Power Generation is the Energy Supply (Power Plant) division of CPS Energy of San Antonio, the largest municipally owned energy company in the nation providing both gas and electricity. Our responsibility at Power Gen is to maintain and overhaul the active generating units which daily provides over 6000 megawatts of available power to the city and surrounding areas.

Process changes and demands brought the need to provide our maintenance, operations, planning and management personnel with real time reporting and dashboards to monitor daily maintenance and outage activities. To minimize required user input and produce live, auto-refreshing dashboards, we found that "Visual Cut" by Millet Software provided a simple and extremely flexible process for exporting basic Crystal Reports into html format which can be scheduled to refresh on a recurring basis.

All of the reports, dashboards and web pages referred to in this document have been developed using Crystal Reports running against data sources ranging from standard Excel worksheets to Access, SQL and SAP relational data sources including real time Plant Information data sources. Each report is set up and scheduled on a local server and utilizing Visual Cut, is exported into a formatted document for web based viewing using a standard web browser. In addition to HTML formats, PDF documents with bookmarks and indexes, Excel worksheets with multiple tabs and emailed report results are accomplished using this same application.

The standard processing for a typical dashboard page is to create a scheduled batch file to initiate the process of running the report via Visual Cut, exporting it to the appropriate format and delivering the content to the shared file server location. Auto refreshing web pages are set up using frames with embedded code to refresh the page every "n" seconds which will automatically display the latest published content within those frames.

Most of these reports contain information for all end users, however there are some which contain sensitive information. Security to sensitive data is handled through server based shares and groups in accordance with standard company policies and procedures thus limiting access to only the screens necessary based on the users logon.

We, along with extensive help from Ido Millet of Millet Software, have developed the following dashboards to aid our users in monitoring daily progress and evaluating outstanding issues. These are only a few of the solutions here at Power Gen and we look forward to utilizing these capabilities to further enhance our productivity and effectiveness in Energy Supply. The following are some examples of the solutions currently available.

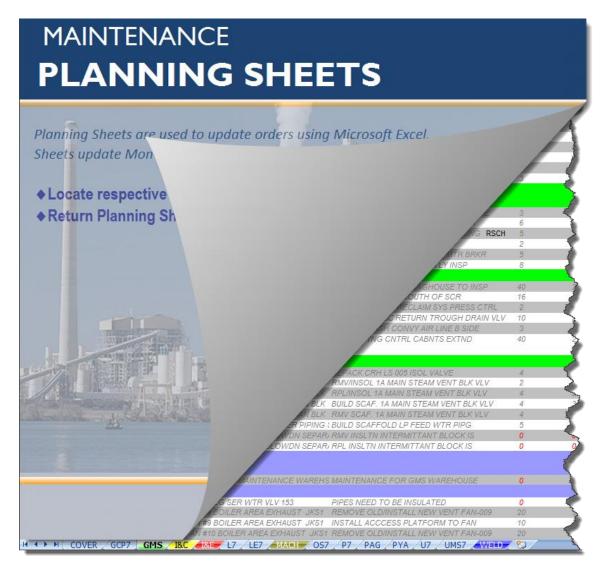
Dynamic Index Page:

The GencoWeb page is the entry point for our web distribution solution. This page refreshes each 15 minutes and is compiled by a series of subreports running against shared folders/files which contain the content published for the end users. As new pages, reports, dashboards are removed, added or updated the content on this page dynamically changes to provide access to the latest results. The scheduled refresh eliminates the need for manually updating the page and provides real time links to the users.



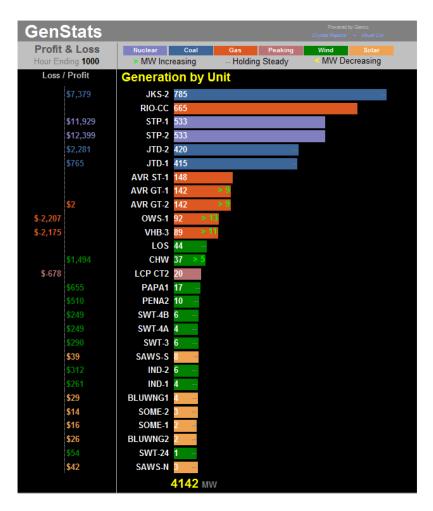
Multi Tabbed Data Sheets:

Using Visual Cuts multi tabbed export functionality we provide the end users with Excel based workbooks for daily maintenance and planning with activities grouped by Craft and Location. This option provides mass amounts of data to the field personnel within a familiar format and easy access to their specific information. These reports refresh hourly and the most recent link is available to the users via the GencoWeb page.



Auto Refreshing Dashboard:

Refreshing each 2 minutes this dashboard provides real time monitoring of the units which are currently running, their output in MW and Profit/Loss status based on market prices and current rates. Content is derived from the PI (Plant Information) System and unit links provide current and historical trends for each unit for the past 30 days. This particular page can also be accessed with a Blackberry or IPhone when necessary providing a complete mobile solution to information distribution.

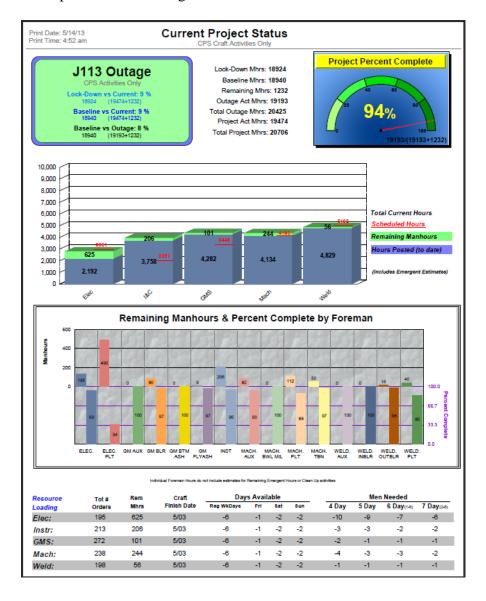


Project Status Dashboard:

Refreshes each 5 minutes and shows an overview if the current overhaul status including progress by each craft, thresholds, targets and overall project percent complete.

Also included is a Notification Log displaying only those requests which are specific to overhaul projects.

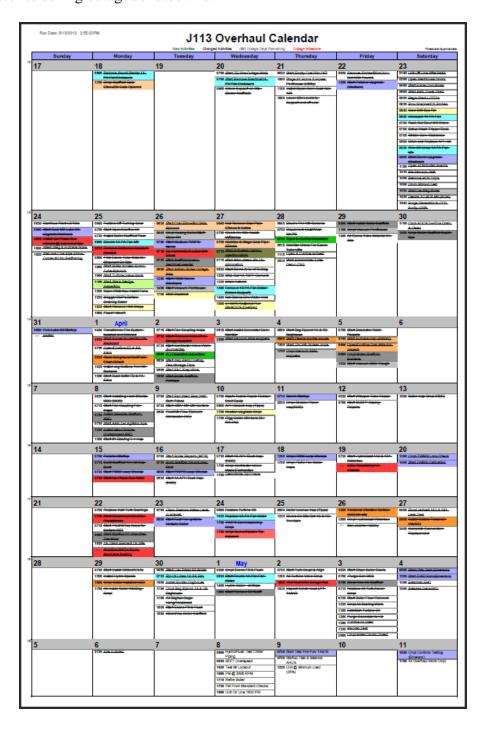
The Project Schedulers monitor this dashboard to track progress, identify critical activities and process outstanding overhaul notifications.



Project Calendar:

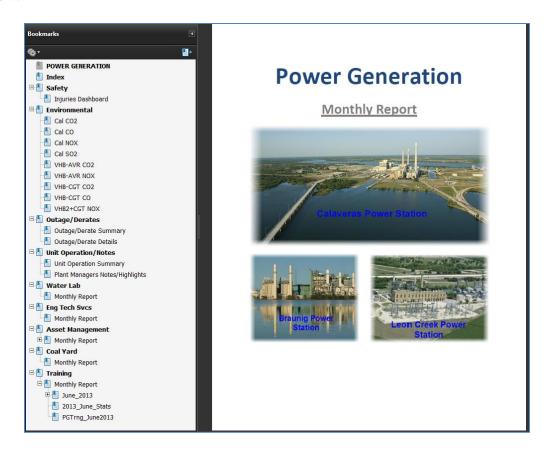
Refreshes nightly and provides an overview of the overhaul major milestones in calendar format. The project calendar is compiled by the Outage Schedulers and activities are color coded by project and struck through as completed based on updates to the underlying database by the Outage Coordinator.

Outage personnel use this calendar to keep up to date with upcoming and completed milestones during outages/shutdowns.



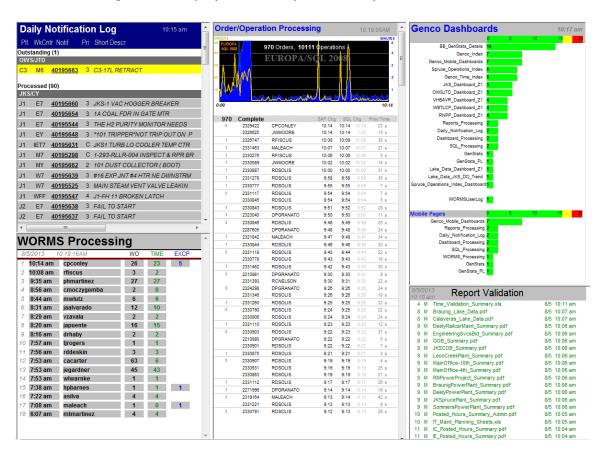
Merged Reports:

Each month the staff of the different departments are required to compile a monthly summary of their areas activities for inclusion into a Power Gen Monthly Report. This process has been simplified by allowing the users to drop content into specified shared folders and at a scheduled time the monthly report is automatically generated by merging all the individual files and distributed via a shared link on the GencoWeb page. The resulting document is grouped and bookmarked based on the shared folders and files provided by the staff throughout the month providing a consistent format that's easy to follow.



Data Systems Dashboard:

Refreshes each 2 minutes and shows an overview of the current status of data processing through the Power Gen data system servers. This page is used to monitor the processing time of Visual Cut, time to process Work Order changes from SAP to a SQL reporting database, a log of users and transactions as well as age of each dashboard and report in minutes. This page will alert the viewer to any server processing delays or issues and is monitored throughout the day by the Data Systems Analyst.



While this does not include everything currently in use at CPS Energy – Power Generation, it does give a general overview of what we have accomplished thus far in 5 years of development. In addition to creating dashboards, Reports and web pages we also use Visual Cut to distribute daily Maintenance Planning sheets, PM Plan Job Packets, detailed Stores Materials Issue reports as well as Time Posting and Approval documentation. We are always making changes and improvements to the way we conduct our business and having a flexible reporting/dashboarding tool is a valuable asset.

Let me know if I can clarify anything or if you have questions.

Phillip Scheel, CPS Energy – Power Gen Data Analyst wpscheel@cpsnergy.com