20 Most Promising Retail Solution Providers 2015

The aisles in retail have transitioned intelligently—enabling the consumer to quickly zero-in on his favorite item and get it delivered at his place of request. The retail trajectory is bent on converging customer touch points to epitomize consumer experience. The future technology upheaval in retail is dependent on the effective utilization of the current innovations and sciences enveloping the dynamic retail space.

In retail's evolution spree, the CIOs have their fair share of challenges and opportunities rendered along the technology value-chain. With global e-commerce surging on as a trillion dollar industry, the pace of omni-channel retailing is gathering newer dimensions. Heralding a new beginning, the confluence of commerce technologies and social media trends, influence in-store purchase decisions, ramp up the convenience factor, and increase profits in the digital marketplace.

For all those gleaming merchandise stocked shelves, numerous technologies work in tandem to enable every commerce transaction, whether occurring in a bricks and mortar store or through online. The need to stay abreast of the rising retail tide is to invest in the right technology or the solution. The POS products and solutions, mobile payment apps, tablets with mobile POS—the creative deployment of today's technologies rope in the tactile experience for the consumer. The mobility-defined networks that showcase store associates as virtual assistants and the iBeacons that route relevant customer-centric promotions—all add to the retail experience.

In conjunction with the numerous technologies, the right implementation procedures and guidelines are definitely resourceful. The expertise of numerous consultants foretells the pitfalls, while ensuring easy and efficient adoption of relevant technologies.

In this scenario, in order to assist CIOs in identifying the right technology providers, CIO Review presents "20 Most Promising Retail Solution Providers 2015."

A Distinguished panel comprising CEOs, CIOs, VCs, analysts, and the CIO Review editorial board has selected the final 20.

PlumSlice Labs, Inc

recognized by *CIOReview* magazine as

CIORETAIL
20 MOST PROMISING
SOLUTION PROVIDERS 2015

An annual listing of 20 companies that are in the forefront of offering Retail Technology Solutions and impacting the marketplace

Jeevan George
Managing Editor
CIOReview

Company:
PlumSlice Labs

Key Person:
Abnesh Raina,
CEO and Founder

Description:
Provides a suite of web and mobile applications with eight modules by leveraging the cloud and mobile technology

Website:
plumslice.com

PlumSlice Labs
Collaborative Workflow-based RepositoryApps to Support Digital Commerce Ecosystem

With the changing business dynamics and increasing competition, (R)Etail companies are adapting newer technologies to enhance customer-shopping experience as well as revamp internal processes that impact that experience. Once skeptical, (R)Etailers are now harnessing cloud computing and mobility at a rapid pace to better connect with their customers, collaborate with suppliers worldwide, streamline internal processes, and reduce IT costs. Understanding this new paradigm, San Francisco, CA based PlumSlice Labs, is leveraging cloud, big data and mobile business technology to provide a suite of web and mobile apps to help retailers manage and sell their products more economically, creatively, and efficiently by:

1) Streamlining workflows for the extended enterprise including suppliers

2) Helping manage product data creation, flow, quality management

3) Providing automation in workflow decision making where possible

Abnesh Raina, CEO and Founder of PlumSlice Labs remarks, "While we started with the vision of building a Product Cloud with four core applications, driven by the customer pain points and requests for additional solutions, we ended up creating eight products as part of our retail ecosystem application suite"

Abnesh Raina

One of company's flagship products, PlumSlice PIM+ is designed as a collaborative workflow-based repository that helps retailers' internal and external teams collaborate, create, manage, govern, and distribute product content. Its UI driven dynamic API build combined with Restful API's helps companies connect PlumSlice to their core eCommerce and ERP systems as well as external partners including search engines, x-sell/up-sell recommendation engines, marketplaces etc. PlumSlice Digital Asset Management, another solution of the company helps manage product's digital assets on cloud including images and videos of the products.

Similarly PlumSlice's Select tool enables company's buyers visiting factories or tradeshows to streamline the product selection process via its SELECT Mobile and Web Apps.

"Our RESEARCH tool analyzes linkages between structured data such as orders, returns, inventory etc. and unstructured data like product reviews, social media posts etc., to provide 70+ pre-enabled out of box widgets/scenarios for insights into product performance at any level of product hierarchy, the latest trends, different search patterns within the scenarios," briefs Raina.

The company also offers a cloud based Vendor Portal that delivers built-in collaboration between buying teams and their suppliers. Furthermore, "We also offer PlumSlice Develop software, which is a light weight Product Lifecycle Management (PLM) tool for smaller to mid-sized retailers," remarks Raina.

Highlighting a few case studies, Raina said that they recently streamlined the entire end to end product data management process for a large multi-branded retailer. As they were accessing more than 15 spreadsheets with over 600 product attributes prior to implementing PlumSlice, they were in dire need of a solution to reduce manual mistakes and improve time to market. With PlumSlice's multiple fully integrated mod-

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ule offerings, the client was able to streamline their end to end product content management process. "Our system is highly configurable, and we helped the client to manage the implementation economically within three months," adds Raina.

Moving ahead, on two main areas the company aims to focus on the retail industry are—mobile and automation. "We plan to enhance the mobile applications and add other features to the existing tool and are working on automating the decision making process to speed up the end to end processes for our customers," ends Raina. CR