



THE **EVOLUTIONARY PATHWAY** TO  
**AUTOMATED WAREHOUSES**



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Most senior Warehouse and logistics stakeholders are interested in the idea of an Automated Warehouse and may have already included it in their long term plans, however, for many, the actual concept of implementing automation is daunting and often pushed or left at the bottom of the pile when it comes to the to-do list.

In our research with clients we found many decision makers have a fear of changing their existing racking system which can mean throwing away their existing asset entirely and starting again.

.....so, we thought to ourselves **what if we could change that?**

Investing in a fully Automated Warehouse may not be for everyone at this moment in time, but then again, what if you could invest in a racking solution today that could evolve into an automated storage solution in the coming years. **Would that be interesting?.....**

Then we took things further and thought what if we could supply our clients with SMART static racking solutions which could evolve into dynamic racking solutions then into semi- automated solutions and finally into fully automated solutions.

This would truly provide a pathway which would protect and future proof our client's investments while saving them money over future years as their businesses & storage equipment solutions grow and evolve with them in line with their needs.

We call this our '**EVOLUTIONARY PATHWAY TO AUTOMATED WAREHOUSES**'



### **KEY BENEFITS**

- > DATA DRIVEN
- > ROI FOCUSED
- > COST EFFECTIVE
- > RESOURCE EFFICIENT
- > SCALABLE DEPENDENT ON BUSINESS PERFORMANCE
- > SUSTAINABLE
- > ENVIRONMENTALLY FRIENDLY
- > FUTURE FOCUSED

## THE **EVOLUTIONARY PATHWAY** TO **AUTOMATED WAREHOUSES**

Thistle Systems has developed their Evolutionary Pathway to Automated Warehouses to enable companies who may be considering automation, to future proof their current systems to make the transition easier and more cost effective.

Whilst automated storage solutions may not be the optimum solution for every company, at the very least, companies may want to consider the positive achievable outcomes for the various solutions below, from static through to automated, and examine the cost benefit analysis before deciding which stage best suits their very individual business growth curve.

### What Are the Phases in the **EVOLUTIONARY PATHWAY** TO **AUTOMATED WAREHOUSES**?

Each phase plays a key role in supporting the growth of the client depending on their own journey and their own specific requirements

<b>Static</b>	<b>Dynamic</b>	<b>Semi- Automated</b>	<b>Automated</b>
APR Racking	Push Back Racking	Shuttle Racking	AUTOCUBE
Drive In Racking	Pallet Live Racking	Mobile Racking	
VNA Racking			

The optimum type of storage solution for a client's warehouse will depend on a whole host of factors including, pallet numbers, cubic space available, profile and numbers of SKUs, accessibility, and velocity of stock movements to name a few.

Normally the gauge of steel used in the uprights for a dynamic racking solution is likely to be greater than those used for static racking as there is a greater horizontal force being applied through the movements of the carts in pushback racking and the rollers in dynamic racking.



*Thistle Systems has worked extremely hard at designing a system that wherever possible can safely and with guaranteed performance recycle re-use the major components incorporating them into the next evolution.*

*This strategy saves our clients' money while reducing the use of finite resources while developing the circular economy, something we at Thistle are passionate about.*

## CREATING THE **EVOLUTIONARY PATHWAY** TO **AUTOMATED WAREHOUSES**

Like any strategy, the Evolutionary Pathway to Automation is designed with the ultimate goal in mind – the implementation of the <AUTOCUBE automated warehouse solution>.

Whilst it is not essential to have the final Autocube system fully designed, the Evolutionary Pathway approach is based on an outline design and feasibility study to ensure the Automated approach will be functional, efficient, effective and most importantly deliver tangible financial benefits with a positive ROI.

Once this has been established and agreed, Thistle Systems can look at developing a structured and strategic approach to the warehouse development which is tailored to dovetail with the client's business plans and growth projections.

By using custom designed, modular based components, Thistle can design a warehouse racking solution which can evolve and grow through the stages from a fairly simple static racking system through to a fully automated system, whilst re-using the majority of the major component parts.

- 1. Profiling Assessment Completed**  
to understand the warehouse characteristics
- ▼
- 2. Site Survey and Stock Assessment**  
Those that score highly would progress to site survey and initial stock assessment
- ▼
- 3. Prototype Designs Created**  
To understand and demonstrate potential gains
- ▼
- 4. Cost Assessments**  
To determine true cost of warehousing
- ▼
- 5. Detailed Stock Movements Analysis**  
To understand efficiencies and handling
- ▼
- 6. Proposed Automation Solution Developed**  
Optimised based on actual data
- ▼
- 7. Outline Transition Programme Agreed**  
Based on business objectives and milestones
- ▼
- 8. Implementation Programme Prepared**  
Based on business objectives and milestones

## THE BENEFITS OF THE **EVOLUTIONARY PATHWAY** TO **AUTOMATED WAREHOUSES**

The traditional process to upgrade any system as a company moves from one phase to another is to replace every component in the racking system with a completely new system.

This is driven by a short term, single use approach which is focused on getting what is perceived to be the most cost-effective racking solution for the challenge at hand.

By adopting the Evolutionary Pathway to Automation approach, companies are able to view a roadmap of where they could take their warehouse storage solution, understanding the benefits that it will enable them to achieve and providing the building blocks to make it happen.



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