



THE EVOLUTION OF AN INTEGRATION

How Mid-City Steel Got FabSuite and ProNest to Talk to Each Other

Mid-City Steel had a problem with plate. The process of managing plate was far from efficient. Sam Tanke, then the Process Improvement Manager, described the situation as a nightmare due to the heavy manual effort of locating appropriately sized plate material to fit the required set of parts for the job. Every time a piece of plate was needed someone had to go sort through the stock using a tape measure to locate a usable piece, return to the office to run the nest, and fill out paper forms to indicate what was being used and what was being returned to stock. A full time employee was required just to keep inventory records up to date through this process.

To solve this problem Mid-City Steel turned to FabSuite and ProNest. Having upgraded to FabSuite software a year prior, Mid-City Steel was pleased with the inventory management capabilities they now had, but the complex nesting requirements at Mid-City Steel demanded an even greater degree of technical sophistication. After consulting with FabSuite's integration specialist, Amy Davis, it was determined Hypertherm's ProNest software was the solution to pursue.

Working together, FabSuite and Hypertherm (the developers of ProNest nesting software) created a new integration allowing Mid-City Steel to greatly enhance efficiencies in their plate management process. By driving this solution, Mid-City Steel had a strong influence on the integration functionality, As a result, Mid-City Steel realized a significant reduction in their labor while enjoying a seamless nesting and inventory management process.

Mid-City Steel has always focused on being a technologically advanced fabricator. According to Sam, the marketplace and the economy are so demanding right now that "being able to save money and find new ways to do things more efficiently is the only way to stay competitive." The ability to take advantage of the advanced nesting algorithms and built-in process expertise in ProNest, yet still have FabSuite control the inventory in a completely seamless and transparent fashion, has given Mid-City Steel some of the competitive advantage they were looking for.

When asked about the role that FabSuite played in this process, Sam responded: "You guys just make FabSuite do whatever it needs to do and that is the beauty for us." Thanks to Mid-City Steel's efforts, all FabSuite clients now have access to advanced ProNest integration capabilities.



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Mid-City Steel is a structural steel fabricator located in La Crosse, Wisconsin. Founded in 1972, Mid-City serves the industrial markets in the power, mining, petrochemical, and transportation industries. Holding both AISC and CWB certifications, Mid-City Steel is one of the premier steel fabricators in North America. Visit their website at www.mid-citysteel.com.

