



The future of Augmented Reality on the Shop Floor

The shop floor is an environment that can range from the “Simple”—manual operations and printed documentation to the “Very Sophisticated” - automated workforce and activities reinforced with digital instructions, while delivering real time metrics. The chasm of technology in this environment is very large and has often been related to the type of work and its complexity. The similarity that is found in this environment today, is one of employee retirement and turnover. With these dynamics comes the challenge of how to make these environments better, more efficient and easier to work in. This is where technology comes into play to deliver solutions for these challenges, more specifically Augmented Reality.

The concept of “knowledge” and the company’s ability to deliver this to its employees in order to perform the work asked of them in a repeatable, configured and efficient manner is the key to success in overcoming shop floor execution challenges. From a delivery aspect, when it comes to information, we believe that providing information in a “visual” manner, with the context of configured data and sequenced in a timely manner, is where all shop floors will eventually get to. The mechanism of delivering this information and instruction will be Augmented Reality. This allows the worker to combine both the physical world they work in, with the digital world of data and instruction to perform the job at hand.

Some of the key capabilities that Augmented Reality can deliver are:

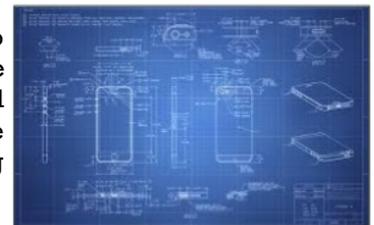
“On the Job” Training

Development of an Augmented Reality experience allows you to deliver a training experience that provides instruction and validation that the process has been conducted correctly. This form of training will lower turnover rates with an increased focus on offering only the required training at the time it is needed. This will lower training overhead costs by eliminating the need for “local” key experts to provide the training onsite, and being able to reuse it as much as needed.



Providing configured Data to the Floor

In order to enhance efficiency, if you provide only the information that is relevant to the shop floor operator that is configured correctly—right product, right release level, the chances of executing the work efficiently and correctly are enhanced greatly. Delivering this information in the form factor of Augmented Reality, provide for contextual reality in the workplace while aiding the need for positional viewing for the operator.



Enhanced Real-time Quality Feedback

Realizing “in process” quality metrics by providing inline visual quality feedback not only provides the organization with a closed loop quality process, but also provides feedback for areas of opportunity in your training. Linking these two topics—quality and training can be a great efficiency driver. The visual capability of delivering this via Augmented Reality creates an interactive environment on the shop floor.



Augmented Reality is the technology that creates the shop floor environment of the future. It builds in easy learning environment, efficient execution while instilling a quality culture. The technology has become easy to deploy at a reasonable investment level. If you’re interested in understanding more of how Augmented Reality can deliver efficiency and quality for your organization, give us a call!

Next Month: Building your ability to configure, market and deliver personalized products