of operation can now drill from the summary planning view to a daily view for determining day-to-day inventory position.

Document management by site: Document management has been expanded to support the separation of document attachments by site and document type.

Technology

Infor VISUAL continues to adopt the latest technology platform versions to help assure support of your entire enterprise needs. Built upon OpenText Team Developer, OpenText TD Mobile, and Microsoft® .NET, Infor VISUAL supports the following operating environments.

- Microsoft Windows® 7, 8, and 10
- Office 2007, 2010, 2013, 2016, and Office 365®
- SQL Server® 2008 R2, 2012, 2014, 2016
- Oracle® 12c

With Infor ION®, companies running Infor VISUAL can now integrate with other Infor solutions, such as Infor CRM and Infor EAM.

With the use of TD Mobile, users now have the power of mobility throughout the entire shop floor. You get a real-time look into the status and availability of work on the floor, with the ability to report labor and issue material directly to the job.

The future of Infor VISUAL

Infor VISUAL remains a cornerstone of Infor's ERP strategy, with a focus on companies that demand an all-inclusive, low cost of ownership, manufacturing-centric solution that can be deployed on premises, yet leverage Infor cloud extensions where rapid and global deployment is required. As company demands evolve, Infor VISUAL customers can migrate to one of Infor's cloud-based ERP solutions to support changing deployment and infrastructure needs.

Moving forward, we will continue to deepen the Infor VISUAL core functionality, based on the voice of the customer (VOC), gathering direct input through our involvement in local user meetings, global Inforum events, town halls, and the Infor Xtreme® enhancement suggestion system.

Infor VISUAL will continue to adopt additional components of the Infor Xi development stack in order to leverage the technology, solutions, and brain trust of the extended Infor product communities.

In addition to the many customer enhancement suggestions added to the solution on a regular basis, the following product initiatives are planned for the upcoming development cycles.

Planned development initiatives

Shop-floor automation: The current mobility functionality will be extended to include shipping, receiving, and physical inventory. Additionally, all current labor, material, and attendance solutions will be consolidated into a single comprehensive shop-floor management offering.

Scheduling window: The Scheduling window user interface will be enhanced to provide greater visibility into the status of an order with improved navigation and flexibility for adjusting the schedule.

Contact center and sales: Infor VISUAL CRM® contact and sales functionality will be consolidated into the Infor VISUAL solution to provide an updated and seamless integration.

Data transfer: An easy-transfer tool will be introduced that allows companies to transfer master data, supporting data, and opening balances to a new database in support of those customers that want to purge old data and start fresh with beginning balances only.

Infor CRM: The integration with Infor CRM will continue to expand to include bidirectional orders, pricing, multisite, and Infor Configure Price Quote (CPQ).

Infor CPQ: Infor's configure, price, quote solution will be adopted by Infor VISUAL as a direct point-to-point integration.

Infor ION: Data packets processed through Infor ION will continue to be expanded to support both standard and custom integrations.

Infor Ming.le® homepages: In addition to the Infor ION content described above, a browser-based document interface will be created to support Infor Ming.le and Infor Mingle homepage functionality, including Infor BI.

Infor VISUAL Financials®: Infor VISUAL standard and global financials will be merged into a single, all-inclusive financial offering.

Country packs: Portions of the regional functionality will be built into the core solution framework to help speed the go-to-market for country packs.

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