

CLEARING THE CONGESTION: CALMING CHAOS IN WAREHOUSE AND DC YARDS



Manual yard processes create costly blind spots, but modern tools are helping companies bridge the gap and bring order to the chaos.

Tucked between two heavily tech-enabled bookends, the warehouse yard remains one of the most overlooked and under-optimized links in the supply chain. Even though it sits between and supports automation-heavy DCs and tech-centric transportation networks, the yard remains one of the last bastions of manual work, time-intensive check-ins and limited operational visibility.

In fact, it's not uncommon to see a clipboard-toting yard jockey making repeat trips out to the yard to locate trailers, confirm their contents and track down their drivers. Short on real-time visibility and digital coordination, the yard has become a place where companies seemingly accept the fact that delays, inefficiencies and miscommunication are just a part of doing business.

Here's the problem with that mindset: Companies lose serious money when trailers sit idle, appointments run perpetually behind and valuable labor resources stand around waiting for trailers to get organized, in place and ready to load or unload. Operational flow and fulfillment throughput also suffer, not to mention the fact that missed dock appointments and poor yard visibility create a ripple effect across the entire supply chain.

"Organizations are losing money every day because the yard is still driven by archaic processes and tribal knowledge," says Austin Joerger, senior product manager at Chamberlain Group (Systems LLC's parent company). "Without the right technology, systems and processes in place, all they're doing is burning labor hours, misplacing trailers and putting critical shipments at risk."

The fix starts with giving the yard the *same level of structure and visibility* already common in the warehouses and transportation networks supported by this critical supply chain link. Smart organizations are using technology to track trailer movements in real-time, replacing their paper-based processes with digital options, and leveraging yard management systems (YMS) to coordinate tasks. In return, they're getting more efficient yards that keep freight moving, reduce costly delays and transform a long-overlooked space into a true performance driver.

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DON'T LEAVE YOUR YARD BEHIND

Companies are making big investments in warehouse and logistics automation, a market that exceeded \$35 billion last year and that's now on track to reach \$52 billion by 2029. As shipping volumes rise, customer preferences change and labor gets harder to find, companies are leaning into automation to help them move faster, make fewer mistakes and do less manual work.

Transportation networks are also getting tech upgrades, even if they're not as automated as the modern warehouse. Organizations use transportation management systems (TMS), visibility platforms, route optimization tools and other solutions that help streamline planning, reduce delays and keep loads moving efficiently.

While warehouses hum with automation and transportation runs on sophisticated platforms, that "space between" the two is often managed with clipboards, walkie-talkies, gut instinct and guesswork. When trailers go missing, dock slots sit unused and labor hours are burned without much oversight, the yard can quickly become one of the most inefficient areas of the end-to-end supply chain.

"The yard is very often the last place companies are willing to spend money on," says Joerger. "You see all this advanced technology in the warehouse—scanners, automated vehicles, even drones—but the yard just hasn't been touched in the same way. There's a big opportunity there to optimize those processes."

Safety is another concern out in the yard. Without clear communication or real-time visibility, drivers and yard workers are often left guessing. That's when accidents happen. Automated check-ins reduce the need for drivers to leave their vehicles, while real-time updates on trailer movement and dock availability help keep everyone informed and out of harm's way. The more structured and visible the yard becomes, the safer it gets.

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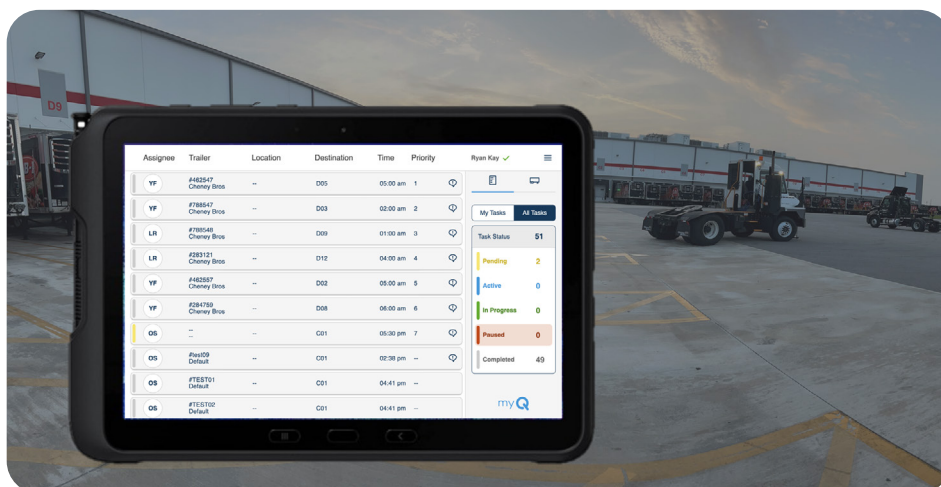
The yard is long overdue for a tech upgrade, and myQ® Enterprise is helping companies finally bring it up to speed. At the heart of the platform is a yard management system (YMS) that infuses order, visibility and automation into an otherwise manual space. With myQ's YMS, companies can track trailer inventory with precision, automate yard moves and eliminate paper-based processes that waste time and create errors.

The system generates digital worklists for yard drivers, tracks every onsite asset and gives operations teams live status updates from anywhere. Trailer check-ins, placements and dock assignments are all managed digitally, reducing confusion and improving flow across the yard. Two-way SMS communication helps streamline coordination between teams, while dashboards eliminate the guesswork that impedes productivity. Instead of relying on guesswork or morning yard walks, teams get accurate, time-stamped data they can act on.

Beyond the yard, myQ Enterprise's full platform connects yard, dock, gate, and scheduling into a single, integrated system. From smart dock management to driver appointment scheduling and digital check-ins, the platform helps companies move away from clipboards and calls—and toward better visibility, faster processing times, and fewer safety risks.

By giving the yard the same level of structure and oversight as the rest of the supply chain, myQ Enterprise helps turn an operational blind spot into a high-performing, fully connected part of the logistics equation. One of the biggest advantages of the platform is its ability to connect dock activity with yard operations. This gives teams the real-time data they need to be able to automate trailer moves safely, efficiently and effectively.

"We're the only ones in the industry that can automate pull tasks because we know exactly when the truck is unrestrained from the dock," says Krombach. "That real-time visibility helps companies move faster, reduce risk and eliminate the guesswork that slows down yard operations."



CLOSING THE YARD DISCONNECT

Cheney Brothers, a family-owned broadline food distributor based in the Southeast, operates an extensive network of warehouses and transportation assets. With a constant flow of inbound and outbound shipments, the distributor was facing the typical challenges of managing high-volume logistics—tight schedules, limited dock space and increasing customer expectations.

Cheney Brothers' process required drivers to pull up to the guard shack to check-in, then turn around and go across the street to a marshaling yard where they waited for a phone call from a receiving clerk letting them know a dock was available, then drive back to the guard shack to access the facility.

Key decision-makers at Cheney Brothers realized that cumbersome, manual processes limited throughput and would prevent them from being able to continue to grow. They knew it was time for a change. Cheney Brothers turned to myQ Enterprise to help it eliminate paper-based processes and make smarter data-informed decisions. It connected existing loading dock equipment to the cloud, installed new access gates and added digital kiosks for entry and exit.

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The company has also improved staging and traffic management while increasing throughput by eliminating handwritten schedules and providing real-time visibility of dock positions.

myQ Enterprise has vastly simplified the distributor's driver check-in process. Instead of checking in and getting their dock assignments at the guard shack, drivers can now pull into the staging lot across the street and check in by sending a text or using their phone's web browser. When a dock is available, they receive a text with their dock assignment, allowing them to proceed to the guard shack and check in with their myQ DockPass.

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Dock assignments are now distributed based on actual availability thanks to a machine learning algorithm and established rules. As a result, the company can turn trucks around faster, enhancing operational efficiency and significantly improving the overall experience for drivers.



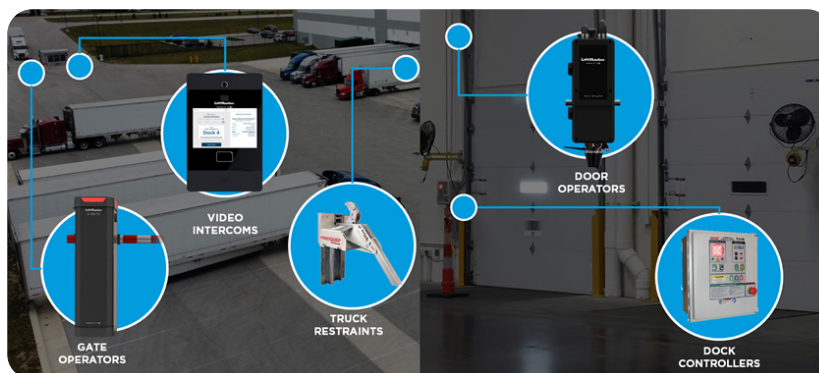
WHEN THE YARD BREAKS, EVERYBODY FEELS IT

Many organizations have spent the last few years fine-tuning what happens within the four walls of their DCs and warehouses. The yard hasn't received the same level of attention and, as a result, the inbound and outbound flow that feeds these busy facilities hasn't kept pace. Scheduling trucks, managing gate entries, directing trailer movements and coordinating dock assignments are still largely the domain of manual processes, institutional knowledge and reactive communication.

The disconnect is becoming harder to ignore. The yard may not be as visible as the warehouse floor, but when something goes wrong, everyone notices. Long truck lines, lost trailers, missed appointments and safety incidents all create noise—both literally and figuratively. “When you've got trucks backed up to the highway and no clear process for moving them through the gate, everyone's head is on fire,” says Joerger. “That urgency is often what pushes companies to act.”

“Having that data at your fingertips and knowing when a trailer checked in, where it went, and what happened next are critical to making smarter decisions and preventing issues before they escalate... That's where automation in the yard really pays off not just in efficiency, but also in safety, service and accountability.”

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Uncertainty is another driver. Whether it's a missed outbound order or a food trailer that sits too long, the risks tied to outdated yard operations are growing. And without data, those mistakes are hard to explain or fix.

“Having that data at your fingertips and knowing when a trailer checked in, where it went, and what happened next are critical to making smarter decisions and preventing issues before they escalate,” says Krombach. “That's where automation in the yard really pays off not just in efficiency, but also in safety, service and accountability.”

As warehouses and transportation networks advance and evolve, the yard can't be left behind. Companies are now closing that gap and bringing the same level of control and efficiency to the yard as they have elsewhere. The payoff is a safer, more connected operation that keeps freight moving, labor productive and end-to-end supply chains running smoothly.

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