## CASE STUDY







# **HEAVY INTO DIGITAL** Heavy-duty Leader TruckPro Drives Digital Transformation

TruckPro is one of the largest independent distributors of heavy-duty truck and trailer parts and advanced repair services in the US. Through a distribution network of more than 150 stores across 35 states and Canada, as well as advanced service shops, they deliver a comprehensive range of products to support commercial and government customer requirements in the areas of brake systems, electrical, engines, gear and drivetrain, and more. TruckPro is recognized for delivering measurable value and outstanding support to its customers and suppliers with the most experienced truck parts team in the country.

## The Road to Digital Tranformation

In 2021, TruckPro decided to invest significantly in becoming an industry-leading eCommerce platform for the heavy-duty vehicle industry. Their main goals were to offer a wide selection of inventory from their stock and from suppliers, as well as enable a marketplace with a seamless omnichannel experience for customers.

Core to their digital shift was implementing a comprehensive PIM solution that would manage core product data, support data enrichment, and provide seamless syndication and insights to give their customers the best possible eCommerce experience.

#### THE HIGHLIGHTS



Implemented a Syndigo PIM which manages, enriches, and governs over 4 million parts listings



Grew their online catalog to one that is 3-4x larger than their closest competitor



Ensured 25% of sales would flow through their digital channels - a big leap forward in penetration and adoption





## **Revving Up Their eCommerce Engine With Syndigo PIM**

As TruckPro embarked on this digital transformation initiative, they knew that selecting the right PIM system was critical. After evaluating vendors, they selected Syndigo PIM as their platform of choice to connect their inventory, suppliers, and customer eCommerce touchpoints.

Syndigo's commitment to customer success gave us confidence that we would be supported, not just during implementation, but also continually to optimize and enhance our PIM investment into the future.

Reid Garrett Vice President Merchandising and Product Management TruckPro



#### WHY SYNDIGO?

- Deep expertise in PIM specifically and digital transformation broadly.
- Industry leadership with ambitious plans to invest in future capabilities.
- An impressive customer base provided confidence that Syndigo PIM could effectively scale.
- A partnership approach with clients for a smooth implementation experience.

## **Turbocharging Innovation**

Implementing a best-in-class PIM solution with Syndigo was a key pillar of TruckPro's digital transformation. But they also knew that a PIM system alone wasn't enough to achieve their broader eCommerce goals like drop shipping and third-party marketplace integrations, so they had to reassess their system architecture and governance to truly unlock performance. Their new PIM needed to share near real-time data with their customer-facing systems to enable the seamless omnichannel experiences envisioned. This required implementing an integration middleware layer for greater connectivity between previously siloed applications. With this architectural overhaul, changes in product data or inventory within their PIM now go downstream to ordering and fulfillment systems much faster.

They also revamped data governance policies and procedures that support third-party marketplace selling, drop shipping by suppliers directly to customers, and new fulfillment options emerging from accurate inventory and order data. As a result, their entire approach to system integrations, data sharing between external parties, and downstream data consumption became more agile and automated.

#### WHY PIVOTREE?

Once TruckPro selected Syndigo PIM, they needed a proven commerce advisor with deep expertise in digital transformation and new technologies like <u>PIM</u>. They selected Pivotree based on our vast experience executing complex digital journeys for many organizations. By partnering with Pivotree they were able to avoid common pitfalls and implement best practices tailored to their specific needs.

Successfully implementing new solutions is about more than just configuring software. It requires understanding the culture and workflows of an organization to ensure adoption.



Jonathan Currie Practice Director Master Data Management Pivotree

## **Data Value Takes Off**

There has been a notable shift in mindset about the value of data at TruckPro. Data discussions that were once relegated to IT back rooms are now front and center in boardroom strategy sessions. Data maturity is a top consideration when deciding who to partner with.

While virtually all stakeholders agreed conceptually that master data carries value early on in their journey, there was some resistance when translating that into practical resource allocation. For example, how much funding is required? Do they need to invest more in a partnership or an FTE? Do they need to change their system architecture in this one area or not? Fortunately, they overcame this hesitancy by quantifying current data costs and painting a clear target future state to socialize the concrete benefits at both the leadership and working levels of the organization.

666 One of the biggest shifts was recognizing data as a core KPI impacting business performance, both internally and with partners.

Reid Garrett Vice President Merchandising and Product Management TruckPro



## **Accelerating Digital Success**

The partnership between Syndigo and Pivotree and the implementation of PIM has significantly contributed to TruckPro's tremendous digital growth. With huge digital catalog breadth (over 4 million parts listings), complete product information for buyer decision-making, and online transaction volume gains, they are achieving their vision to meet customer needs around the clock through flexible omnichannel purchasing.

- Approximately 25% of their sales flow through digital channels a big leap forward in penetration and adoption.
- TruckPro has emerged as the definitive digital leader in its industry with an online catalog scale 3-4x larger than its competitors.

Critical to their digital success has been the ability to showcase not only their own inventory but also that from partner suppliers. This customer experience promotes greater product visibility, and the ability to drop ship orders directly from vendors to buyers provides unparalleled immediacy and convenience. They get the products to customers the way they want them and when they want them.

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### Lessons Learned Along the Digital Transformation Journey

Throughout this journey, TruckPro accumulated valuable lessons from building internal alignment to rearchitecting their technology stack. These insights can be applied to any organization pursuing a similar digitally-driven evolution.



#### LESSON #1

Start data remediation and partner enablement early, well before the PIM platform is selected. Treating master data as an ongoing discipline rather than a one-time project solidifies a foundation for future success.



#### LESSON #2

Tightly integrate platform selection with aspirations around downstream architectures and systems. PIM feeds many external systems, so it's important to define system linkages, ownership between groups, and data flows ahead of time instead of retrofitting them.



#### **LESSON #3**

Lock in unwavering executive sponsorship from both IT and business leads. Without leadership alignment, a large-scale digital transformation project, despite proof of value, will stall.

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# The Next Stage of Innovation

With an established PIM foundation now powering their eCommerce platform, TruckPro is pressing forward to enrich data inputs and expand the solution's capabilities even further. Future initiatives include a vendor portal and an in-store point-of-sale experience for employees.

First on their roadmap is launching a vendor portal to enable product manufacturers to directly publish and maintain information on their own parts catalogs. This will greatly expand TruckPro's master data scale and content accuracy. Related to this, they are evaluating various syndication options to add more inputs into their PIM to help fill any product content gaps.

The next initiative is to integrate the product catalog into their retail point-of-sale solution to provide the same rich part descriptions, images, and specifications that look like their website to empower their in-store counter teams.

After using their PIM implementation to transform themselves into an eCommerce leader in the heavy-duty vehicle industry, TruckPro is wellprepared to enter the next stage of innovation.



Pivotree, a leader in frictionless commerce, strategizes, designs, builds, and manages digital Commerce, Data Management, and Supply Chain solutions for over 200 major retailers and branded manufacturers globally. With a portfolio of digital products as well as managed and professional services, Pivotree provides businesses of all sizes with true end-to-end solutions.

Syndigo powers modern commerce by enabling the continual flow of data and content throughout the entire commerce ecosystem. With industry-leading data management, syndication, and analytics, combined with the largest two-sided network for content distribution, we deliver accurate information that improves decision-making and accelerates sales on every shelf. Syndigo serves more than 12,000 manufacturers, and 1,750 retailers and distributors globally across key industries including grocery, foodservice, hardlines, home improvement/DIY, pet, health and beauty, automotive, apparel, oil & gas, and healthcare.