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News Release from: CCI CAD/CAM Integration, Inc.
Edited by the Manufacturingtalk Editorial Team on 13 April 2006

Plumbing manufacturer installs wireless DNC

Manufacturer of fine, engineered plumbing products has installed a wireless DNC system and can now move machine tools around without having to reconnect cables.

CAD/CAM Integration has installed a completely wireless SuiteFactory DNC system at Symmons Industries of Braintree, Massachusetts, USA, manufacturer of fine, engineered plumbing products for residential and commercial applications. Their 30 CNC machine tools were being loaded with a laptop PC, hence, there was no control over the part program database and the shop was dependent on one person being available with this PC. Having no legacy DNC system in place Symmons was free to choose whatever type system they wanted without trying to use old infrastructure.
They did, however, have in place a wireless (WiFi) network in the factory with Access Points (hot spots) located strategically around the plant for use by various manufacturing personnel.
They chose the wireless solution for a number of reasons.
* Did not have to string cable.
* Can move machines around without having to reconnect cables.
* The price of wireless RS-232 devices had become very competitive compared with the cost of stringing and terminating cable.
From the several brands wireless RS-232 devices available, which we support the wireless modules, selected were the WireFreeCNC devices manufactured by CNC Computer Integration of Connecticut, USA.

They were chosen for two reasons.
1 - They have a proven track record on the factory floor.
2 - They are available with a well thought out kit for installing them internally including an external antenna.

Also included: Velcro mounting strips, pre-made RS-232 cables and a module to allow use of the existing RS-232 port on each CNC without any re-configuration if, for example, there were a future network, server, or module failure.
We did not have to make even one RS-232 cable.
The module also enabled picking up power from those CNCs that supply power on the 25 pin RS-232 connector.