

Comparison Guide

Navigating the Manufacturing Scheduling Ecosystem.



Manufacturers **need** a better scheduling tool.



Across the country, manufacturers face a common problem: the tools they are using to schedule jobs are not meeting their needs, resulting in missed delivery dates, broken communication between the front office and the factory floor, and lost revenue. The shortcomings of these systems manifest in many ways, but the top pain points include:

- **The schedule doesn't align with real-time operations.**
- **The tool contains rigid requirements that don't match the needs of an active manufacturing environment.**
- **The system doesn't provide live manufacturing data.**
- **The data gathered is limited, restricting analysis.**
- **The tool is a good match for front-office users, but not those on the factory floor, or vice versa.**

Clearly a better solution is required. But for organizations still relying on Excel spreadsheets, making sense of the options available can be overwhelming, especially if the company hasn't yet defined its needs. And for businesses who are struggling with the built-in scheduling extension provided by their ERP, picking a solution that works with their existing system is key.

In this guide, we'll discuss the differences between an ERP, an MRP, and an MES, offer advice on what features are most essential for a scheduling tool, and guide you toward the next steps for finding a solution that will work for your company.

ERP, MRP, or MES?

Manufacturing schedulers have been developed as extensions of other software programs, and as tools in their own right. This can make the software ecosystem difficult to navigate, as some companies who are advertising scheduling tools actually specialize in tools built to manage other parts of the business entirely.

For example, many well-established industry brands, including Oracle, Rockwell Automation, and Dassault Systèmes offer MES solutions. The problem is that these solutions are buried deep within their brand catalog—subsets of subsets, add-on features to some larger asset. They may have an MES, but that's not what they're known for.

As a consequence, these programs take a back seat to the brand's headline software or service

offerings, which receive all the resources. Meanwhile, the MES portion is pushed to the back of the update cycle—and customer service requests to the bottom of the support queue.

So, if you're wondering why your scheduling tool never seems to produce a workable schedule, the simple answer may be that it was never built for that purpose.

ERP, MRP, or MES: What's the Difference?

ERP

(Enterprise Resource Planning)



Front Office

Accounting
Human Resources
Sales/Marketing

MRP

(Material Requirements Planning)

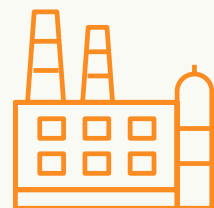


Warehouse

Inventory
Supply Management
Logistics

MES

(Manufacturing Execution System)



Factory

Scheduling
Production
Machine Monitoring

Enterprise Resource Planning

(ERP): An ERP is primarily a front-of-house tool that allows for broad organizational oversight of key business functions such as financing, sales and marketing, and human resources.

Material Requirements Planning

(MRP): An MRP is an inventory management tool. Its purpose is to ensure that the raw materials and other components are delivered on time for production.

Manufacturing Execution System

(MES): An MES is a purpose-built tool for manufacturing production. It focuses on real-time production tracking, as well as data collection for improved on-time delivery.

What should manufacturers expect from a **purpose-built MES**?

JobPack's focus on MES functionality allows us to deliver a more robust toolkit than companies that only offer scheduling as a byproduct of other service offerings. When researching an MES, pay close attention to what a program offers in the following areas.



1. FLEXIBLE SCHEDULING.

An ERP built to manage accounting issues, or an MRP designed to handle inventory and supply management, may have assumptions baked in to the program that are too rigid for the live environment on the factory floor. As a purpose-built manufacturing scheduler, JobPack offers more robust options that allow production managers to account for every variable.



2. FULL INTEGRATION.

Some products will bill themselves as an "all-in-one" solution, with the implication that the different tools will function more efficiently together as a result. But having tools that work well together isn't a benefit if one of the tools isn't suitable for the job. Fortunately, we can integrate JobPack with your systems so that you can get the best of both worlds: data flow between software products, and the right tool for each job.



3. MACHINE MONITORING.

A schedule may look good on paper, but without machine monitoring, organizations may be missing key data that would explain why their real-time operations aren't lining up with their plan. Machine monitoring shows how machines are actually functioning, offering insight into purchasing, hiring, and future planning decisions.



4. PRODUCTION INSIGHTS.

The extra data gathered by machine monitoring tools, as well as data from the scheduling solution, can work together to improve on-time delivery rates, lower overtime expenditures, fortify customer relationships, and strengthen the bottom line.



5. BROWSER-BASED ACCESS.

Members of your organization at all levels need access to manufacturing software for both high-level decision making and ground-level production. Rather than providing a cloud-based solution, which introduces security vulnerabilities, the JobPack application uses an internal web page that is accessible by any device with a browser.



6. CUSTOMER SERVICE.

Finally, many large software companies rely on a ticketing system for customer support that can leave manufacturers waiting for days to receive assistance. At JobPack, you'll know your service rep by name, and they will always take your call.



What do **customers** say?

We pulled up our top competitors on Capterra, the B2B software review site, to see how our reviews compared. Here's what we found.

“Would you recommend...”

JobPack had the highest recommendation rate when compared to the prestige brands in our field.

Aptean:	40%
DELMIAworks (Dassault ystèmes):	70.8%
JobBoss (ECI):	74.4%
M1 (ECI):	59.8%
Plex (Rockwell Automation):	55.6%
JobPack:	87.3%

Rating

JobPack also had the best rating.

Aptean:	3.4/5
DELMIAworks (Dassault ystèmes):	4.1/5
JobBoss (ECI):	4.2/5
M1 (ECI):	3.8/5
Plex (Rockwell Automation):	4.2/5
JobPack:	4.5/5

Biggest Cons

JobPack had the highest recommendation rate when compared to the prestige brands in our field.

DELMIAworks:

“A project which was to take 9 months is now looking at 12.”

DELMIAworks (Dassault ystèmes):

“This would be the worst investment my company has ever made.”

Plex (Rockwell Automation):

“Plex has nearly destroyed our company and that is not an exaggeration.”

JobPack:

“Editing time clocks seems a bit clunky if shop operators make mistakes.”

As for the praise...

"JobPack is already saving us time and money after only 6 months of use."

–Shawn P. | IT Manager, Aviation & Aerospace

"The JobPack group are very easy to work with. They are very attentive, and actually listen to what you are needing. The software itself is very intuitive and the schedule is very easy to view and change right out of the box, but the enhancements that JobPack developers have and can make has really set them apart from others I have looked at."

**–Andrew F. | Quality Assurance Supervisor,
Electrical/Electronic Manufacturing**

"We installed JobPack 2 months ago and it has smoothed out our delivery issues. We now have visibility of work on the shop floor and can see when it starts to go late before the due date so we can take action to remedy the issues."

–Bill C. | VP Operations, Consumer Goods

"We were looking for a scheduling software program for years and we saw JobPack. It's a pretty amazing program. We get real time data and can run different scenarios."

**–Michelle M. | Operations Manager, Electrical/
Electronic Manufacturing**

"Before we used JobPack, we were still manually opening and tracking jobs. As can be imagined, this was an immense headache as we continued to grow. JobPack has allowed us to plan our schedule so that it works for us instead of the other way around. They have always been helpful if we have any problems."

–Brad G. | Operations Manager, Oil & Energy

"We use JobPack via our terminal servers and it is nearly bulletproof in operation. It just runs and runs without issue. Support from JobPack is great. Always responsive and very helpful. My rep is a pleasure to work with, cheerful and always willing to help."

–Ronald D. | IT Applications Analyst, Mining & Metals



Reviews of JobPack retrieved 6/20/2023:

<https://www.capterra.com/p/119528/JobPack-Production-Suite/reviews/>



Contact us today to schedule a free demo of JobPack's capabilities.

If you're wondering whether JobPack truly is the system to solve all your shop floor operational needs, your next step is simple: schedule a demo.

One of our representatives will arrange a call with you to demonstrate JobPack's features. We will even customize our presentation using data from your shop so that you can see how our program will fit into your operations.

Don't let ineffective software solutions hold you back. Contact us today to get started.

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