



How Hickory Foods Found New Efficiencies and Made the Transition to Paperless

Challenge

Hickory Foods, a private meat manufacturing company based in Jacksonville, Fla., best known for its subsidiary Bubba Foods LLC, produces pre-formed, frozen BUBBA Burgers for retail grocery customers. Hickory Foods manages seven operating companies and employs approximately 500 associates during summer peak season. With a small office staff, the daily grind of trying to locate and store documents was becoming difficult to manage.

Hickory Foods needed a solution to assist not only with their daily processes, but also their regular audits. Growing tired of the inefficiencies in their invoice and auditing process, Hickory Foods identified the following key issues they would address with a new automated digital filing system:

- **Efficiency.** Significant amounts of time and money was lost looking for supporting transactional documents.
- **Cost.** Though many solutions were considered, most were proprietary, leading to unrealistic software and support costs.
- **Staff support.** Hickory Foods is a decentralized company consisting of many subsidiaries, and their processes are supported by a small six-person business office that looks to technology products and systems to stay efficient.

Solution

Hickory Foods enlisted the help of their Dynamics GP partner, SDN Computers, in evaluating several solutions for document management. Because of its cost effectiveness and seamless integration with their pre-existing Microsoft SharePoint® platform, Hickory Foods selected Dynamic Filer® from 5280 Solutions. While competitors' solutions were proprietary, Dynamic Filer utilized technology that was already being used within the company. Hickory Foods and SDN Computers were able to deploy the solution quickly and begin to appreciate the benefits of automation without costly startup and maintenance costs.

After a quick configuration, the easy-to-understand point-and-click interface was adopted by employees at all levels allowing them to utilize the pre-printed barcode labels and to link new and existing files to the originating transactions in Dynamics GP.

Client

Hickory Foods

Industry

Food Manufacturing

Solutions Utilized

Dynamic Filer

Business Overview

Hickory Foods—headquartered in Jacksonville, Fla.—is a leader in the food manufacturing industry, producing frozen burgers and thick cut bacon for retail grocery customers. Best known in the southeastern United States, Hickory Foods products are also available in Puerto Rico, the Bahamas, and throughout the world through the U.S. military commissary system.

Case Study Highlights



Reduced document audit times by a week



Streamlined business processes during peak season



Short implementation time

Results

Hickory Foods enjoyed a short implementation period and has seen the benefits of paperless business processes since day one. Key benefits are a high level of data accuracy and reduced manual data entry time for document filing. Dynamic Filer has seamlessly blended into employees' daily processes to provide significant efficiencies related to document filing and searching. The solution has reduced audit time, as business office staff can now find the appropriate documentation and data directly from Dynamics GP to send to auditors.

The new system has improved each of the following problem areas:

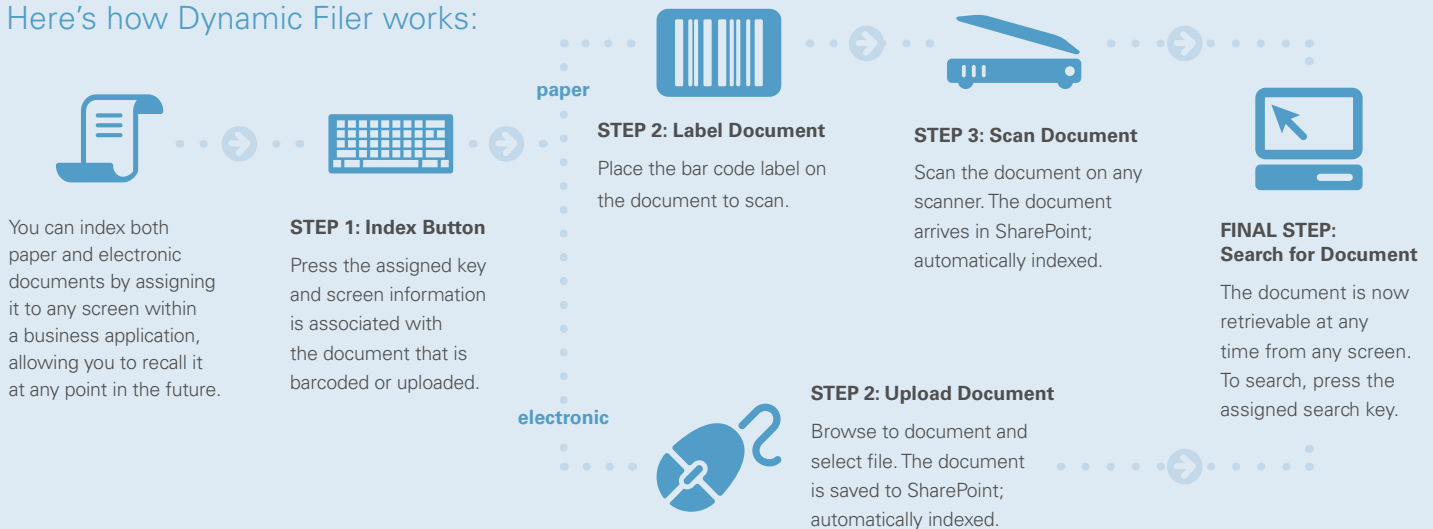
- **Efficiency.** Indexing and one-key search from a desktop or business screen has streamlined all business processes.
- **Cost.** In a value-conscious company such as Hickory Foods, Dynamic Filer has proven its ROI and remains a cost-effective solution.
- **Staff support.** An entire week was shaved off of audit time, which saves time and money for internal staff. The company has also noticed stabilized audit costs—as prices go up elsewhere, audit fees have remained constant in part to the ease of document filing and finding.

Client Success

"The Dynamic Filer implementation process was no-nonsense, life has become more convenient for retrieving documents from GP, and we're on the path to paperless."

Clark Schaffer
CFO

Here's how Dynamic Filer works:



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