The Phenix Scheduler

ZINATA Z

Connecting dots. Bridging silos. Building capability.

Are you striving to improve efficiency while dealing with constant changes in the schedule?

Are you manually creating your production schedules or using tools not designed for your purpose?

Today's Reality: Scheduling is a challenging problem to solve. The manufacturing plant scheduler is so often the unsung hero of manufacturing. Faced with conflicting objectives and conflicting direction, even from the plant manager and the planning manager who may not have aligned on the priorities and policies to apply when faced with difficult choices – this is what makes the lives of schedulers so difficult.

Schedulers are those indispensable people who are expected to somehow "know what to do" and make magic happen.

What Could the Future Look Like? Phenix Scheduler is the best and simplest 'next-week' scheduling tool – the fine-grained schedule that your line can effectively execute and easily adjust.

Scheduling software must capture enough detail to accurately reflect reality on the manufacturing floor. Most ERP and MRP software lack the detail needed and specialized scheduling software can be so complex that it is difficult to use, maintain, and understand. Many companies turn to basic Excel which does not support detailed scheduling and quickly becomes out of step with reality.

Solution Description: Phenix Scheduler is based on the Zinata Product Wheel sequencing methods.

Many Zinata customers have successfully implemented Product Wheels. We have seen companies on average achieve a 15%+ improvement in efficiency by using Product Wheel sequencing.
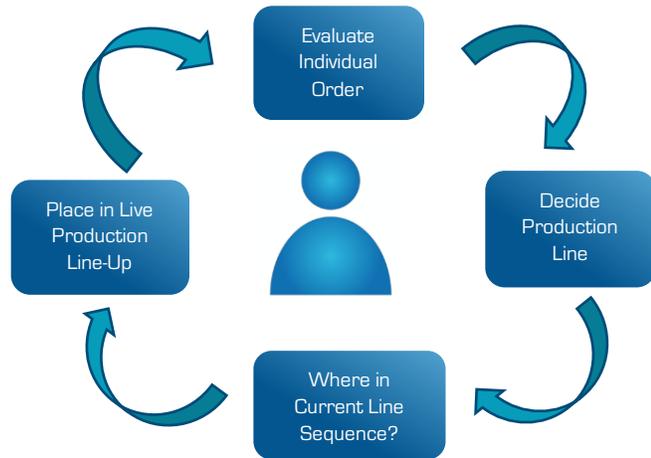
The % efficiency increase can be used in many ways to bring the benefit to the bottom line: capacity without investment, improved customer service, preventive maintenance, process improvement, reduced overtime, and reduced staffing or crewing.

Phenix Scheduler has been developed by a multifunctional team including accomplished planning and scheduling practitioners with many years of experience in world class companies, and a technical design team using the most modern software design principles and tools.

Our experience with developing Excel-based Product Wheel sequencing enablers and observing people use them in a variety of industries makes Phenix Scheduler a robust, flexible suite of functions that support planning and adjustment of schedules.

Tribal knowledge is replaced by codified rules and easy to train processes.
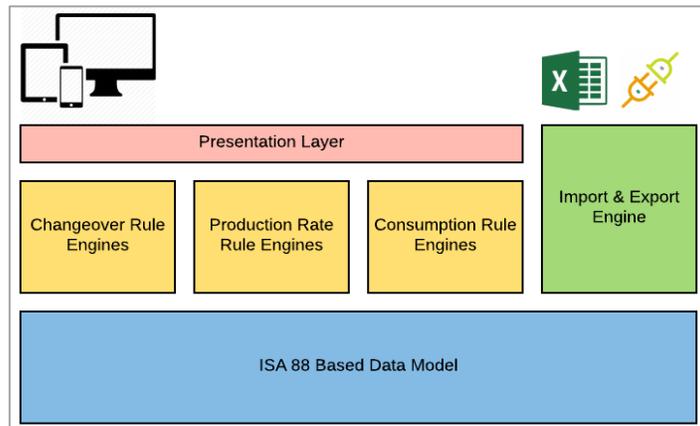
Without Phenix Scheduler the planner is surrounded by events:

Evaluate Individual Order

Decide Production Line

Where in Current Line Sequence?

Place in Live Production Line-Up

With Phenix Scheduler the planner manages exceptions and focuses on important issues and process improvement:

Load of Orders and Line State → Tool Proposes Line and Sequence → Scheduler Reviews, Adjusts & Exports

Phenix Scheduler is made up of a wheel-based sequencing engine, a flexible and powerful import/export system, and 3 rules engines: changeovers, production rate, and bill of material consumption rules.

Presentation Layer

Changeover Rule Engines

Production Rate Rule Engines

Consumption Rule Engines

Import & Export Engine

ISA 88 Based Data Model

Using the Product Wheel, the Phenix Scheduler supports the practical day-to-day challenges of optimally scheduling production in the face of rush orders, production breakdowns, and material shortages while balancing customer service, plant efficiency and inventory.

GENERAL INQUIRIES	EMAIL US	VISIT US ONLINE
877-235-8061	INFO@ZINATA.COM	ZINATA.COM

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