Pype

Warfel Construction Implements Pype AutoSpecs; Reclaims Hundreds of Hours of Project Teams' Time

With exceptionally accurate output, AutoSpecs provided new insight into project scope

BACKGROUND

Warfel Construction Company is a full-service construction company serving a variety of industries across the Mid-Atlantic region.

Founded in 1911, Warfel survived the Great Depression, World War II, and everything else along the way to become one of Central Pennsylvania's largest providers of construction management, design-build, and general contracting services.

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Phil Weaver, Director of IT,

Warfel Construction

THE CHALLENGE

Like all construction companies, Warfel has to create submittal logs for each project they work on. They use Field Engineers and Project Engineers (FEs and PEs) to create them.

The process involves searching through spec books for each project and transferring the required information to an Excel spreadsheet. Even with the use of PDF viewing software, it was still a manual process prone to errors.

According to Phil Weaver, Warfel's Senior Director of IT, this was one of their most inefficient and time-consuming processes. Weaver says, "There was a lot of grumbling around because of the amount of energy going into this. They could easily spend 120 hours creating one submittal log."

THE SOLUTION

About three years ago, Phil discovered Pype's AutoSpecs at a conference. Because it was totally new and the first product of its kind on the market, he had a little trouble believing what he was seeing. Once he realized AutoSpecs was indeed scanning an entire spec book in a few minutes and then compiling a usable submittal register, he knew this was the solution they needed.

Warfel decided to test the software on a few pilot projects to see how well it worked before going all in. It didn't take long before word got around the company. Then everyone wanted the software on their projects.

"It was a no-brainer for us to move forward with the product," says Weaver. "Half the organization knew we were doing this, so we had people calling us, asking when they can use it on their projects. Since it was cloud-based, we said, 'You can use it now. Here's how you do it.'"

THE RESULTS

Increased Accuracy

As with any process with several hundred pages of information, some things will get missed. People get distracted and tired, and information slips through the cracks. Using AutoSpecs to extract the data eliminates the potential for human error.

When asked about the accuracy level they're seeing, Weaver explained. "We took some very complex projects, ran the specs through AutoSpecs, and were just blown away by the output."

Time Saved

Prior to using AutoSpecs, Warfel's FEs and PEs were spending around 115 to 120 hours per project to create their submittal logs. AutoSpecs cut that time down to 5 minutes. It took a once long and arduous process and squeezed it into the time it takes to get a cup of coffee.

This frees up the FEs and PEs to focus on other tasks so their time is used more effectively.

Increased Productivity

AutoSpecs takes the inefficient process Weaver describes as "hunting and pecking" and completely automates it. The software extracts all the related data and compiles it into a draft submittal register, then displays critical information in the dashboard.

Now Warfel can easily locate the information they need in a very short time. No more trudging through specifications to manually find the necessary submittals; it's all done automatically.

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Custom Export Template

One of Warfel's requirements was that they needed data put into a very complex, custom Excel spreadsheet in order to use it effectively. Pype worked with Warfel to understand what they needed, then developed a custom export template to match what Warfel was using before.

That made the transition seamless. It also allowed them to keep using the other systems they had in place without modifying them.

"We were trying to get an output that matched what we had in the past," said Weaver. "Pype was willing to work with us and give us the custom output we required."

Easy to Use

When asked what they like most about AutoSpecs, Warfel's FEs and PEs typically say "It's easy to use. It just works."

Autospecs takes the information it extracts from the specs and puts it into a dashboard, allowing users to quickly see what's needed in their projects. They can see different types of submittals, get a breakdown of the additional requirements, and assess the scope of a project to help precon teams bid jobs more accurately - all in one place.

Learning Tool

The output AutoSpecs produced also had an unexpected benefit for Warfel. The generated log serves as a learning tool for green FEs and PEs. They can take the data and use it as a guide for what to look for when they're going through specifications.

Weaver concludes, "It gives them an outline or framework for what things are and where they belong, educating them in the way construction is done."

By integrating AutoSpecs into their toolbox, Warfel took a slow, manual process that is prone to errors, and automated it. This allowed them to save time while increasing productivity and accuracy for their submittal logs. They were able to keep using the systems they already had in place, and provide a new way for their FEs and PEs to understand the submittal requirements.