

A better means of job scheduling

At last, job scheduling software built specifically for cabinetmakers and joiners
By David Lawrence, Lean Manufacturing Consulting

I write this article in the hope it helps joiners with a far smarter and far better means of job scheduling. I have worked in the cabinetmaking and joinery industries as a production manager for most of my 30 year career. In the last six years I have also implemented Empower time tracking and factory productivity software in over 70 joinery businesses throughout Australia and New Zealand. I am an independent contractor who works directly for joiners.

I myself have struggled with job scheduling with no good software available until 2016. I have manually updated spreadsheets several times through the day to 'rejig' the schedule; I have updated job lists on paper and on whiteboards and then held meetings with other management and factory staff through the day to communicate the revised schedule.

Sound familiar ?

In the last two years Empower Job Scheduling has been re-built in the latest Cloud technology and it now works extremely well. This is a direct result of Empower implementing several hundred improvements suggested by many of our successful clients. Empower Software is a locally owned company and has been developed with Australian and New Zealand joiners and cabinetmakers over 14 years, which has proved invaluable in the success of this development.



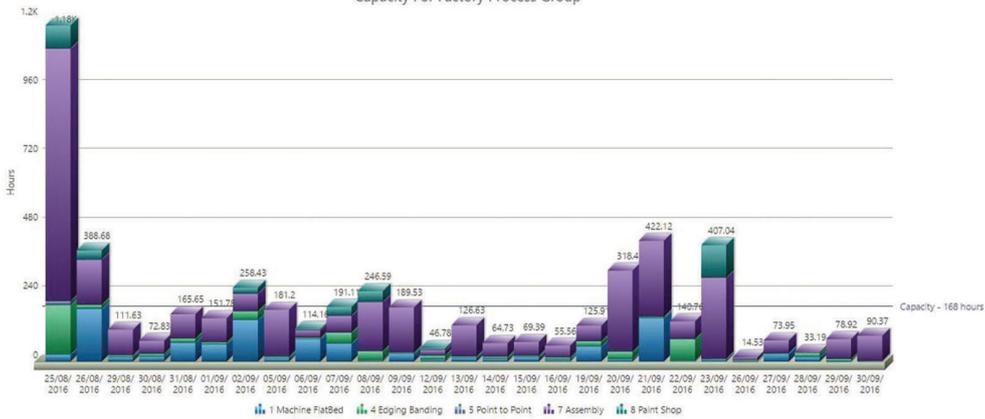
Wish list

Our wish list at the start of the new Empower job scheduling development included:

1. must suit all forms of joinery including kitchens, commercial joinery and furniture and all businesses sizes from six factory staff to 100 plus;
2. must allow jobs and tasks to be moved simply and quickly from one day to another by dragging and dropping within the daily and weekly calendar;
3. tasks and jobs must update automatically when tasks and jobs are started and finished on the factory floor. Real time updating and reporting from the factory floor;
4. must report current staff resource capacity to the factory and each work centre against daily planned job workload, to allow me clearly to see over and under daily capacity;
5. must allow me to schedule all jobs to each machine and assembly workcentre including the options for management or factory staff to batch of jobs together;
6. must create planned daily workload and job lists, both graphically and Word document listings;
7. must report jobs that are currently late, highlighted pink (because not many joiners want to be in pink). Jobs planned to be completed today are highlighted yellow. This colour coding is present on all factory staff screens, all management screens and our 50 inch tv monitors;
8. must back schedule all jobs so milestone dates for each stage of each job are highly visible. Late jobs turn pink;
9. must schedule the factory team but also provide the option to schedule the pre-production team and any site team involved, to provide company wide job scheduling;
10. must be viewable on 50 inch TV monitors in the centre of the office and factory floor.

One hundred and eighty cabinetmaking, joinery and other manufacturers throughout Australia and New Zealand have purchased Empower. By listening to this large customer base, further

Capacity For Factory Process Group



Jobs Due in the Week of 22 - 28 Aug 2016

Mon 22 Aug	Tue 23 Aug	Wed 24 Aug	Thu 25 Aug	Fri 26 Aug
2321-110 Watpac	2343-7011 Hansen - Yunciken E-E Hospital	2320-106 Watpac	2343-7019 Hansen - Yunciken	2320-103 Watpac
	2343-7015 Hansen - Yunciken	2320-156 Watpac	2320-117 Watpac	2320-114 Watpac
	2343-7027 Hansen - Yunciken E-E Hospital	2321-112 Watpac	2320-141 Watpac	2320-125 Watpac
	2343-7028 Hansen - Yunciken	2331 Paul Job	2320-142 Watpac	2320-129 Watpac
	2343-7037 Hansen - Yunciken		2320-143 Watpac	2320-156 Watpac
	2343-7048 Hansen - Yunciken		2320-144 Watpac	2320-140 Watpac
	2343-7049 Hansen - Yunciken		2320-145 Watpac	2320-151 Watpac
	2343-Rev Hansen - Yunciken		2320-146 Watpac	2320-152 Watpac
	2320-116 Watpac		2320-147 Watpac	2320-153 Watpac
	2320-126 Watpac		2320-148 Watpac	2320-154 Watpac
	2321-107 Watpac		2320-149 Watpac	2320-170 Watpac
	+5 more		+5 more	+5 more

View in classic mode | White Jobs - Yet To Start, Green Jobs - Started, Red Jobs - Finished

improvements and updates are released automatically via the Cloud system as often as every two weeks. I am getting great feedback as to how well it is working from the clients with whom I consult and I am finding it a very effective and essential production management tool.

Go to www.empowersoftware.biz to read about client success with the tool. The existing joinery clients success with the software confirm that you could expect to increase your factory productivity and weekly factory output by 20% to 40%+ within approximately six weeks.

Empower job scheduling benefits that I see on all joinery client sites with whom I consult:

1. a simple 15 minutes per day process for small

to medium sized joiners to schedule jobs and simple to use;

2. quick and easy to set up initially and have operating;
3. schedule, once completed, is available live to management and factory staff to see the updated schedule;
4. updates to the job schedule are available to the pre production team, factory staff team and any site team in all Empower screens and in the form of email updates;
5. colour coding of 'pink' and 'yellow' jobs clearly shows late jobs and jobs needing to be finished today to keep all jobs on track;
6. factory downtime reduces significantly, generating higher

production hours daily and higher factory productivity;

7. the number of our jobs completed on time as agreed with clients has increased substantially (delivered in full on time - DIFOT);
8. the number of materials orders forgotten about and ordered late, which typically had additional freight costs and held up jobs, has reduced significantly;
9. factory staff log onto the priority jobs assigned to them (not the jobs they personally wish to do first);
10. allows one person in each company to schedule (and stops two or several people having their way and changing the schedule);

11. the licence is a low weekly cost, for such a huge benefit.

During September, October and November 2016, Empower Software will make the software available to you for a 30 day trial, at no charge. If you are serious about taking the next step in improving your business, I welcome demonstrating the software to you using Teamviewer and phone conference no charge, which usually takes about 15 minutes

I set up Empower Job Scheduling on small to medium sized joinery sites and have it working well in four to five hours. Empower Software subsidises my wage rate so it costs you only \$50 an hour. My assistance is available to existing Empower clients, new Empower clients and prospective Empower clients. I guarantee you that I will get Empower Job Scheduling working well in your business. I provide this guarantee with confidence because I have implemented the system with 100% success on joinery sites to date. I also guarantee to achieve significant increases in your factory productivity based on many years and many engineering clients success in substantially increasing their factory productivity.

Please feel free to phone me to discuss your business and the system, to receive information or for a brief Teamviewer demonstration. My contact details are David Lawrence, Lean Manufacturing, dleanml@gmail.com +61 4 0014 5222. ●