

Community Foods
slashes accounts
payable processing
time by 95%

iDocuments



Organic foods supplier uses iDocuments
to boost AP in SAP Business One



ABOUT

Based in Essex, England, Community Foods supplies a wide range of natural and organic dried foods for retail, wholesale and foodservice customers. From nuts and seeds, its unique Bakelock™ Soaked Fruit is sourced only from the highest-quality ingredients from around the world. From the company's early days in a one-room London facility in the 1970's, to today's state-of-the-art packaging and processing facility in Essex, Community Foods continues to pioneer and grow the market for natural and organic foods.

Read about them on the web at <https://www.communityfoods.co.uk>.





The need for faster, more accurate AP processing

As a fast-growing, complex business with numerous customers and suppliers in multiple countries, Community Foods leadership recognized long ago the need to run their business on ERP, specifically SAP Business One. The system, implemented in 2011, enables Community Foods to manage financials, inventory, the supply chain and more. Yet, by 2020, Community Foods had relationships with so many suppliers that they needed an add-on solution to help them manage the approximately 2,000 accounts payable (AP) invoices they were receiving every month.

Prior to 2020, Community Foods relied on manual internal processes to handle AP approvals and handoffs. Yet, the manual aspect had started to drag down efficiency. “The high number of manual steps and the passing of payables from person to person was taking great energy and causing unnecessary delays,” said John Nichols, IT Manager of Community Foods. “We had to get AP automated.” John also noted that management was concerned about more than speed. Accounts payable staff did not always have 100% confidence that they were accurately paying their suppliers correctly. “If we overpaid or paid too soon and didn’t realize it, obviously that hurt our margins and cash flow. If we underpaid or paid late, that negatively impacted our supplier relationships,” explained Nichols.

These concerns led John’s team to seek an AP solution, specifically a ‘procurement-to-pay’ solution which they could easily integrate to SAP Business One.

A clear choice for AP management

After evaluating several AP solutions, Community Foods selected iDocuments for purchasing management. Two major factors made iDocuments the ideal choice. First, iDocuments provides a richer feature set and more functionality than SAP Business One for end-to-end AP management. In fact, the broad and deep procurement-to-pay capabilities of iDocuments are best in class. Second, Vision33 provides a pre-built integration of iDocuments to SAP Business One. "Vision33 is the largest Business One partner out there with fantastic SAP integration knowledge," said John. "Once they showed us their iDocuments integration to B1, it was an easy choice for us to make."

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A rapid implementation delivers immediate and long-term results

John's team leveraged Vision33 and their pre-built iDocuments-SAP Business One integration to rapidly implement procure-to-pay at Community Foods. In just three weeks, iDocuments went live, and the AP team began processing invoices through it, directly into SAP. Immediately upon 'Go-Live', Community Foods was able to process 50% of their invoices via iDocuments automatically – with no manual intervention. Several months later, 95% of AP processing occurs automatically.

Community foods has turned on the iDocuments verification features so that the solution performs detailed double-checking to ensure all invoice payments only occur after specific steps and rules have been followed. "Our people have far greater confidence when paying suppliers than they had a year ago," said John. "Since only 5% of invoices require special checks beyond our predefined parameters, we are saving a ton of time."

When one of the AP staff left the company recently, Community Foods did not replace that person. In fact, that was the driver behind the specific timing of the iDocuments implementation. "We didn't eliminate a position. We just avoided the need to find a replacement, thanks to iDocuments," explained John.

iDocuments



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Vision33 (www.vision33.com) helps growing companies deliver on the promise of technology through enterprise resource planning (ERP) solutions, including SAP Business One and Sage Intacct, automation, and integration solutions. Vision33 has the people, processes, and technology to help businesses solve everyday challenges and seize new opportunities for growth and transformation. With proprietary solutions such as iDocuments and Saltbox, Vision33 helps businesses leverage the right transformative technology for their digital transformation journeys.

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