

DocuWare in Purchasing

SolutionInfo



Product Specs and Invoice Approvals at Your Fingertips

DocuWare archives documents including invoices, product specifications and delivery slips in one central document pool. You can compare proposals and product characteristics with a few clicks. It's also an excellent way to simplify and speed up your invoice authorization process, improving the overall quality of your data.

Comparison Shopping Difficult?

As part of your job, are you buying replacement parts and components? How do all those bits and pieces compare among vendors? Will they work together, even with parts from a manufacturer who is no longer in business? There are so many questions and lots of specifications to research. Unfortunately the answers lie in documentation that is buried in folders and binders around the company. The search is on and as usual, time is of the essence.

Is Cheaper Always Better?

Comparing proposals can be tough. Would switching to a new vendor really be beneficial? Are production costs overseas really cheaper, or was the lower price only possible by ordering a lesser quality? What happens when a circuit board is covered with cheap components? No – cheaper is not always a good deal. Sometimes proposals look very similar on the surface. Even the conditions could be the same, but the end result from a vendor can vary greatly. The larger problem is that all of your vendor documents from years past haven't been systematically filed away to make searching quick and easy. Without the missing pieces, it is often very difficult to compare apples-to-apples.

Benefits of DocuWare

- Worldwide inter-departmental access to all documents with one click
- Simple integration in third-party applications
- Seamless and transparent business processes, increased productivity
- Boosts employee satisfaction by eliminating wasteful searches
- Tamper-free archiving
- Frees up storage space

Paid Too Much, Received Too Little

You receive a shipment with a delivery slip in the warehouse and an invoice soon follows. This can mean making multiple copies. For instance, while the receiving clerk will need a copy of the delivery slip to verify what was actually received, other departments may need the slip for inventory control and stock pulling for manufacturing purposes, and you need a copy to verify the invoice for payment. This takes time, can be costly and environmentally, is not efficient.

As far as quality of your received shipment, at first everything may look in order but what happens when there is a problem with a part from a vendor?

Purchasing may have the documents regarding the actual purchase but who sent the vendor the part specs for production? Are all these documents easily located in one place for a quick resolution? Without having detailed documentation on hand to prove your order was placed correctly, your company may bear the additional costs.

Benefits: DocuWare for Purchasing

- Simple integration of DocuWare in ERP or logistic systems – seamless information flow
- Secure and fast quality control
- Detailed proposal comparison through electronic searches (fulltext)
- Shorter search times through different departments thanks to a central document pool
- Transparent processes via electronic stamps
- Faster invoice approvals means enjoying early payment discounts
- Space savings

Analysis of Product Details

Purchasing needs to analyze and consider all kinds of product parameters. If they don't: expensive mistakes are on the horizon.

All Specs, All the Time

With DocuWare, the product specifications from decades past are retained in a well-structured manner. They are archived along with index criteria – such as type, date and vendor. Want to see a specific document? It's easy to search and locate via index entries. Another option is to run a fulltext search, to look for any tiny detail such as a part number. In this way, all specs are available at once – regardless if you are accessing the documents via an ERP system or through DocuWare. Empowered with information, you're sure to avoid expensive mistakes when re-ordering or switching vendors.

Evaluating Proposals

It makes no sense to compare apples-to-oranges when purchasing. If the proposals from various vendors aren't organized in a way that lets you do side-by-side analysis, it could spell trouble. Your company could end up spending much more than it needs to.

Powerful Analysis Tool

In DocuWare's central document pool, all of your proposals are safely stored for decades. You can check on previous proposals requested years ago and compare them with a current batch. Documents can be retrieved in seconds by clicking on index criteria like proposal title and vendor name. You are now empowered to analyze pricing and performance. Market trends become transparent so it becomes easier to make solid choices and money saving decisions.

Verifying Invoices

A lot of time can pass between receiving an invoice and actually paying it. The process in between can be quite cumbersome – copies of invoices made by Purchasing often have to go through multiple personnel. Sometimes it's just one detail that is missing from a contract or delivery paper that holds things up. Long waiting and processing times are often the norm. It's tough to see where the authorization process stands. In the meantime, early payment discounts are often missed.

Invoice Approval With a Stamp

The whole invoice approval process is different when you use DocuWare. First, there's no need to make copies. Records such as invoices and delivery slips are stored automatically along with index criteria such as customer number, name, address, or delivery form number. The system organizes everything and places it all in one central document pool. Every authorized employee can immediately tap into the information, either via the ERP system or with DocuWare. Even fulltext searches are possible. Processing times are reduced significantly since personnel, regardless of their location, have access to the necessary details to make invoice authorization a snap. Thanks to electronic stamps, it's always possible to see exactly where an invoice is in the process for complete transparency. Clearing up questions happens much faster now so that you can benefit from early payment discounts.

Invoice Authorization in Seconds

Your staff can release, reject or forward invoices in seconds – from anywhere in the world. Placing an electronic stamp is all it takes to get the automatic workflow going. Its easy to use and completely transparent.

No More Duplicates

Ordered goods are delivered with a delivery slip in your warehouse or mailroom. Once the package is checked, the delivery forms and any other received documentation is scanned into DocuWare. No need to make multiple copies of anything. All authorized colleagues can now have immediate access to these documents.

Information at Once

After accepting a shipment, the Accounting department receives an invoice. This is then scanned and sent on to Purchasing. A self-refreshing task list is constantly updated and immediately informs Purchasing about the new invoice that needs to be approved for payment. With a pre-defined link, you can consult all of the records belonging to a certain vendor with one click. Now you've got everything you need on hand, including the delivery form, making verification quick and easy.

Stamps Start the Workflow

By placing a stamp, a pre-defined workflow will automatically be launched. For example, an invoice that is being evaluated by the Purchasing department can be sent to another department for a cross-check or to the controller for larger sums. Task lists and stamps can be set up in a few minutes, just ask your administrator.

Electronic Authorization

When placing an electronic stamp on the invoice, it will either send the approved invoice to the Accounting department or to another colleague or department for further fact checking or authorization. It's just a matter of selecting the appropriate stamp with your mouse and placing it on the document. If the Accounting department, for example, needs further information such as "portion booked to subsidiary xyz", simply annotate it right on the record.

The screenshot displays the DocuWare software interface. On the left, a 'Tasks' panel shows a list of invoices with columns for Company, Date, Doc-Type, and Tasks. The 'Tasks' column for each entry contains a red button labeled 'APPROVE FOR PAYMENT'. The main window shows a scanned invoice for 'ROBINSONS REFUGE INVOICE'. The invoice includes a header with a logo of palm trees, a 'Tools' sidebar, and a 'Stamps' sidebar. A green stamp with the text 'Approved for payment' is placed on the invoice. The invoice content includes the company name 'Robinson's Refuge', address '685 Ocean Drive, Key Biscayne, FL 33149, US', and contact information. Below this, there is a table with columns 'Text', 'Date', and 'Amount (\$)'. The table contains one entry: 'Logis' with a date of '01/23/11-02/13/1' and an amount of '630.00'. The total amount is '630.00' and the tax is '37.80'.

Text	Date	Amount (\$)
Logis	01/23/11-02/13/1	630.00
Total		630.00
TAX 6%		37.80

With self-updating task lists and electronic stamps, invoice authorizations can be handled in seconds – from anywhere in the world.

Real World

A1 Fire and Electric Company implemented DocuWare to electronically manage their purchasing documents, including purchase orders, receiving slips and invoices. By using electronic stamps, the workflow for the entire procedure is automated and now transparent. Service has since improved for their employees and customers alike.

Purchase orders (POs) are electronically sent to a pending basket in DocuWare. As the receiving document and invoice are received, they are scanned and appended to the PO.

Once these three documents are there, DocuWare automatically forwards them to the AP department for input into their accounting system. Next, the set of documents is stamped, automatically sending them for payment review. Lastly, the bill is reconciled. With the integration of their accounting system with DocuWare, any employee working in accounting can call up the corresponding information stored in DocuWare.

A1 now handles critical business information with a newfound ease. POs are never misplaced or lost, improving vendor relations, resulting in less workplace stress and improving employee satisfaction. Thanks to DocuWare, A1 has seen a positive impact on the bottom line.

The Task

- Automate their AP processes
- Keep better track of POs and invoices

The Benefits

- Vital information is never misplaced or lost
- Improved vendor relations and employee productivity
- Bottom line positively impacted

"A key factor in our decision to implement DocuWare was that we didn't need to reinvent our daily work processes that everyone was already comfortable with. We just took the way we used to do things around here and automated them – from more precise internal controls, to a higher level of customer service, it has improved my business."



Earl Speigel, President A1 Fire and Electric Company

This document can also be found here: <http://pub.docuware.com/en/docuware-in-purchasing>

DocuWare
From Documents to Value

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