



NUCLEUS
RESEARCH

Quantifying the value of warehouse modernization with Savant WMS

ANALYST

Charles A. Brennan

The Bottom Line

As global supply chain disruptions, labor constraints, and rising customer expectations continue to pressure warehouse operations, organizations are rethinking their approach to execution and visibility. Many still rely on legacy warehouse management systems or ERP extensions that lack flexibility, automation, and integration depth, limiting scalability and driving inefficiencies. Nucleus found that customers deploying Savant Software's WMS achieve measurable improvements across key operational areas, inventory accuracy, efficiency, and service performance, by automating manual workflows and connecting warehouse data directly with Acumatica ERP. Through end-user conversations, Nucleus found that organizations typically improved inventory accuracy by 20 to 30 percent and increased overall warehouse efficiency by 10 to 15 percent through automation of order waving, replenishment, and returns processes with Savant. Analysts interviewed one organization that reported saving approximately \$475,000 annually through labor-hour reductions and avoided headcount costs. A distributor improved on-time fulfillment from roughly 90 percent to over 99 percent by embedding quality-control checkpoints into workflows through Savant WMS.

Overview

Persistent global disruptions continue to expose weaknesses across supply chain networks. Trade restrictions, tariffs, and regional conflicts have increased sourcing volatility, while nearshoring and reshoring efforts add pressure on domestic logistics and labor capacity. At the same time, e-commerce growth and evolving customer expectations demand faster, more accurate fulfillment. These forces collectively amplify the strain on warehouse operations, which function as the backbone of the supply chain. Although warehouses are often viewed as cost centers, they are critical enablers of supply chain performance. Effective execution depends on accurate inventory visibility, coordinated order fulfillment, and the ability to translate planning decisions into real-world movement of goods.

Many organizations still rely on legacy warehouse management systems or ERP extensions that lack the flexibility and scalability needed to adapt to modern logistics requirements. These older solutions often struggle to integrate automation equipment, support mobile workflows, or accommodate real-time data exchange across systems. As a result, companies face limited visibility, constrained throughput, and difficulty scaling operations to meet fluctuating demand. The shift toward modular, cloud-ready warehouse management platforms has become essential for businesses seeking both short-term operational efficiency and long-term agility.

Savant Software addresses these challenges with a unified WMS architecture built to support a “land-and-expand” deployment model. The platform is offered in three editions, Lite, Pro, and Enterprise, each based on a shared codebase and database. This approach allows organizations to start with foundational functionality and scale as operational complexity increases, minimizing implementation risk while accelerating time to value. Across its portfolio, Savant provides capabilities including mobile barcode scanning, cartonization and box-building algorithms, shipping manifest management, and integrated IoT hardware support through partners such as Honeywell and Zebra. As an Acumatica partner, Savant extends its WMS capabilities within broader ERP environments, helping customers connect warehouse execution directly to order management, procurement, and transportation processes.

In this environment of continued volatility and rising execution demands, modern warehouse management solutions, such as Savant WMS, serve as key levers for improving operational resilience.

Modern WMS platforms turn warehouse operations from cost centers into strategic enablers of supply chain performance

Savant’s unified architecture and Acumatica integration allow customers to start small and expand functionality as complexity grows.

Organizations adopting flexible, integration-ready WMS platforms can better align planning and execution, achieve higher inventory accuracy, and realize measurable returns through productivity gains and reduced operational costs.

Typical Benefits

Through end-user conversations, Nucleus identified the following benefits customers typically realize when deploying Savant WMS: Improved inventory management, increased operational efficiency, and enhanced service level performance.

Improved Inventory Management

Organizations deploying Savant WMS report measurable gains in inventory accuracy and visibility across warehouse operations. The platform's detailed inventory reporting and drill-down capabilities enable users to identify and resolve stock discrepancies quickly, minimizing fulfillment errors and rework. Seamless integration with Acumatica ERP further enhances visibility by linking warehouse-level data with financial and order management information, allowing teams to track inventory, shipments, and production orders in real time. This unified view strengthens decision-making and reduces manual reconciliation between systems. Through end-user conversations, Nucleus found that organizations adopting Savant typically improved inventory accuracy by 20 to 30 percent after deployment, translating to more efficient picking, fewer stockouts, and reduced operational overhead.

Increased Operational Efficiency

By automating core warehouse functions, Savant WMS enables organizations to significantly improve operational efficiency and reduce manual workloads. Before deployment, smaller distributors often spend several hours each day manually handling order waving, batching, and prioritization tasks. Savant's automated order-waving and batching functionality streamlines these processes, freeing warehouse managers to focus on higher-value operational planning. Additional automation in replenishment, putaway, and returns management allows organizations to sustain throughput during peak demand periods without adding staff. These capabilities minimize travel time within the warehouse, ensure timely staging of inventory, and standardize workflows for consistent performance. Nucleus found that organizations deploying Savant typically increase overall warehouse efficiency by approximately 15 percent. Analysts interviewed one distributor that reported annual

Nucleus found that organizations can improve inventory accuracy by 20 to 30 percent after deploying Savant WMS

Nucleus interviewed one company that reported annual savings of \$475,000 through reduced labor hours and avoided headcount costs.

savings of approximately \$475,000 through reduced labor hours and avoided headcount costs with Savant WMS.

Enhanced Service Level Performance

Savant WMS helps organizations strengthen service-level performance by improving fulfillment accuracy, order visibility, and warehouse responsiveness. The platform's integrated order management and barcode-scanning capabilities give warehouse staff real-time insight into product availability, helping them optimize pick routes, reduce stockouts, and accelerate order turnaround. Packaging and staging functionality also enables orders to be consolidated and prepared for shipment more efficiently, improving space utilization and throughput. These operational gains directly impact customer satisfaction by ensuring accurate, on-time deliveries. One organization interviewed by Nucleus automated its quality-control checkpoints using Savant, increasing on-time fulfillment rates from roughly 90 percent to over 99 percent. By maintaining consistently high service levels, organizations can strengthen customer retention, minimize rework, and support sustainable business growth.

Barcode-driven order management and optimized pick routing improved fulfillment accuracy and reduced stockouts.

Highlighted Use Cases

Nucleus identified two use cases to showcase the selection process and value, customers realize from deploying Savant WMS.

North American Distributor

A North American distributor and third-party logistics (3PL) provider implemented Savant Software's Warehouse Management System (WMS) to modernize its operations following years of expansion through acquisition. The company manages both distribution and 3PL services and had relied on an aging, unsupported ERP system that introduced operational risk and frequent disruptions. After migrating to the Acumatica ERP platform, the organization found that Acumatica's native inventory management capabilities lacked the depth required for complex, multi-warehouse operations. The company sought a warehouse management solution that could provide stronger real-time control over inventory and fulfillment workflows while maintaining on-premises deployment for business continuity.

When evaluating vendors, the company prioritized seamless integration with Acumatica, comprehensive warehouse functionality, from cycle counting to receiving, picking, and packing, and the ability to continue fulfilling orders even during power interruptions. After reviewing

Nucleus found that Savant's flexibility and rapid implementation model accelerate time to value for organizations.

alternative vendors, Savant was selected for its preferred-partner status with Acumatica, its out-of-the-box functional breadth, and its rapid implementation model. The system was deployed in just three weeks, going live in December 2023.

Initial post-go-live challenges centered around order-volume volatility and connectivity between Acumatica and Savant, largely stemming from configuration issues on the ERP side. Once connectivity stabilized in April 2024, warehouse operations achieved full synchronization. Over the following six months, the environment remained stable, with users citing significant satisfaction with Savant's mobile interface compared to other systems used across newly acquired business units.

Since implementation, the company has realized several measurable benefits. Automated quality control checkpoints have driven a rise in on-time fulfillment from approximately 90 percent to more than 99 percent. Integrated process controls have standardized workflows, reducing reliance on manual oversight and eliminating frequent communication gaps between customer service and warehouse teams. As a result, staff time previously spent managing exceptions is now focused on strategic initiatives, such as supporting new acquisitions, one of which added \$1M in annual business. By streamlining warehouse management, the organization has strengthened its ability to scale and expand its 3PL services without adding administrative overhead.

One organization improved on-time fulfillment from 90 to 99 percent by embedding quality control directly into warehouse workflows.

Industrial Parts Supplier

An industrial parts distributor serving the automotive, manufacturing, agricultural, and marine sectors modernized its operations with Savant Software's Warehouse Management System (WMS) to address longstanding inefficiencies and integration challenges. Before deployment, the organization relied on a partially implemented WMS that only managed receiving, leaving other warehouse processes, such as picking, packing, and invoicing, highly manual. The result was persistent inventory inaccuracies, invoice discrepancies, and time-consuming order handling.

After evaluating multiple vendors, including Acumatica's native WMS and Körber, the distributor selected Savant for its proven Acumatica integration, flexible customization, and comprehensive feature set. The implementation occurred in two phases over roughly 14 months, completing in 2021 after a merger-driven expansion.

Following deployment, the distributor achieved measurable improvements across operational performance, cost efficiency, and

employee engagement. Savant's automated order waving and batching eliminated up to 15 hours of manual work per week for each warehouse manager, equivalent to more than \$63,000 in annual labor savings per manager. Broader process automation, covering replenishment, putaway, and returns, enabled the company to avoid approximately \$405,000 in additional headcount costs while maintaining service levels amid business growth.

The transition to Savant also reduced software expenditures by \$24,000 over three years while expanding functionality compared to the company's prior system. Inventory accuracy and order fulfillment reliability improved significantly, and employees reported higher morale as repetitive manual tasks were replaced with streamlined workflows.

Defining workflows and involving warehouse subject-matter experts early prevents misalignment during rollout.

Best Practices

Through end-user conversations, the following best practices have been identified for organizations deploying Savant WMS:

- ▶ **Test early and at scale.**

Conduct performance testing on large order volumes before go-live to identify potential workflow bottlenecks and data handling issues.

- ▶ **Validate ERP connectivity early.**

Ensure full bidirectional communication between Savant and ERP environments, particularly Acumatica, before production use.

- ▶ **Leverage built-in quality controls**

Embedding quality checkpoints directly into workflows helps sustain high fulfillment accuracy and enforce process discipline.

- ▶ **Design processes before deployment**

Defining end-to-end workflows and involving warehouse subject matter experts early prevents misalignment during rollout.

- ▶ **Test in real-world scenarios**

Stress-testing full "day in the life" operations in a sandbox environment can reveal bottlenecks and ensure go-live stability.

These best practices can help organizations optimize operations, improve decision-making, and achieve significant efficiencies and cost savings.