# extensiv

# Checklist for Vetting Inventory and Order Management Software

Inventory and order management software is an essential part of your ecommerce business' technology stack—and the foundation for continuous success and scalability. Whether you're reassessing your current software or considering a shift to catalyze growth, finding the perfect solution requires substantial research, planning, and dedication.

While the search for a system that aligns with your current operational needs and future ambitions can be daunting, it doesn't have to be stressful—use this checklist to keep track of all the information you need in vetting new inventory and order management platforms.

## Determine System Requirements Based on Business Needs and Challenges

Make sure the system fits into your current business culture and model while simultaneously offering the scalability needed to support you as your business grows. Make a list of necessities as well as a wish list based on projections of future needs by asking the following questions:

- [ ] What core functions will you want the system to automate?
- [ ] How many users will need to use the system? What about in the next few years?
- [ ] What is your inventory control policy?
- [ ] What reporting and analytics capabilities do you need to track in the system?
- [ ] What integrations do you need? Consider order sources as well as order destinations.
- [ ] What additional features do you need to run your business, and what systems and business process functions are currently holding you back?
- [ ] If you don't currently have dedicated software for inventory or order management, what solutions are you looking for from a new system?
- [ ] What do you like most about your current technology, and what do you wish it did better?

## Compare Different Software Providers to Find the Best Fit

Inventory and order management platforms vary greatly in functionality, and one size certainly does not fit all. When comparing different systems, be sure to do your homework:

- [ ] Compare and contrast user reviews—especially from companies similar to yours—for competing platforms.
- [ ] Look at the nuances with pricing structures or payment plans.
- [ ] Note the differences in functionality and usability between systems.
- [ ] Review time to implement and go live with the system to ensure adequate transition time.
- [ ] Evaluate the ongoing technical support offered by each software company, including training, implementation, and regular software updates.
- [ ] Explore vendor help resources, user communities, and ongoing educational content to help you as you scale.
- [ ] Communicate requirements clearly before any system is purchased and installed as well as during implementation to ensure your needs are met.
- [ ] Ensure that the companies you consider aim to adapt and scale with your business as it grows in the near- and long-term.
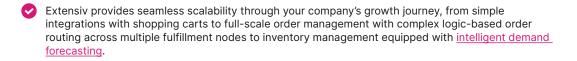
## Calculate Total Cost of Ownership and Return on Investment

Software is a major investment, so understanding the total costs—and savings—that accompany partnering with a new software provider is crucial for calculating ROI. Ask yourself the following questions:

- ☐ What benefits and savings do you expect, and how do you define their cost justification? Categories to consider include savings associated with labor and productivity enhancements, eliminating costly errors, reducing fees for licenses or transaction processing, diminished in-house IT needs, and improved customer lifetime value and experience.

- ☐ What are the total costs of transitioning systems? In addition to subscription costs, be sure to include internal company costs for project management requirements, overtime for employees for training and process change, and conversion and lost time from decreased productivity in the first few months as you acclimate to the new system.

## Extensiv: A Complete Platform for Ecommerce Businesses

Extensiv offers powerful warehouse and order management solutions for brands boasting an unparalleled number of pre-built integrations to act as your ecommerce mission control: a single source of truth for inventory and order data across your entire technology stack.

- ✓ Extensiv provides seamless scalability through your company's growth journey, from simple integrations with shopping carts to full-scale order management with complex logic-based order routing across multiple fulfillment nodes to inventory management equipped with intelligent demand forecasting.

- ✓ Featuring standardized integrations between hundreds of ecommerce order sources—including shopping carts and all the major marketplaces—and thousands of order destinations, including a diverse mix of shipping carriers, Extensiv synchronizes and simplifies your ecommerce technology ecosystem.

- ✓ With Extensiv's solutions for brands, you can leverage real-time data and orderbots to automate inventory transactions and orders across your entire supply chain, connecting all your digital sales channels with both private warehouses and logistics providers.

For more information, call us at 833-983-6748 or schedule a demo online.

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