SOLUTION SHEET

10 reasons for implementing web-based, database-driven logbooks in the power industry



There are many compelling reasons for moving toward electronic logbooks in the power industry. These digital logbooks provide immediate benefits to operations personnel and other departments, such as maintenance and safety. An electronic logbook can become a powerful communication tool across multiple disciplines and sites.

Here are 10 reasons for implementing web-based, database-driven logbooks in the power industry.

1. Increased data distribution

Using digital solutions like the Octave Tempo Operations Logbook (formerly j5 Operations Logbook), information is no longer confined to the control room; rather, it is made available directly to anyone in the plant. Information is also available to departments other than the operations department. The introduction of an electronic logbook provides an immediate boost in plant personnel coordination. Multi-user entry allows more people to contribute to the information recording process, especially with mobile devices.

2. Formalized shift handover

Electronic applications like Octave Tempo Shift Handover (formerly j5 Shift Handover) provide an efficient, repeatable and auditable shift handover procedure for multiple areas and sites. The underlying logic ensures that users follow defined procedures. The connected digital logbook automatically collects the bulk of the information for the shift handover, and reports may be emailed to an unlimited number of interested recipients. The data is always online and can be queried at any stage.

3. Real-time information integration

Digital logbooks can interface with industry standard platforms and applications such as the Aveva PI System™, Aspen InfoPlus.21™ (IP.21), SAP PM® and IBM Maximo®. For example, software that calculates KPIs can automatically write an entry into an electronic logbook when a KPI reaches an unacceptable level. Also, the Tempo Operations Logbook can write information back to external applications. This is particularly useful for tracking manual human data KPIs.

4. High-quality view of information

The information within an electronic logbook is easy to read, highlights out-of-specification information, color codes it and formats it. This means that users can quickly locate information of interest and understand it without having to decipher inconsistent scrawls. For example, the information within the Tempo Operations Logbook can be filtered using buttons and has an internal search engine.

5. Enforces workflow practices

The underlying logic within digital systems – such as the Tempo Operations Logbook – defines users' rights to view, create and modify logs and to complete tasks. Examples include signing off at the end of the shift, creating and completing work instructions and many other daily processes. Electronic logbooks allow intelligent workflows, which help operators not to make mistakes or cut corners. Complimentary applications like Octave Tempo Operator Rounds and Routine Duties (formerly j5 Operator Rounds and Routine Duties) help to design operator rounds, collect field information and quickly identify anomalies.

6. Excellent data searching capabilities

Functionality like single-click filters, more sophisticated Boolean buttons and search engines allow users of digital applications like the Tempo Operations Logbook to quickly find information. This saves an enormous amount of time compared to older data recording methods, such as paper or spreadsheets. Operators don't have to navigate through filing cabinets and complex folder systems to find the information they want.

7. Central operations management platform

Digital systems like Octave Tempo Operations Management (formerly j5 Operations Management Solutions) allow companies to implement an enterprise operations management platform. Complementary applications are connected, and information is easily shared between teams. Important real-time and process data from data historians, computerized maintenance management system (CMMS), distributed control system (DCS), enterprise asset management (EAM), programmable logic controller (PLC) and supervisory control and data acquisition system (SCADA) can also be integrated. This means that operators don't have to learn other user interfaces, and the owner does not need to buy software licenses from multiple vendors.

8. Complimentary applications

Digital logbooks are no longer detached logbooks, which they are in the traditional paper or spreadsheet form. They can be connected to similar applications in an integrated common structure. For example – in Tempo Operations Management – the Tempo Operations Logbook can connect to Octave Tempo Shift Handover (formerly j5 Shift Handover), Tempo Standing Orders (formerly j5 Standing Orders), Tempo Work Instructions (formerly j5 Work Instructions), Tempo Operator Rounds and Routine Duties, Tempo Action Management (formerly j5 Action Management), Tempo Incident Management (formerly j5 Incident Management), Tempo Control of Work (formerly j5 Control of Work) and Tempo Management of Change (formerly j5 Management of Change).

9. Advanced reporting tools

With electronic platforms, extensive data reports can be created very quickly. These reports are available online, can be emailed to selectable recipients – on a condition or at a defined periodicity – and can have selectable input values. For example, a report on all Tempo Operations Logbook entries with an "emergency" priority for "this week." The Tempo Operations Logbook also provides the basis of an accurate management reporting framework with Tempo Shift Handover reports, morning reports, weekly reports and many more.

10. Consolidates multiple logbooks and sites

Sites may have hundreds of different logbooks. If these are paper, spreadsheet or word processor document-based, this can lead to enterprise chaos. By consolidating these into a singular application, users can view and manage the consequences of a hazardous event across the same system. For example, a single Tempo Operations Management server provides multiple Tempo Operations Management applications for multiple personnel across multiple sites. Tempo Operations Management templates also allow for easy spreadsheet-like configuration and the simple addition of other complimentary applications.

About Octave

Octave is a leader in enterprise software, turning data into decisive action and intelligence into your edge. Our software solves for and simplifies complexity, from the design and build to operations and protection of people, property and assets – for any scope, at any scale. For decades, we've partnered with customers to sharpen performance, elevate efficiency and amplify results. From factory floors to entire cities, our solutions are tuned to scale up what's possible from day one onward.

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