

SupplyChainDigest™

Twas the Night Before a Supply Chain Christmas 2006

*Twas the night before Christmas, and I was alone in the DC.
Not much inventory left – we forecast right, I can see.*

*Our performance reports were hung by the office with care,
And it looked like 2006 bonuses soon would be there.*

*As VP of Supply Chain, the buck stops right here,
But I would say overall we had a pretty good year.*

*Now the job isn't easy – for me or my team.
This year's challenges were as great as I've ever seen.*

*Cycle times shorter – we took out one more day,
While working with 5% less budget, by the way.*

*Oh the Transportation headaches! Capacity and cost!
But it just doesn't matter – great customer service can't be lost.*

*We re-optimized the network, pursued global sourcing in full,
And kept driving our supply chain to less push, and more pull!*

*As I pondered our year, there quick arose such a sound,
I feared a tall bay of rack in reserve had gone down!*

*I jumped into my Cushman, raced past each and every dock door,
Towards the back of the DC – what would I find on the floor?*

*But as I swung round bulk storage, I saw I had nothing to dread,
For there sat St. Nick, on a new Raymond truck, green and red.*

*The red matched his bright suit, which could not have been finer,
Though a small tag in the back did say “Made in China.”*

*He was hanging some stockings from the racking's first beam,
And I could see on each one the names of my supply chain team.*

*On a pallet sat a big bundle, which he grabbed with a laugh,
And I wondered what Santa could have in store for my staff.*

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*He said, "I brought you the gifts that will help you to achieve,
Supply chain excellence and agility in 2007, I believe.*

*"For your director of transportation, a real-time load optimizer,
And carrier bid tools, so your freight contracts are wiser.*

*"For your forecasting head, real-time demand information,
And a new S&OP process that better guides allocation.*

*"For your inventory team, I can remove much of their pain,
Through complete visibility across every echelon in the chain.*

*"Your DC manager will like the voice pick system she'll be receiving,
And the advanced WMS that supports task interleaving.*

*"For you, a new Supply Chain dashboard, with all the metrics you want,
So you can see by the second who's performing, and who's not!"*

*Then he paused for a second, and put a finger to his lips,
Reached in his bag, and pulled out a fistful of chips.*

*"And the greatest gift of all, as I'm sure you'll agree,
Is for everyone, everywhere – lots of RFID!"*

*He dropped the tags in the stockings, turned round with some flair,
Pushed a button on the Raymond, and it took off in the air!*

*"Thank you Santa," I shouted, "These are really great tools!
But we'll need help to deploy them, configure business rules!"*

*Santa yelled, "Yes, the value from tech is sometimes not resultant.
But my elves are just coders – better hire lots of consultants!"*

*And I heard him exclaim, as he floated high above,
"Yes supply chain's sure hard, but it's the business we love!"*

Merry Christmas from Supply Chain Digest!