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Logic Design Configurator a Breath of Fresh Air

WHETHER YOUR OFFICE BUILDING IS COOL AND COMFORTABLE or hot and stuffy, depends in part on devices called dampers and actuators. When a building's HVAC system calls for customized dampers and actuators, that can mean a tremendous load of order processing and therefore added costs for the device supplier.

The Damper Production Facility at Milwaukee's Johnson Controls, Inc., the world's largest manufacturer of environmental control systems, has dramatically increased the number of custom orders it can process thanks to Informix partner Logic Design Corporation and its Global Edge - Product Configurator.

The Configurator is currently being used for custom orders in Johnson Control's damper production cell. A damper, consisting of a shroud, an actuator, movable blades, and a variety of other customizable options, range from a few inches to a couple of feet wide, are used to control airflow in various heating and cooling applications.

"Without the Configurator, we would need to create hundreds of bills of material (the list of damper components), which requires hundreds of engineering and clerical hours to create and maintain," says Steve Yoder, Damper Cell Manager for Johnson Controls.

Driven by the Informix Work Group Server database, the Global Edge - Product Configurator allows for real-time processing of complex custom orders requiring intricate configurations and calculations used by Johnson Control engineers. Orders that once took up to four hours are now processed within 20 seconds.

According to Lars Hedman, President of Logic Design Corporation, "What we're doing for Johnson Controls is finding a way to link all of their islands of information together, from engineering to enterprise resource planning to the shop floor."