



## Leading Meat Supplier Drives Productivity with Cirrus Tech and Kepware

### The Customer

A warehouse system management company, Cirrus Tech (Cirrus), Inc. provides automated warehouse solutions and services to help customers optimize their warehouse and distribution processes. With more than 15 years of experience, the company delivers a range of services—from warehouse automation, control, and management, to professional services and supply chain consulting. Cirrus customizes integrated warehouse management solutions for customers across a range of industries including healthcare, retail, manufacturing, food service, consumer goods, and electronics.



### Organization:

Cirrus Tech, Inc. provides automated warehouse solutions and services to help customers across a range of industries optimize their warehouse and distribution processes.

### Industry:

Industrial Automation

### Solution:

KEPServerEX®  
Allen-Bradley  
OPC Server Suite

"In our business, there's no room for error. Any misstep in our automation system means lost revenue. That's why companies consistently turn to us to drive their business-critical processes," said Bob Harris, Founder of Cirrus Tech.

### The Challenge

Cirrus works with customers on extremely tight deadlines. Many customers require data transmission to and from Programmable Logic Controllers (PLCs) within seconds. Some customers find data flow challenging, and as a result experience inefficient warehousing and product routing. These issues can slow response time and degrade customer relations.

Case-in-point: A top beef producer and Cirrus customer located in Dodge City, Kansas ships several thousand boxes of meat per hour. The company requires a system that can read 20,000 tags from 10 PLCs every three seconds—reading, processing and returning the data—to ensure smooth routing of boxes for delivery. From the warehouse to the retail location, the system requires complete automation with no human intervention. Cirrus needed to offer an automation solution that could provide routing direction within seconds. Any miscommunication could cause significant delays in routing—overloading and slowing conveyor belts.

Originally, the beef producer based its automation system on RSLink drivers from Rockwell Automation with data collected from Allen-Bradley PLCs. However, the performance was not meeting the company's needs.

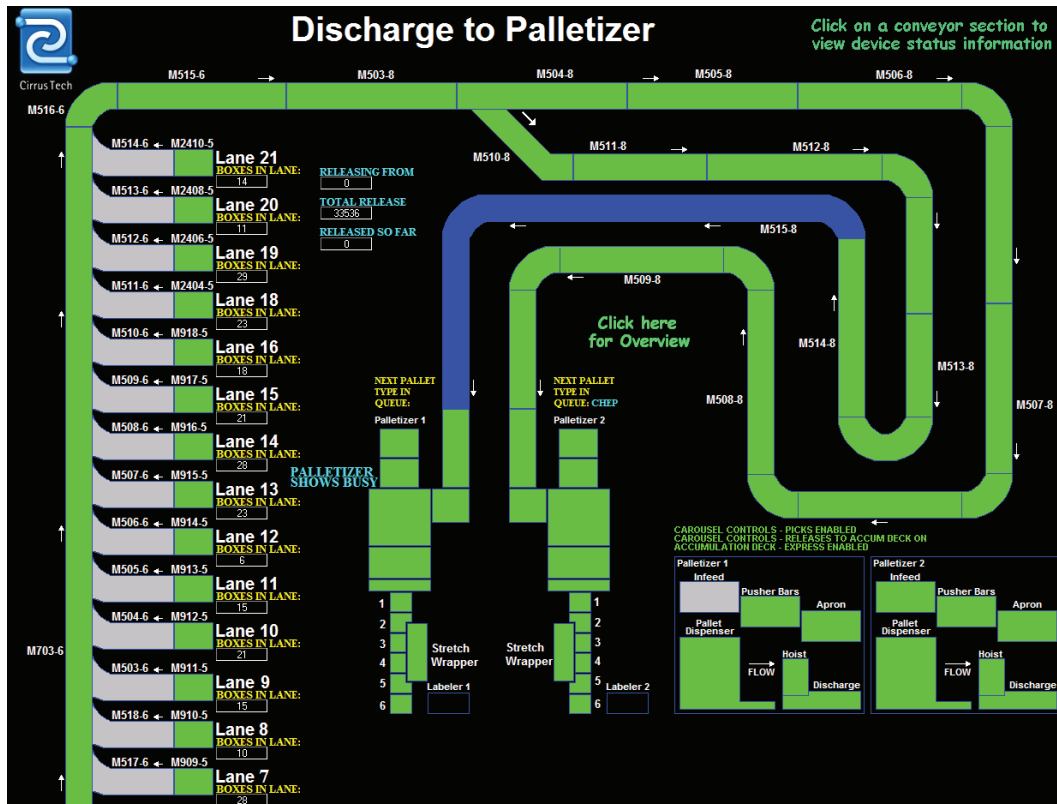
"The drivers were slowing down the process—draining 80 percent of CPU space to read and respond to the more than 20,000 tags each second. The system just wasn't getting it done," Harris said.



## The Results

Upon installation, Cirrus and its customer noticed immediate results. Central Processing Unit (CPU) usage declined dramatically, enabling the automation system to read data and respond more efficiently.

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President, Cirrus  
Tech, Inc.

Currently, Kepware helps Cirrus successfully automate the warehousing and transportation processes from the beef producer's three dispersed plants, which process 6,000 boxes each hour. Navigating the producer's complex systems, Kepware and Cirrus have cut communications and decision-making response times to less than 2 seconds. This success encouraged Cirrus to expand its Kepware implementation across service processes for all of its customers.

"Now that I've experienced Kepware, I wouldn't go anywhere else," Harris concluded.

## About Kepware Technologies

Kepware Technologies, established in 1995, develops a wide range of communication and interoperability software solutions for the Automation industry. Our flexible and scalable solutions help connect, manage, monitor, and control diverse automation devices and software applications. Our industry-endorsed software solutions improve operations and decision-making throughout all levels of an organization. Kepware Technologies' mission is to be your standard for connectivity by developing Advanced Communications for Automation.

