



# Order Slotting & Scheduling

Intelligently align sales and production priorities to optimize both delivery speed and profit margins

## Business context

Order slotting — allocating orders to production sites in daily and weekly lots — is increasingly important in today’s volatile, disrupted world. Materials shortages or capacity issues may upend production plans and agreed-upon order sequences at any moment. The same is true of sudden demand shifts, high-priority new orders or cancelled orders. While the sales function often has a strong say in how orders are slotted, the sales force lacks a real-time, end-to-end strategic view of material and component availability, line capacities, and cost and margin implications. The result? Costly order expediting and lost profits on the one hand, and missed deliveries and unhappy customers on the other hand. How can production planners optimally slot orders in a disrupted, complex environment where stakeholders are competing with one another?

## The Blue Yonder solution

The answer is Blue Yonder Order Slotting & Scheduling. Enabled by smart algorithms, this advanced solution mediates between competing sales and production priorities by ingesting real-time data, conducting robust analysis, and arriving at an optimal slotting plan that balances costs and delivery speed. Blue Yonder Order Slotting & Scheduling considers all orders, materials, components, capacities, constraints, costs and delivery timetables simultaneously, at a pace exponentially faster than manual analysis can be done. The result is a “good for the business” holistic plan that’s objective and data-driven.



## Key Benefits



Supports reliable customer promises and delivery dates



Optimizes production resources holistically, not just locally



Dynamically replans production as conditions change



Considers constraints and costs from end to end



Minimizes in-process and finished goods inventories



Reduces planning labor by 20%

Across a medium-term planning horizon, this powerful solution automatically smooths and levels all production orders, considering every constraint from materials availability to transportation call-offs. As a result, customer orders are distributed evenly, and assembly lines are optimally utilized. When inevitable disruptions occur, Blue Yonder Order Slotting & Scheduling flexibly replans production, using what-if simulation capabilities to re-slot orders or, when possible, identify alternate production resources.

## Capability Details

### Real-time intelligent planning drives cost savings

Since Blue Yonder Order Slotting & Scheduling tracks all orders, production plans and constraints in real time, every decision is data-driven — and guaranteed to support profitability goals. Production planners can coordinate the needs of the sales force, and pressing delivery dates, with the need for the manufacturing operation to operate profitably. This solution provides rapid, intelligent analysis that's guided by both financial concerns and service-level targets.

### Resource utilization takes center stage

Any manufacturer can tell you that one of the biggest invisible costs is an idle or under-utilized production line. Another big cost? Excess materials or component inventories. Blue Yonder Slotting & Scheduling is built to smooth capacities, utilize available resources and otherwise create “just right,” optimized production plans. This smart solution looks at long lead-time orders, short lead-time orders, production capacities and bottlenecks, component inventories and other moving targets. From this seeming chaos, it builds optimized slotting plans that keep assembly lines running continuously and predictably. In Blue Yonder's experience, excess circulating stock can be reduced by up to 30%.

### A single source of truth to align all teams

Production planners no longer have to negotiate with the sales team as they slot and schedule orders. Blue Yonder Order Slotting & Scheduling creates a single version of the truth that mediates between competing functional priorities. Production is optimized holistically, not locally. All departments have access to the same information at



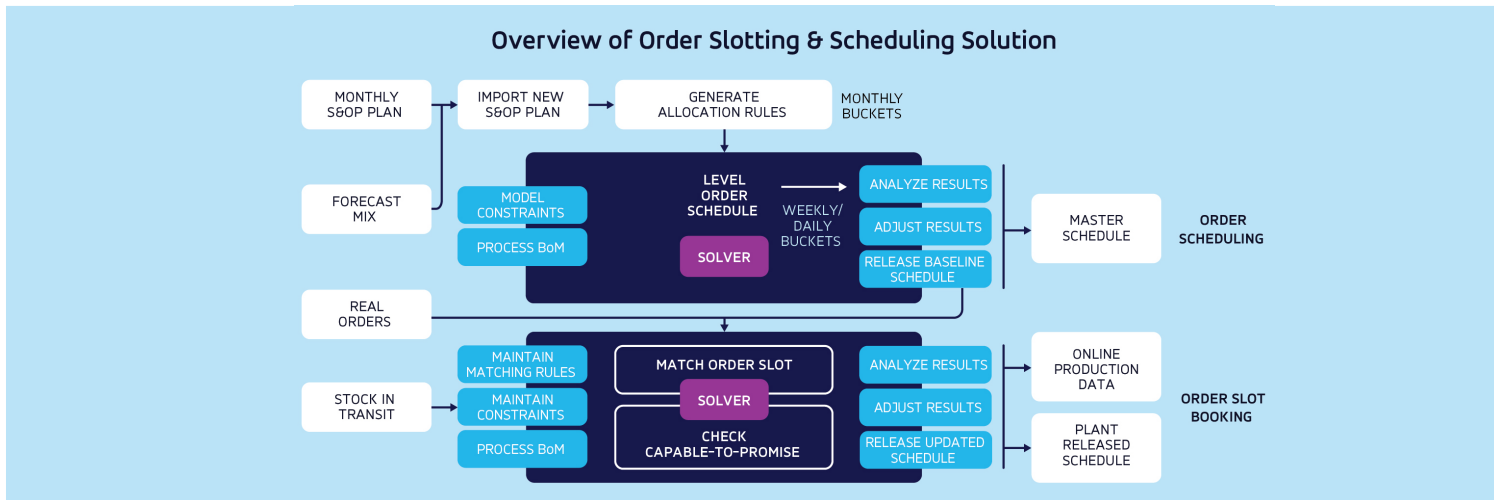
all times, including order requirements and assembly line capacities. Plans and priorities are clear and visible to all

### Disruptions become a competitive edge


Even the best-laid production plans are subject to surprises and disruptions. First, Blue Yonder Order Slotting & Scheduling features an early-warning alert function that signals an exception to the production plan — such as a cancelled order or machinery breakdown — at the earliest opportunity. Then the solution applies pre-established rules and logic to dynamically replan production to resolve the exception. Manufacturers can simultaneously achieve both planning flexibility and production stability thanks to this intelligent digital planning solution. They can gain a significant advantage over competitors who are less prepared for inevitable surprises.

### Human resources are maximized via intelligence and automation

Today's supply chain talent shortages are an unfortunate fact of life. Blue Yonder Order Slotting & Scheduling not only drives more accurate production planning decisions, but it makes those decisions in mere seconds — and then has the power to automatically execute them. The hours devoted to faulty, time-consuming manual analysis today can be devoted to higher-value, more strategic production planning work. Blue Yonder Order Slotting & Scheduling typically reduces planning staff demands by 20% or more.




**Blue Yonder Order Slotting & Scheduling features visual workflows to provide multiple perspectives, including:**

 **A view from the order management team**

In real time, the order management team can easily see alerts and restrictions highlighted in color, making it easier to see bottlenecks. For each order, Blue Yonder Order Slotting & Scheduling shows the detailed resource flow and enables the order management team to check the delivery date. The team can postpone orders strategically, if needed, by changing the decision guardrails or manually over-riding the plan.

 **A view from the sales team**

Sales personnel can see a holistic view of all production sites and all sold orders, providing important perspective and ensuring they understand their orders and how they fit into the bigger picture of all orders. Alerts can trigger customer discussions in the event that an order is running late following a disruption.

 **A view from the production team**

The production team has a real-time perspective on assembly line capacities, order quantities and characteristics, resource availability, constraints and other factors. Color-coded alerts show any capacity violations, making it easy to identify bottlenecks at an early stage. Blue Yonder Order Slotting & Scheduling even manages shift and work calendar data to ensure labor availability.

