

# Frontier ERP Software

## The Best **ERP** for **Configured Products**

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### Highlights

- Supports complex, make-to-order environments with reduced staff training costs
  - Ensures web, inventory, and production data are always in sync, even across multiple facilities
  - Improves production efficiencies with paperless instructions, machine integrations, and reporting
  - Provides fully integrated financials for multiple facilities, locations, and currencies
  - Boosts customer satisfaction with real-time order confirmations and accurate delivery estimates
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Companies are giving buyers more choices than ever before. Whether to differentiate their offerings in a crowded marketplace or to provide a more customer-focused experience, products that are made- or assembled-to-order will produce higher satisfaction and lower return rates.

But customization at scale requires ERP software that is flexible and that can uniquely manage a large range of mix-and-match options -- without creating a nightmare of SKUs and a surfeit of costly inventory.

Frontier ERP has been designed specifically for high-volume "To Order" manufacturers and distributors. Some of the specific industries utilizing Frontier include those manufacturing or customizing cabinets, doors, electronics, furniture, power units, promotional items, windows, and window treatments. Any products customized-, made-, or assembled-to-order can be supported by Frontier ERP.

Frontier's fully integrated product configurator guides the user through collecting all the options required by the customer, dynamically edited to ensure that only acceptable and buildable combinations can be ordered. Integration with both 2D and 3D images provides even further visual confirmation of the product being ordered.

Designed to provide a complete, integrated solution, Frontier ERP includes Order Management, Product Configurator, Inventory Control, MRP, Purchasing, Production Scheduling, Production Reporting, Shop Floor Control, Advanced Manufacturing Execution, Accounting, Product Costing, and Shipping.

Friedman Frontier is a robust ERP system with a modern, browser-based user interface that can support companies of any size.

Frontier ERP software is optimized for engineer-to-order (ETO), make-to-order (MTO), assemble-to-order (ATO), job shop, and project-oriented manufacturers and service contractors.

## **Key Benefits of Frontier**

### **Improves Customer Experience and Reduces Inventory Costs**

*Maximize Product Options and Minimize Inventory*

To stay competitive in today's global market, North American companies must be able to provide fast turnaround on custom products. Frontier's powerful configurator handles both make-to-order (MTO) and make-to-stock products with ease. Far fewer SKUs are needed to track all the product options and customizations. As a result, companies can be nimbler and more profitable by minimizing the amount of inventory they must carry. This frees up working capital to invest in other areas of the business.

Since the product configurator combines images with user-defined rules to validate and ensure compatible options have been selected, companies reduce the cost of training staff to support their complex product ordering process. Significantly, they also reduce time delays caused by unbuildable orders and the cost of products rejected "not as ordered."

### **Streamlines Ordering and Improves Customer Satisfaction**

*Online Orders Move Right into Production*

Often companies have product and inventory data in different places. Employees must regularly reconcile, sync, or re-enter data. This is especially true for companies with web stores that were launched as standalone efforts, and especially painful for companies with a lot of ordering options.

With separate systems, a significant amount of time is spent in the order entry department reviewing online orders to make sure they can be built and re-entering those orders into the ERP system that can be accessed by production. When an order is received online that cannot be built, an employee must then chase down the end customer, explain the problem, and walk them through their "new" options. The order is delayed, and the less-than-happy customer does not get what was originally requested. Customer satisfaction suffers. By connecting online portal and web orders with production, companies can provide accurate costs, production schedules, and delivery dates at the time of order. When dealers or customers configure an order online, the system checks inventory and production schedules automatically, and allows only buildable/configurable parts to be specified. Plus, there is no need to re-enter data from a standalone web system into the manufacturing system: it's all connected.

## **Reduces the High Costs of Errors and Rework**

### *Machine Integration Guides Production*

Errors and rework are the bane of the customization business. Frontier helps reduce or eliminate errors by providing integration with AutoCAD Inventor and with shop floor machinery.

Frontier interfaces dynamically with AutoCAD Inventory to develop customer 3D drawings in real-time for every unique customization. These are based on the dimensions specified and the options selected at the time of quoting or ordering. Once the order is generated, Frontier links to 3D engineering drawings for the finished product plus all the components and sub-assemblies. These drawings can then be used for customer-facing documents, order confirmations, and internal production displays.

Since Frontier can store unlimited data against custom parts that need to be produced, this may include cutting and machining instructions. With Frontier's Cut Part Processing module, companies can generate files that drive machinery on the shop floor, from simple lineal saws to complex CNC multi-tool machines.

## **Ensures Accurate Deliveries to Cap Customer Satisfaction**

### *Complete Orders with Real-Time Notifications*

Frontier's integrated Truck Load Management module, iDispatch, provides the shipping department with all planned shipments, released truck loads, active loading status and outbound shipments. When planned truck loads, iDispatch will interface with route planning software to provide a recommended delivery route for multiple drop shipments. Integration with RF-based scanners provides real-time load status of truck loads currently being loaded at the dock. All required shipment documentation is provided once the load has been deemed completed, including BOL, Driving Instructions, Proof of Delivery Requirements and more.

## **Customer Testimonials**

"Our company has millions of different configurations and Frontier works very well."

- Gary Schulz, Masterbrand Cabinets, Inc.

"Frontier handles large amounts of data, configuring thousands of work orders quickly."

- Valorie Eldred, Cabinetworks Group

"The UI is fairly intuitive and access to resources are readily available on each screen"

- Kristi Jacobson, Watson Furniture Group

## Why IBM and Frontier?

Friedman Corporation and IBM have a strong alliance and a partnership focused on our joint customers. This ensures our combined hardware and software solutions are ideal for diverse industries, including:

- Automotive and Aerospace
- Cabinets and Furniture
- Electronics
- Industrial Products and Machinery
- Metals and Metal Fabricating
- Power Systems
- Promotional Products and Ad Specialties
- Printing and Packaging
- Window Fashions
- Windows, Doors, and Glass Fabricating

... and many others.

Friedman's Frontier software is built from the ground up for the IBM i platform using IBM's native toolset and database. Our software was first developed on the IBM System/38 under the name of HFA. When IBM introduced the IBM Application System/400 (AS/400) in 1988, we were among the first to commit to the platform, and one of the first ERP software solutions available for IBM users when the IBM AS/400 family of computers was introduced.

Today, Frontier solutions on POWER9 are fully supported. Frontier certification is based on IBM i OS releases, and with POWER9 supporting IBM i 7.3 and 7.4, there is a wide choice of support options for all the Frontier releases. Our intimate knowledge of the IBM i platform is just one reason you can depend on Frontier ERP software for your business.

## NextSteps

For a free enterprise software assessment to learn where your operation can be improved to make it more competitive and profitable, contact Friedman Corporation today at +1-847-948-7180 or email

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## For More Information

To learn more about Frontier ERP software, visit: <https://www.friedmancorp.com/frontier-software-overview/>