

“If somebody says they figured it out and they're leaving any room for doubt, come up with a test”

They Might Be Giants

Physical Testing



The conveyors that will transport stock totes and packages around the warehouse have been built and we are now in the early stages of physical testing. This process will initially test the delivery of totes from one point to another.

We will ensure that the testing is thorough and comprehensive and this is just the start of a huge exercise that will continue until May next year.

It will build up to running full ‘sea trials’ where dummy orders will be received, stock will be automatically picked by the new shuttle system and complete orders will be packaged and ready to dispatch.

More than 150,000 units of stock are being sent from LBS to the new distribution centre to be used in testing.

The image below is a view down one of the five aisles on which the Stingray shuttles will run. Each aisle has 36 rows and the shuttles will move between them via a lift mechanism at one end of the framework.



Customer Engagement

Richard Bevan, the project’s Change Manager, has been working with sales and customer services departments to identify key customers that will be impacted by the transition to new processes. Discussions have started and will continue throughout October and November.

Richard will be at the Frankfurt Book Fair to provide customers with an overview of the project scope, key changes and benefits, and timelines for ongoing engagement.



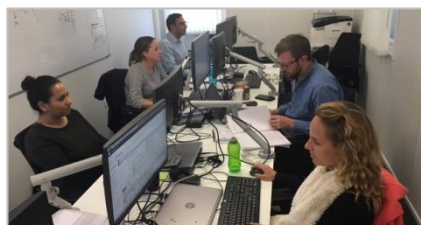
A productive meeting with representatives from the Booksellers Association council was held in September. This allowed us to present the scope of the project and to help explain the logic behind the approach to providing delivery documentation. Invoices will now be electronic and contents lists will be supplied in the boxes.

System Testing

Since June, functionality for the new SAP and JDA systems has been delivered to a dedicated team to test.

In addition to checking that the processes work as expected, the team are undertaking ‘System Integration Testing’ during the autumn to test the interaction between the systems.

To date, more than 1,100 test scenarios have been executed with many more to follow as we rigorously check the systems before they are deployed next year.



Meet the Project Team

Jon Wraight

SAP Technical
Integration Lead

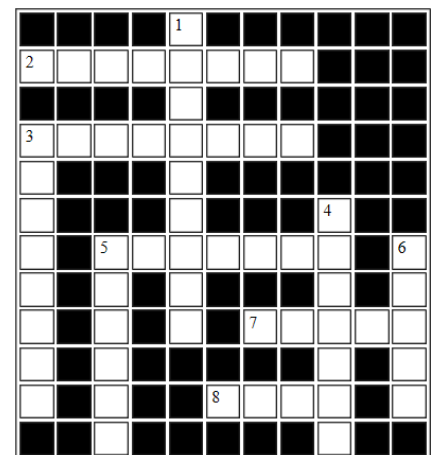


Jon has been with the group for 15 years, originally working for LBS as a systems development manager. He is a Vista expert and his extensive knowledge of publishing distribution processes is invaluable to supporting the technical integration of the new systems.

He is currently working closely with the project’s business integration lead and with Keytree, our SAP implementation partner, on the functional and technical specifications for the interfaces between SAP Order to Cash and other systems.

Coffee Break Corner

The quick crossword below has ten answers that relate to the project, how many can you solve?



Across

- 2. Send (8)
- 3. Moving belt (8)
- 5. Airport bus (7)
- 7. Totally *(informal)* (5)
- 8. Garden paradise (4)

Down

- 1. Store for goods (9)
- 3. Patron (8)
- 4. Examining (7)
- 5. Method (6)
- 6. Extended view (5)

All of the answers can be found in this newsletter!