

Manhattan SCALE 2010 and Microsoft Dynamics AX Warehouse Management Feature Comparison

The goal in every warehouse is to increase the speed and reduce the cost of getting the right product to the right customer at the right time. Managing your warehouse and distribution operation efficiently is critical to the success of your business. The question is whether to choose your ERP system's warehouse management module or a best of breed warehouse management system (WMS). ERP providers are continuously expanding their capabilities and functionality within the "four walls", while WMS providers are increasingly providing robust functionality and enhancing visibility across the entire supply chain.

It is critical to understand the operational requirements and business objectives the application will be supporting. Functionality across the ERP warehouse module and a WMS provider may differ vastly, so again, it is imperative to define your long-term objectives.

SCALE vs. Dynamics AX Feature Comparison

This table offers a comparative list of key functionality requirements within a warehouse system.

No. Function	SCALE Functionality (Best of Breed WMS)	Dynamics AX Functionality (ERP Whse Management Module)
1. Cross Docking	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bypass standard putaway logic during receiving • Direct item to cross-dock consol location, outbound container, or retail store shipment 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Transfer inventory from one location to another location using Transfer Journal
2. Directed-Putaway	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Complete set of configurable locating and putaway rules provided • Auto-consolidation during putaway • Directed to Active (Top-Off) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Allows for manual or automatic suggestion of put-away locations based on storage and item setup • Location determination based on rules regarding size, volume, height

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3. Cycle Counting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rules based system initiated cycle count tasks based on (inventory type, range of locations, velocity) • Activity driven counts based on warehouse activities, ex. short picks at a location • Detailed statistics - access to cycle count progress, open counts, percent complete, error rates 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Counting Journals used to process inventory count cycle/online counting • Tag counting
4. Replenishment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wave triggered replenishment • Manual independent replenishment requests • Demand based criteria and/or min/max levels are evaluated • Tasks can be interleaved with other tasks that critical to maximize user productivity and efficiency 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use of pallet refill with pallet transport • Manual or batch to systematically create replenishment tasks
5. Order Processing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wave Planning - Process of analyzing and grouping outbound orders together into batches for release to the warehouse floor • Robust wave creation criteria • Users can view orders that have been downloaded from the host, entered via the internet or created internally • Waves can be executed manually, automatically or as part of a pre-defined release schedule 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Derive output orders from sales order lines or production order lines as requisitions to warehouse • Release order picking sales order to ensure available stock to multiple orders • Specify that shipments are sales order specific or customer specific • View a subset of sales order information or all available fields
6. Cartonization	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Systematic determination of required cartons for an order • Improves fulfillment efficiency, reduces number of cartons to be shipped • Eliminates decision making at packing 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use of packaging material to define 'custom' packaging code • Defined on the item and calculated on the sales order lines
7. Picking	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Voice Picking (Vocollect Talkman device) • Rules for executing picking tasks from discrete order picking to batch picking to cluster picking • Picking from Forward Locations and/or overflow 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Define shipments - result in the creation of optimized picking routes with pick from picking and backup locations • Order picking and consolidated picking supported

No. Function	SCALE Functionality (Best of Breed WMS)	Dynamics AX Functionality (ERP Warehouse Management Module)
8. Equipment Definition	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Equipment defined with limitation concepts and user authorization for this equipment • SCALE directs the right equipment through the right aisles at the right levels. e.g., Forklift 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ability to register forklift details • Assign equipment to operators • Selection of type of transport job • Height restrictions definition
9. Labor Management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Track all activities performed on the system, catalogs them, and displays them in a summarized form • Provides users of the system with detailed visibility into managing their workforce • Data captured to analyze and optimize your warehouse 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Shop Floor Control - manages floor activities regarding job execution, employee attendance and absence, and pay agreements relating to various groups of employees • Provides updated feedback on production and project status, including time and item consumption
10. Carrier Compliance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vendor compliant labels • Major parcel carriers, including rating, manifesting and electronic manifest transmission • Using routing guide information, ability to route shipments based on pre-configured guidelines, e.g. best way, least cost 	Not Supported in AX 2009
11. Outbound Quality Control	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • User notification of pending QC activities through RF • VAS "Pending" indication 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Quarantine management with Quality Control module • Automatic and manual creation supported
12. Business Intelligence (Visibility)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Supply Chain Intelligence (SCI) enables users to acquire complete and consistent integrated business intelligence • Allows system to build data warehouse and cube elements 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SSRS, SSAS, SSIS • SSRS includes 2 reporting tools; ad-hoc reporting tool for end user and an advanced tool used to build complex reports

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