



PORT COMMUNITY SYSTEM

“We have benefitted greatly from CrimsonLogic’s Port Community System (PCS). After implementing PCS in 16 ports, we are able to cut down the time for vessel submission and approval from 48 hours to immediate. Berth request and allocation can be processed instantly now.

Goods enjoy faster customs clearance as document and data submitted in PCS is readily available. The Port authority is also able to provide various port related online services to the shipping agents, including tracking of cargo movement beyond port premises.”

Rajeev Puri
Senior Deputy Director (IT)
Indian Ports Association

SUMMARY

- Client:** Indian Ports Association
- Challenge:** Integrating different operating procedures and IT systems of disparate ports.
- Solution:** CrimsonLogic's Port Community System (PCS) offers a single electronic window for all port community stakeholders to access critical information readily and securely.
- Benefits:** The centralised electronic message switching facility and database allowed messages in multiple protocols to be exchanged easily among disparate ports in the community. It also enhanced customs authorities' ability to track goods movement.

BACKGROUND

In the early 1990s, the Indian government started globalising its economy via trade. The opening up of 13 major ports and 25 minor ports across the 6,000 km peninsular coastline led to a massive growth in India's seaborne trade. The traditional means of transportation via break bulk and liquid bulk (also known as commodity cargo) were replaced by containerised cargo.

The Indian government introduced private sector participation by adopting the "landlord port" model to distinguish the port owner from the operator. With this change, the government had to relinquish the responsibility of providing and managing port services to private developers.

Not only did the 13 ports have different operations handling various types of cargo, activities related to the cargo are also managed by multiple players, each having their own IT systems and processes. The multitude of standards used during peer-to-peer interactions and the lack of a central information hub to standardise the different protocols have resulted in reduced efficiency and high error rates during transactions.

The port community needed a single centralised platform for the consolidation and retrieval of information; a user-friendly interface that is common to all the existing systems of various ports, customs, banks and financial institutions. There was also a need to improve the visibility and tracking of goods movement.

SOLUTION

CrimsonLogic's Port Community System (PCS) was the chosen solution for the Indian Port Network.

PCS is a centralised intelligent electronic message switching facility that standardises multiple protocols among the trading community, enabling the exchange of messages in XML and UN/EDIFACT. It is also equipped with a centralised database to track shipment, and at the same time serves as a data repository for research and analysis.

PCS provides a secure web-based application to access and support information exchange between the central database and common processes.

Currently, 16 ports and more than 2,500 registered stakeholders are using PCS. On a daily average, 30,000 messages are exchanged within the 16 ports. 14 major banks are connected to ePayment and the financial transactions made via PCS are valued at an average of 7 billion Indian rupees monthly.

For more information on this case study, please contact us at sales@crimsonlogic.com

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BENEFITS

Since the implementation of PCS in 2008, the following improvements were reported by the Indian Ports Association:

Messages	Before Implementation	After Implementation	Remarks
Vessel Profile Submission and Approval	48 hours	Average 1-2 hours	In many cases, it is immediate
Voyage Registration and VCN Allocation	48 hours	Average 1-2 hours	In many cases, it is immediate
Berth Request and Allocation	Next day	Immediate	
Container Related Messages	Physical submission	All documents are submitted online by users	
Cargo Related Messages - Delivery Orders	5-6 hours	Within 1 hour of submission	

Source: ipa.nic.in

Other benefits include:

- Faster collection of customs duties from traders and more effective detection of smuggled goods.
- Faster customs clearance as documents and data submitted in PCS is readily available to the immigration officers.
- Faster approval of clearance certificates for quarantined agriculture.
- Port authority is able to provide various port related online services to the shipping agents, including tracking of cargo movement beyond port premises.
- Improved management and efficient use of vessel space.
- Better coordination for shipping agents in terms of booking, procurement and document processing activities via a single electronic interface.
- Faster declaration of goods by customs house agents through online submission of documents for customs processing and online payment.
- Time savings and higher efficiency as information can be submitted to port authorities electronically.

