



A valuable productivity tool

Classique Furniture is based in Christchurch and designs and manufactures a wide range of custom high end furniture. The company has been in business for 30 years servicing both individual clients and high end commercial and hotel furniture fit-outs.



"Prior to using Empower we used time sheets, which factory staff used to fill out their times on jobs and then office personnel would enter this information into a spreadsheet. This manual system was time consuming and inaccurate," explained Director, Graeme Dreaver.

"We have been using Empower Software and inexpensive PCs on our factory floor for two and a half years to date (installed in September 2007). The factory PCs report back directly and live to our production manager's PC. Using Empower we have found the following:

- our factory staff have embraced Empower well. Staff enjoy not filling out time sheets and enjoy getting live feedback on their times on jobs;
- reporting live work in progress status of all jobs in the factory is valuable to us in maximising factory productivity;
- reporting live and accurate hours on every job, staff hours on every job, as well as productivity

actual to budgeted time on each job is also valuable to us in maximising factory productivity.

"To price new jobs we refer to Empower reports on similar jobs completed in the past. Keeping our costing and quoting accurate ensures we don't do jobs that have no or little profit in them and our profit per job is maintained."

Over the two and a half years of using Empower, Classique's productive staff have gone from nine down to six, which is approximately a \$125,000 per wage cost saving per year. The company has also achieved a factory productivity increase of 103%. This has increased the annual profit substantially

"Empower is a valuable productivity tool, that can supply up to date information immediately," said Dreaver. "It has been a very good investment for us, which paid for itself well within six months. I would not hesitate to recommend it to anyone in manufacturing." ●