What's New?

Workforce Central® 7 embodies the Kronos® approach to delivering innovative workforce management solutions: the belief that users should not have to sacrifice functionality for ease of use. Every new feature had to pass the "made easier" test to make it into this release. Whether scheduling, alerts, global features, or any of the myriad new capabilities, Workforce Central 7 gives you an easier way to get things done.

- Scheduling made easier
- Managing in the moment made easier
- Labor costing made easier
- Global deployment made easier

Workforce Central 7 is workforce management made easier.

Scheduling Made Easier

To put the right people in the right place at the right time, organizations must take employee skills into account when planning schedules and executing staffing changes. With the new Schedule-to-Skill feature, organizations can make sure each job and location is covered with the right employee skill mix, based on anticipated demand. Staffing managers can schedule employees with the right skills and proficiency level. Managers get improved visibility into skill coverage.

Workforce Central 7 includes the second major release of the Workforce Operations Planner™ application. Now retail customers can create and edit sales and labor budgets more quickly and easily with greater precision. And allow for global adjustments, which are especially valuable for organizations with hundreds of stores.

In Workforce Central 7, managers get more control to open up employee schedules by location. And it's easier for employees to:

- Enter availability and shift preferences right in the calendar view
- See potential conflicts with color-coded availability
- Swap shifts with less manager involvement

Improved schedule views make it easier for managers to see more employees simultaneously and make staffing decisions faster. The sleek new user interface matches the look and feel of a tablet, with scrolling, panning, and collapsing capabilities, along with new icons that allow managers to easily see which shifts contain information.

Managing in the Moment Made Easier

Workforce Central 7 builds on its alerting platform to dynamically deliver more timely, actionable information to managers and employees. This interactivity between the system and users fundamentally improves employee engagement and empowerment.

- Send alerts via text message or email
- Single-click navigation allows users to quickly reach the right application so they can complete tasks and get back to work
- Deliver alerts to a device(s) based on priority

When it comes to aligning labor with demand, staffing and operations managers need instant visibility into employee availability, departmental coverage, and employee skills. Workforce Scheduler™ 7 gives managers such tools as Schedule-to-Skill to maintain a schedule balanced to skills, experience, and workload. And it gives employees ownership in their schedules with enhanced shift-swapping and self-scheduling.

Workforce Central 7 includes an embedded, robust search engine that takes you directly to the right answer instead of to a choice of possible answers. Meaningful search results appear almost instantly, spanning across all active Workforce Central products. As soon as users type in the search box, suggestions appear. In addition to rapid data retrieval, lateral navigation dynamically highlights specific employees and moves the selection to other areas of Workforce Central to complete functions.

The Staff Management widget is much more robust in 7. With the sleek look and feel of a tablet, staffing management now provides more tools to minimize over- and undercoverage for balanced schedules. Significant improvements make this feature easier to use and provide more flexible coverage views to make better, faster staffing adjustments. Other features include:

- Additional drag-and-drop options to make it easier and more intuitive for users to transfer employees between locations, departments, units, plants/lines, and stores
- Giving anagers have more control of the information they see and over what time period to help guide decisions and manage in the moment
- Allowing users to view information for just their shifts rather than the entire day
- A "pinning" capability that enables managers to select only the locations they need to see, eliminating unwanted information

The Workforce Mobile™ application now supports single sign-on with the Workforce Central suite.

Labor Costing Made Easier

The next-generation Workforce Activities™ application includes a completely new user interface in 7, greatly enhancing how users can leverage key information. Having this data "fingertip ready" provides significant value to customers.

- Activity summary screen provides a quick-glance display of the status, percentage complete, required quantities, and start and end dates for a list of activities

- Drill into detailed views or scorecards, with visual indicators conveying the status of each item within an activity

- A roll-up of information for an activity or a cell is only a click away, offering incredible insight to the user on current work activities

With the introduction of Multiple Approvals, Workforce Central 7 provides more accurate labor costing, strengthened auditability, fewer off-cycle paychecks, and Labor Account Validation. Employees are paid accurately for the time they worked in each job, and overtime hours are assigned to the correct labor account. For Multiple Approvals, Labor Account Validation presents employees with a prepopulated, preordered list of job choices on their timecards via any device. Only valid accounts can be selected, eliminating inaccurate job costing from incorrect labor-level selections. This improved hyperfind performance decreases time spent in the system.

Global Deployments Made Easier

When employees submit time-off requests in Workforce Central 7, they receive a warning and notice to modify or cancel the request. This personalized prevalidation relieves reviewers from needing to recall every employee's time-off status and speeds approvals.

Workforce Central 7 supports three new languages, Korean, Polish, and Italian, bringing the total number of languages provided to 12 — deployed in more than 100 countries.

Kronos knows that overtime rules vary by country. It's not as simple as 1.5 times basic pay after eight hours. Workforce Central 7 uses Rule Extensions to change how overtime is calculated based on how frequently an employee works overtime in a given week. The first rule extension, event-based overtime, provides direct compliance with Mexican labor laws.

Around the globe, employees take time off in days rather than hours, with common requests for a half-day off. Workforce Central 6.3 provided the half-day functionality; Workforce Central 7 brings it one step further by allowing employees to request the first half or the second half of the day. Knowing when an employee will be absent is a huge advantage to managers who need to fill shifts and provide appropriate staffing.

Balance Cascade rules automate payouts and transfers for all types of accrual balances (hours, days, money) on a specified date pattern.

The workflow notification process has been enhanced to identify the locale of recipients and use that information to render the message. If translations exist, the message, including subject, body, and certain tags that have been localized, is presented to the recipient in his or her assigned-locale language.

The Workforce Device Manager™ module lets you send employees assigned-locale policies and translated names for pay codes, comment codes, and accrual codes to Kronos InTouch® devices v1.0.3 or higher. It supports multiple-language/single-instance environments for transactions at the device.

Navigator now supports the display of translated widget parts, widgets, and workspaces.

Brazilian Data Collection supports integration between Workforce Central and data collection devices used in Brazil.

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