

## On Time With List & Label – Everything Set to Go in the Automotive Industry

Especially in the automotive industry, it's important for everything to be in the right place at the right time. Common just-in-sequence production processes particularly place demands on suppliers, who need to optimally manage their internal processes in order to supply their largely major customers with the right products. Labels, lists, barcodes, and easy to configure layouts that keep pace with sudden changes in the production process – with List & Label as the integral report generator and the List & Label Designer for end users working in production, it's never been easier to get ready, get going, and arrive on time.

### The Company

The Lear Corporation has 200 facilities in 35 countries worldwide. As one of the leading international automotive suppliers, the company has 5,000 employees in Germany alone, at 20 locations from Munich to Bremen. In addition to complete seating for all German and European car manufacturers, Lear also supplies electrical power management systems. Thanks to consistent improvement strategies, such as Six Sigma, the company – founded in 1917 in Detroit as "American Metal Products" – has succeeded in boosting efficiency and productivity, through its outstanding integration in car manufacturers' supply chains today.

### The Challenge

Optimizing processes not only results in changes and improvements to the products manufactured, rather the relevant labels, lists, barcodes, reports, and output devices also need to be adapted.

### Facts

**Organization:**  
Lear Corporation



**Sector:** Automotive industry

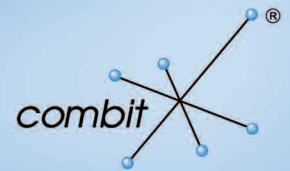
**Locations:** 200 worldwide

**Web:** www.lear.com

**Challenge:** Output of many different documents and labels which change constantly due to process optimization. Easy adaption of these changes, including layout, output device and media.

**Solution:** List & Label in the Professional Edition

**Success:** Using the List & Label Designer, all changes can be made without changing the source code, which significantly reduces programming effort.



According to Klaus Mueller from Lear's Bremen plant, whose team develops internal applications for Lear Germany, in cases where these are hard-coded in the source code, this entails a huge amount of work. All authorized end users in the production process should be able to, if necessary, set the relevant parameters and adapt the layout. 1D and 2D barcodes for product labels and production orders constantly need to be regenerated. Detailed reports containing charts and graphics offer a clear overview of complex procedures in the manufacturing process. If these reports can be simply and easily generated at any time during the production process and sent as a PDF or e-mail, management can be constantly kept up to date and valuable time is saved.

### The Solution

After extensive research, Klaus Mueller's team of software developers found that the reporting tool List & Label was the best tool on the market. Initially, the reporting component supplied with the Delphi development environment was used at Lear. "It quickly became clear that this component did not satisfy our requirements. The documentation for Delphi was also very poor – unlike the clear and concise, user-oriented documentation for List & Label," says Mueller of the reasons behind the decision to change to the licensed report generator List & Label. Mueller became interested in combit and its reporting tool after reading the excellent test reports in the computer magazine "c't", which said of List & Label: "... Anyone wanting to add not just reports but also an integrated report designer to their application is guaranteed to find a useful tool in List & Label."

The List & Label Designer can be passed on to end users license free, thereby enabling them to change print parameters quickly and easily during output, without the need for any programming work. When reports that contain graphics and can be adapted for the company's CD are sent by e-mail from the List & Label Designer, the end user is able to make any necessary layout changes themselves at any time. After spending just a week learning to use List & Label, Mueller was able to start using the tool in his work. "In addition to comprehensive, detailed documentation, combit also provides excellent programming examples to demonstrate all of List & Label's functions. As a developer, you can therefore concentrate on the provision of data for printing,"

says Mueller. When it comes to choosing a tool that is to be used in your software project in the long term, it's not just the component's current specifications that are important. Mueller advises developers to check that the manufacturer in question further develops its components, as combit has been doing with List & Label for 20 years now. "On the very rare occasion that we've required support, combit has always been quick to resolve the problem," says Mueller.

### Summary

A large number of internal Lear applications now use List & Label for easy, flexible output. "We wouldn't want to be without List & Label now. It simplifies the development of applications with printing functionality immensely," concludes Mueller. Mueller's team of developers has been using List & Label successfully for ten years now. The PDF output and e-mail functions in particular have become indispensable for Lear. In 2010, Lear's Bremen plant received the "Factory of the Year / Global Excellence in Operations" award, partly due to its outstanding integration in its customers' supply chains – something that has only been made possible as a result of the plant's internal production control software.

"We wouldn't want to be without List & Label now. It simplifies the development of applications with printing functionality immensely."

"The quality of advice and support, even on sales-related issues, is fantastic."  
Klaus Mueller, Lear Corporation

© combit GmbH, subject to changes and possible errors! This content is only a description and does not represent a guarantee for the quality of the products. Please note that with the third-party product versions that are mentioned, different releases may occur with other functions. All named products and product descriptions as well as logos are brands, registered trademarks or the property of the respective manufacturer.