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Radio Frequency Warehouse System

System Overview

Table of Contents

OVERVIEW	3
WEB PAGE	4
GENERAL SYSTEM FLOW.....	5
USER GUIDE	7
WORK FLOWS	8
Work flow - Daily Picking and Packing – Back Office.....	8
Work flow - Daily Picking and Packing – Warehouse Functions.....	9
Work flow – Virtual Store (ECommerce) – Warehouse Functions.....	10
Work flow – Virtual Store (ECommerce) – Re-Allocation	11
Work flow – Inventory	12
Work flow - Warehouse Management Functions	13
MENUS	14
MANAGEMENT MAIN MENU	14
Management Main Menu	14
SUB MENUS	15
Daily Operations Menu	15
Activity Menu	16
Inventory Operations Menu.....	16
Reports Menu	17
Inquiry Menu	17
File Maintenance Menu	17
ECommerce Menu	18
HAND HELD SCANNER MENUS	19
Main Menu	19
Warehouse Menu	19
Inventory Menu.....	19
ECommerce Menu	20

Overview

The **R**adio **F**requency Warehouse System was written to provide a Distribution Center the capability to Pick and Pack retail inventory for Corporately owned stores.

This system was created to accept allocation data from some other system. The interface currently available was built using the Island Pacific retail package as the data source.

Only one program is used to read the Picking Slip Report itself that is used as input to the RF System and this is the only input. This is important, because that program can easily be changed to get it's input from other sources if needed. For example, the IP System may change how it works, or better still you may want to use a completely different system to feed RF. Therefore, RF is very flexible since it doesn't rely on any particular system for it's feed.

The interface back into the IP System is a little more complicated, but still does not go directly into their system. If you consider the manual version, IP expects the user to update the system with interactive screens where you would enter control numbers to confirm and discrepancy information.

Those interactive programs were copied and modified to operate as though they were batch. That is to say, they run without the user sitting at a terminal entering this data. Then the RF System keeps track of the confirmations, and discrepancies and runs the IP batch programs to update IP. Similar to the input interface, this method keeps RF independent of IP and is immune to any database changes made by IP. Also, it takes advantage of the programming already done by IP to properly update the entire system and all of its modules.

Web Page

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Radio Frequency Warehouse System

IBM AS400

Picking Packing Shipping Inventory Virtual DC Store

Application System Interfaces

- **Picking** ([Back to Top](#))
 - Assign by Picker and Warehouse Zones
 - Pick by Items
 - Pick by Batches
 - Discrepancy Management
- **Packing** ([Back to Top](#))
 - Assign by Packer
 - Discrepancy Management
- **Shipping** ([Back to Top](#))
 - Manifest Printing
 - Advance Shipping Notification
 - Email automatically sent to Stores
 - HTML automatically sent by FTP to any Site
- **Inventory** ([Back to Top](#))
 - Periodic Warehouse Inventory
 - Store Inventory

AS400

This system is built on the IBM AS400 (iSeries). All of the programs access data in a real time mode, so there is no loss of accuracy or data integrity. Also, the access to your computer is handled by the AS400 security, and data back-ups are part of your everyday AS400 procedures.

- Periodic Warehouse Inventory
- Store Inventory
- **Virtual DC Store** ([Back to Top](#))
 - For a "Store" within the DC used for ECommerce or other purpose, provides an Item Locator Module not normally associated with a store.
- **Application System Interfaces** ([Back to Top](#))
 - **Island Pacific (IP) Retail Package Interface**
 - Picking Slips create Interface to RF System
 - Discrepancies Interface to IP Methods 2 and 3
 - Confirmations
 - Interfaces can be Custom Built to accommodate other systems
 - Although this system was designed with interfaces to IP, the RF system is independent of IP and interfaces can be written to other applications as needed.

[\(Back to Top\)](#)

Island Pacific Interface

This system was programmed with interfaces From and To the *SVI Island Pacific Retail System*

- **From IP**

- **From IP**
 - Picking Slips are run normally, using whatever options are best for your organization. The output of that program is used to create data in the RF System for Picking and Packing.
- **To IP**
 - **Confirmations**
 - When items are shipped a confirmation is sent to IP.
 - **Discrepancies**
 - Shortages that are discovered either during Picking or Packing are recorded in a file that the manager reviews as they occur.
 - The manager determines whether or not the items can be found.
 - If some or all of the shortages are Found, the manager would update the system with the amount found, and the item will re-appear on the Packers scanner to be Packed.
 - If the item can't be found the manager updates the screen to indicate that none could be found.
 - All items that were short are then sent to the IP System as a discrepancy. Because of the manual search done on the spot for the material, companies may want to use IP so-called Method 2 to have the item finalized in the shortage store. But, you can use IP-Method 3 to have the item re-cycle.

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- **Control Numbers**
 - Since the IP System is not involved in the process of Packing into Cartons, it assigns control numbers with no regard for the actual cartons that were used. The RF System updates the IP Control Numbers to reflect the proper box number, so that the store can properly acknowledge the material for each box.

[\(Back\)](#)

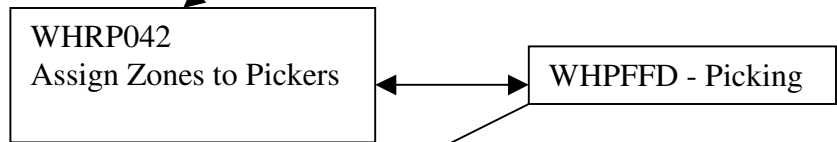
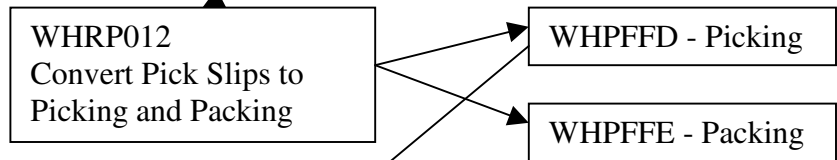
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General System Flow

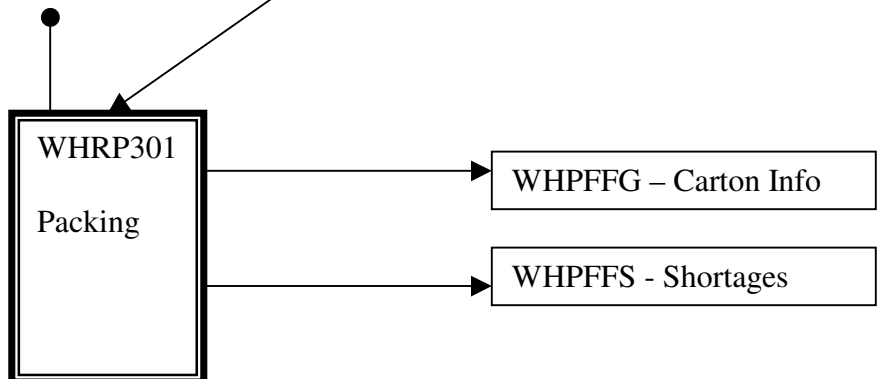
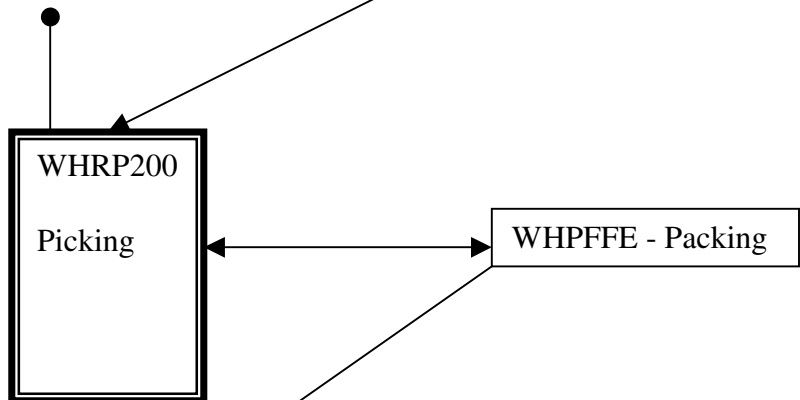
IP Warehouse Module

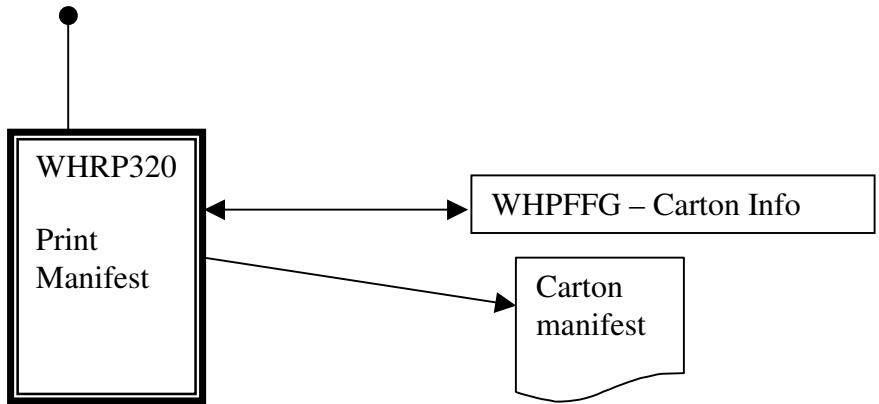


RF System

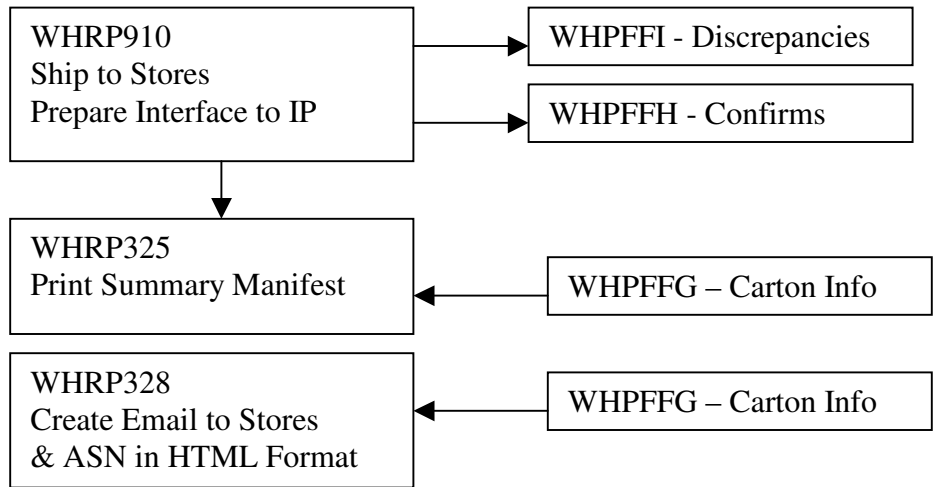


Scanning

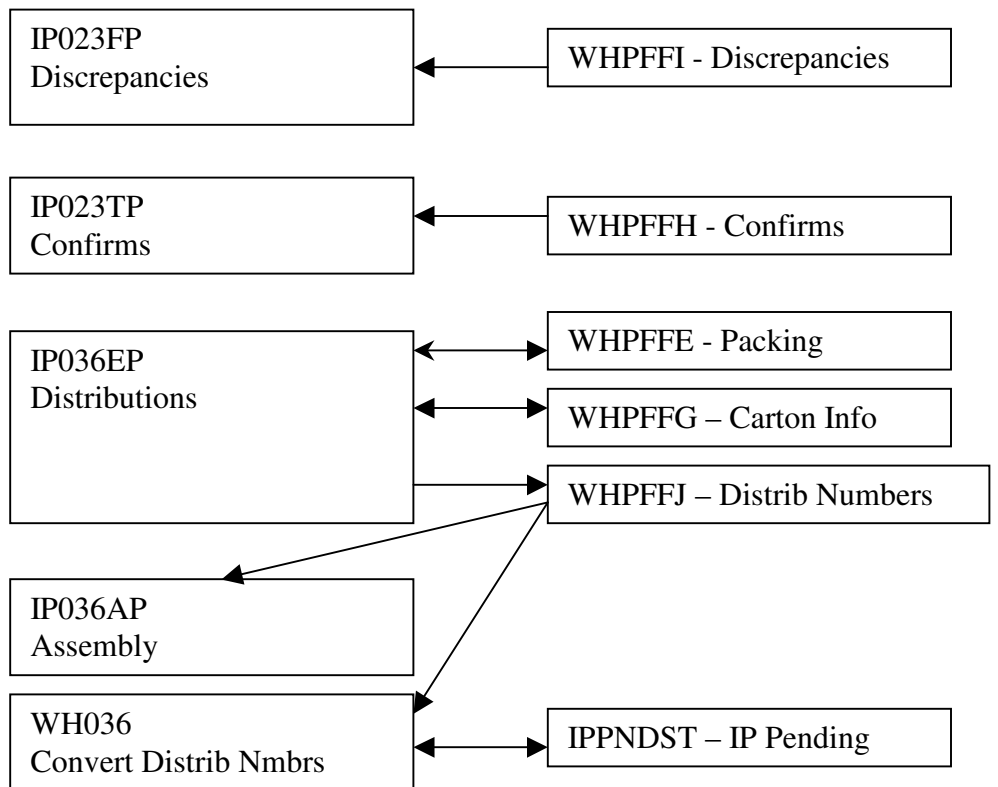




End Of Day



IP Interface



User Guide

Work Flows

Work flow - Daily Picking and Packing – Back Office

Back Office Support Functions

Run IP Pick Slips



Warehouse Support Functions

Update Pick/Pack Dates

Dates used to control what items are to be worked on.

Review Daily Allocations

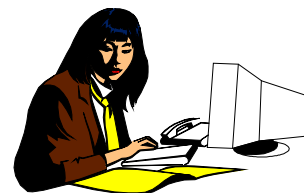
Summary of a day's work
Picking can be re-assigned by user
Can track picking and packing progress

Manage Shortages

Real time tracking of shortages
Determine that is not findable
Item found and ready to pack
Can re-spread packing to stores

Close Day

Create summary reports
Send ASN to stores
Web pages & Email
Interface to IP System



Work flow - Daily Picking and Packing – Warehouse Functions

Warehouse Functions



Picking

Pick items by either:
Batch – count totals items needed and enter count into scanner
Scanner – scan each item as picked

Move items to Packing Stations



Packing

Pack items in cartons by store
Close cartons and move to Shipping Area

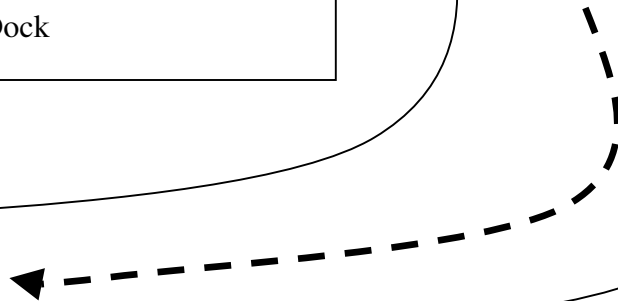
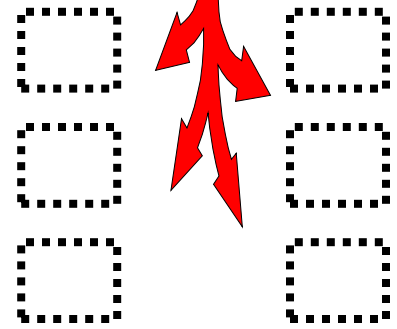


Shipping

Print a Manifest
Seal the carton
Move to Shipping Dock

Main Storage Bin Area

Packing Stations



Work flow – Virtual Store (ECommerce) – Warehouse Functions

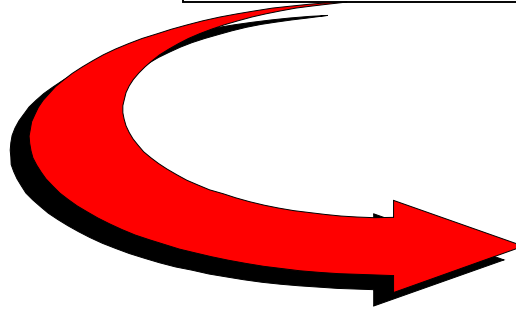
Warehouse Functions



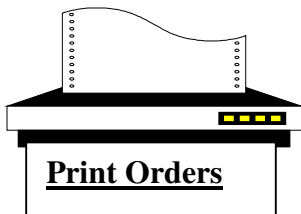
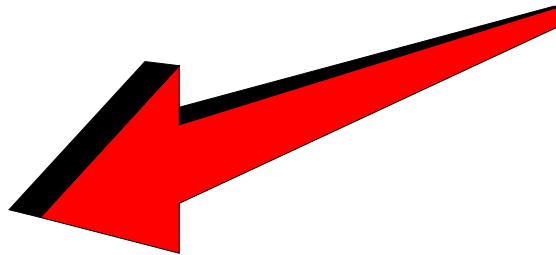
Move Virtual Store Cartons to Virtual Store Area



Putaway Items:
Entire Cartons
Individual Items



ECommerce Inventory
Send Inventory and Item
Locations



Print Orders



Pick Items for Order

Scan or Enter Order Number
Displays Items and Locations
Read Location from Order

Scan Items as Picked

Controls location inventory

Work flow – Virtual Store (ECommerce) – Re-Allocation

Corporate Functions

Remove unsold inventory from Virtual Store

Identify items not sold
Mark to send to Outlet Stores



Warehouse Support Functions

Manage Re-Allocations

Assign to Pickers



Warehouse Functions



Pick and Pack Items

Pack to send to Outlets

Work flow – Inventory

Warehouse Support Functions

Update Inventory System

Run jobs to Copy IP System Book Inventory
Warehouse
Virtual Store
New Stores
Stores that have not been completed, but have inventory in the DC



Print Location Labels for Virtual Store

With Virtual Store Location Module
Use Location Labels already applied
(Print Fresh if needed)
Without Virtual Store Location Module
Print Labels with serial Numbers and apply to shelves

Interface to IP Host

Run jobs to Interface Physical Inventory

Warehouse Functions

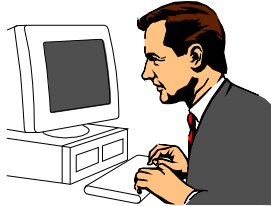


Count and Scan

Take Inventory

Work flow - Warehouse Management Functions

Warehouse Management Functions



- **Review Allocations** – Track Picking/Packing Progress
- **License Plate Info** – View Detail info per Carton including contents
- **Warehouse Summary** – View daily movement of items summarized
- **User Activity** – View work progress by user
- **Backlog Analysis** – Statistical view by store of all activity and probable future schedule
- **Backlog Worksheet** – What If conditions for future work flow
- **Item Activity** – Search items and view detail statistics and information
- **Shipping Control Lookup** – Track Shipping and Acknowledgements
- **License Plates Closed Not Manifested Display**
- **License Plates Manifested not Shipped Display**
- **Open License Plate Display** – Carton Open and contents
- **Production Displays Pickers/Packers** – Statistics and Rankings of Users
- **Picking Detail Reports**
- **Packing Detail Reports**
- **Closed not Manifested Report**
- **Manifested not Shipped Report**
- **Shipping Control Number Report**
- **Voids Report**
- **Open License Plates Report**
- **User Production Reports**
- **Virtual Store Item Activity** – View all in and outs to ECommerce Store
- **Track Inventory Progress** – View counts, percentages of completion, items and users

Menus

This System uses two separate menu systems. The first is for management and support, the second is for the scanners.

Management Main Menu

Management Main Menu

Used to access all of the other Menus for this System.

- 1 Scanner Functions Menu**
- 2 Daily Operations Menu**
- 3 Activity Menu**
- 4 Inventory Operations Menu**
- 5 Reports Menu**
- 6 Inquiry Menu**
- 7 ECommerce Menu**
- 8 File Maintenance Menu**
- 9 Utilities Menu**

Sub Menus

Daily Operations Menu

Typical daily operations for all support personnel.

- 1 Update Picking and Packing Dates**
Enter the dates that are to be worked on today
- 2 Review Daily Allocations**
View day's Allocations and re-assign users as needed
Track daily work progress
- 3 License Plate Information**
View detailed information for a Carton
- 4 Print License Plates**
Print Bar Coded labels to be applied to each Carton by Store
- 5 Warehouse Summary**
View summarized counts as items progress from Picking through Shipping
- 6 User Activity**
View users and current Picking and Packing activity
- 7 Backlog Analysis**
View projection of delivery schedule based on past statistics
- 8 Backlog Analysis Worksheet**
Enter What If conditions for future deliveries
- 9 Manage Shortages**
Track shortages, real time, during Picking and Packing and resolve
- 10 Carton Held for Shipping**
View cartons that were completed & manifested, but are not to ship yet
- 11 Close Day – Part 1**
Select Stores to complete shipping for
Creates Summary reports and sends ASN to Intranet, Email and POS
- 12 Close Day – Part 2**
Interface Discrepancies, Confirmations and Shipping's to IP System

Activity Menu

Special Inquiries

- 1 View Summary Manifest on Intranet**
View Shipping information by store and date in Web Pages
- 2 Item Activity Lookup**
Search items and view detail statistics and activity
- 3 Shipping Control Lookup**
Track Shipping and Acknowledgements

Inventory Operations Menu

Warehouse inventory options

- 1 Print Labels for Store Inventory**
Print labels for in-warehouse store inventories
- 2 Enter Highest label used**
*For in-warehouse store inventories labels are placed on the locations
Use this program to enter the highest label to keep track of inventory progress*
- 3 Inventory Summary**
Track progress of inventory
See completion percentages
View items, counts and users
- 4 Enter Counts from Outside Inventory**
*When inventory done by outside company
Enter counts for quick comparisons*
- 5 Print Inventory Reports**
Detailed inventory counts and comparisons

Reports Menu

Routine reports options

- 1 Picking Reports**
 - A Print Picks to Go**
 - B Print Picks to Go by Date**
 - C Print picks to Go by Zone and User**
 - D Print Picks to Go – Detail**
- 2 Packing Reports**
 - A Print Picks not Packed**
 - B Print Picks not Packed – Detail**
- 3 Shortage Reports**
 - A Print Open Shortages Report**
 - B Print Resolved Shortages Report**
- 4 Print Closed not manifested**
- 5 Print Manifested not Shipped**
- 6 Print Shipping Control Number Report**
- 7 Print Shipping Control Number when not Acknowledged Report**
- 8 Print Voids**
- 9 Print Open License Report**
- 10 Print User Production Reports**

Inquiry Menu

Routine daily Inquires

- 1 License Plates Closed not Manifested**
- 2 License Plates Manifested not Shipped**
- 3 Open License Plates**
- 4 User Production**

File Maintenance Menu

Special Files updates

- 1 Warehouse Users**
Maintain list of warehouse users
- 2 Assign Zones to Rows and Pickers**
Assign a zone to a row and to a user for default assignment of Picking

ECommerce Menu

All options used for the Virtual Store

Though most of these options are intended for the hand-held scanners, there may be a shortage of scanners. So a normal terminal may be used to do some or all of the functions.

- 1 Print Location Labels**
Print Bar Coded Labels for the Locations
- 2 Put Away by Item**
This system allows you to optionally put items away individually
- 3 Put Away by Carton**
This system allows you to optionally put items away by entire Cartons
- 4 Put Away – Record Located Items**
Used during start-up, to located items that were already in place in a location
- 5 Move items to New Location**
You may move items as needed
- 6 Move Cartons to New Locations**
You may move Cartons as needed
- 7 Adjust Item Counts**
You may correct any item counts
- 8 Lookup UPC's and Locations**
Search locations, UPC's and Items to view items and inventory
- 9 Pick orders by Order Number**
Scan or Enter Order Numbers to view a list of items to Pick
- 10 Item Activity**
View a detailed list of items and their progression through the system
- 11 Look Up Locations and Activity**
Detailed lookup of items intended for normal display screen
- 12 Audit Carton Moves**
View cartons that were moved to a new location
- 13 Delete from Empty Locations**
Review locations that are empty and delete as needed
- 14 Manage Re-Allocations**
Assign Re-Allocations to Pickers and Monitor progress
- 15 Print Manifests and Carton Labels for Re-Allocations**
Print as needed and Interface to IP System

Hand Held Scanner Menus

Main Menu

Starting point for all Scanner Functions

- 1 Warehouse Menu**
- 2 Inventory Menu**
- 3 ECommerce Menu**

Warehouse Menu

Picking and Packing Functions

- 1 Pick (Batch)**
Optionally, you may Pick by picking all of the required items and entering the count on the scanner
- 2 Pick (Scan)**
Optionally, you may Pick by scanning each item as they are picked
- 3 Pack**
Pack items into cartons by Store
- 4 Manifest & Ship**
Print a manifest for a carton and move to shipping area
- 5 Manifest & Hold**
Print a manifest for a carton and hold to not ship yet
- 6 Release Hold**
Release items that were held when you are ready to ship it

Inventory Menu

Warehouse Inventory Functions

- 1 DC Inventory**
Take the physical inventory for the DC
- 2 Virtual Store Inventory**
Take the physical inventory for the virtual store (ECommerce)
- 3 Other stores**
*Sometimes a new store has inventory in the DC
Use this to count the items as though it were a store not a DC\
Items are added and removed from this menu each bi-annual inventory as needed*

ECommerce Menu

Virtual Store Functions

- 1 Put Away Cartons**
Optionally out away entire Cartons
- 2 Put Away Items**
Optionally put away individual items
- 3 Locate Items**
*Enter the location of items that were already there
(used for start-up)*
- 4 Move Items**
You may move items as needed
- 5 Move Cartons**
You may move Cartons as needed
- 6 Adjust Items**
You may correct any item counts
- 7 Look Up Items**
Search locations, UPC's and Items to view items and inventory
- 8 Pick by Trans Nmbr**
Scan or Enter Transaction Numbers to view a list of items to Pick
- 9 Pack Transfers**
Pick and Pack items to be Re-Allocated to Outlets