

SupplyChainDigest™

Twass the Night Before a Supply Chain Christmas 2022

Twass 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 2022 bonuses soon would be there.

As VP of Supply Chain, the buck stops right here.

But I would say got through another strange crazy year.

Now the job's never easy - for me or my team.

But this year's challenges were as great as I've ever seen!

The extreme variability in supply and demand,

Still you just have to execute no matter what you had planned.

The reported labor shortage was clearly quite real,

Despite pay hikes and signing bonuses to sweeten the deal.

And the need for supply chain resilience hit us right in the face,

As disruption and spikes became commonplace.

*So we're re-optimizing our network for whatever is next,
Both to lower our costs, but to also give us more flex.
Please don't get me started about port congestion -
The dwell time at LA/Long Beach was beyond comprehension.
And omnichannel, my goodness, I need a magic wand
With spells to keep our company from being Amazon'ed.
As I pondered our tough year, there quick arose such a sound,
I feared a tall bay of reserve rack had just fallen 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 Crown 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 team.
On a pallet nearby sat a large sack, which he grabbed with a laugh,
And I wondered what Santa could have in store for my staff.*

*He said, "I brought you the gifts that will help you to achieve,
Supply chain excellence and agility in 2023, I believe.*

*"For your director of transportation, I think he will have luck,
If I order for him a new electric Tesla Semi truck.*

*"For your planning team, real-time demand visibility,
And a new IBP process to drive much greater agility.*

*"For your inventory group, I can remove much of their pain,
Through true optimization across every echelon in the chain.*

*"For your DC manager, a mobile robot fleet,
For order picking productivity that cannot be beat.*

*"For you, a new 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 lip,
Reached in his bag, and pulled out a semiconductor chip.*

*"And the greatest gift of all, and where our futures lie,
Is for everyone, everywhere lots and lots of AI!*

*"And since I know that after that you're still yearning,
I will also send a link to download some logistics machine learning."*

He dropped the tag into my stocking, turned round with some flair,

Pushed a button on the Crown, 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 back, "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!