

Don't Get Caught Short with Item Shortages in Syteline!

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Many years ago, in what seems like an eternity, I was part of the SUN Board of Directors. During this time, I remember different end users at different times asking about inventory shortages, and how Syteline did not actually have a “One Stop Shop” that identified item shortages, and when they would or could possibly occur, in a single report. A few versions of Syteline later, we are still at the same problem.

I was recently at the SUN Conference in Vegas this spring, and still heard the same complaint with Syteline 8 and 9. There is no single shortage report in the system. Users have to run multiple reports, output to Excel, and maybe “meld” something together, which is very time consuming. So, I saw a need. And created a solution...

Thus the Item Shortage Report for Syteline was created to give end users a report that would specifically identify shortages when dealing with requirements and replenishments for an item. Think about how Planners and Schedulers work throughout their day. They try to create a stable plan for the shop floor – knowing that at any time, other variables such as Sales trying to wedge a new order that's due in 2 weeks, can occur, and throw that good plan you just created this morning – into some form of chaos! Can you do it? Will you be short on items if you allow for the new plan?

The report "pinpoints" these items, and when they would be short, in a “transactional format”. The end user enters an item range from a custom form, and a “Start and End Date Fence” - meaning do not look before or past these 2 dates in time. Note that if one or both date fields are left blank that the report will not look at this specific date parameter.

The report then shows, in due date order, all the requirements and replenishments for that item (a tie in dates would go to replenishment), starting with its current on-hand qty, then moving through all the requirements / replenishments) - in due date order...

IF the item's on-hand qty drops below zero at any time, there is a column that says "Shortage".

IF the item's on-hand qty is above zero on the last line of item, that column would display "Surplus". This is helpful in today's Lean Manufacturing environment. It would show a Production Planner a surplus, enabling you to remove a possible surplus of inventory in the future.

This was the initial report “format”. It quickly became apparent that the report would also be useful in various other formats. End user clients and companies were asking for updates in the report configuration. So the following options were added:

- The report could now be setup as a custom Dataview.
- The report could be adapted to run a range (or single) Job, instead of Items. The report would then look at a Job, or Job range, and show all the potential item shortages for the Job Materials of that Job, and all the Job Materials for the sub-jobs required in the parent BOM.

- The report could be run in Crystal (for earlier versions of Syteline), direct to Excel, or SSRS.
- The report could be run for a range of items OR a range of Jobs OR a range of Customer Order numbers.

The report has evolved to become tailored to the end users needs, knowing that one company running an Assembly Line style of shop floor on Syteline 7 will differ from the Job Shop running Syteline 8 or 9...

If you are interested in getting more information on the Item Shortage Report, I would be happy to share whitepapers, documentation, and a demo on the subject. Look for YACG to schedule a webinar as well in the coming months.

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