

White Paper

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# Top 10 Benefits of Adopting SaaS-based Operator Rounds

Early detection of faulty equipment is a challenging task with paper-based processes. SaaS-based operator rounds solutions help industrial plants and manufacturing facilities improve their operational efficiency and safety. By automating tasks and making data more accessible, SaaS-based operator rounds solutions identify and address problems more quickly. This can lead to reduced downtime, increased productivity, and improved safety.

In this whitepaper, we dig deep into the problems with the legacy operator rounds process and explore how SaaS-based mobile operator rounds can solve those problems. We will also discuss the advantages of using SaaS and Cloud technology for operator rounds, how it helps get more accurate data to decision makers faster, and provides a clearer picture of what's going on in the plant when a shift changeover takes place.

## Problems With Paper-Based Operator Rounds

Despite being nearly a quarter of the way into the 21st century, many industrial and manufacturing plants still use a paper-based process to conduct operator rounds and share collected data. This paper-based process offers almost no advantages, especially in a fast-paced environment. Instead, it likely causes as many problems as it solves. Paper-based operator rounds are slow, cumbersome, and frequently inaccurate.

## Paper-based operator rounds problems

No real-time visibility

Communication delays

Greater chance for errors

Misplaced or lost data

More opportunities to overlook things

Data gathering and sharing challenges

Manual entry into ERP

With paper, the operator has to lug around a clipboard or binder, manually entering data – first on the form, then into the back-office ERP. This process means a lot of things can go wrong. For example:

- The clipboard or checklist could be lost or misplaced
- The operator or administrator may not be able to decipher the handwriting
- The operator could be interrupted during the round and forget or overlook a step
- A preventable equipment issue or safety incident could occur during the time it takes to enter paper-based operator rounds information into the back-office system

So, the question arises: Is it worth it to still be using a paper-based process for operator rounds? No, it's not. Managers and supervisors need a better way to gather, store, and share information during, and after a shift.

Is there a way to accurately gather round information and get it into the hands of managers and supervisors in a timely fashion for rapid action? Is a solution available today that doesn't require a back-office ERP or a proprietary third-party system and hardware? And, is there a system that can be used by operators without a lot of training or instruction? Finally, is there a solution that can be deployed quickly without weeks, even months, of testing before it's ready for use?

Happily, the answer to all of those questions is an emphatic yes.

## **SaaS-based Mobile Operator Rounds As a Solution**

Rather than conducting a round using a paper checklist and clipboard, mobile operator rounds allow an operator to complete the inspection in a 100 percent digital manner – no paper or manual data entry is required. The operator instead uses the convenient portability of a mobile device, such as a smartphone or tablet, to perform the round.

The manager or supervisor can plan, schedule, and issue a round, configuring the digital form to meet the company's business needs, in just minutes.

Users can quickly and easily create, edit, and deploy digital forms, even if the user has little or no coding, technical knowledge, or experience. In the field, the operator completes the form electronically by checking boxes or filling in fields. The operator cannot skip a step; every portion must be filled in before a round can be finished.

Data is automatically uploaded to the Cloud as it is entered. Managers and supervisors may follow round progress in real-time, gaining valuable visibility into conditions at the plant and a head start on making knowledge-based decisions on potential remedial action to take if needed.

## Benefits of Replacing a Legacy System With SaaS-Based Operator Rounds

SaaS-based operator rounds solutions offer numerous advantages over legacy systems. It is cost-effective, scalable, secure, and compliant and helps organizations improve collaboration and productivity. Let's look at some of the advantages that SaaS-powered operator rounds bring to industrial plants.

### 1. Cost optimization

SaaS-based operator rounds solutions save the cost of purchasing and maintaining expensive hardware and software, this helps save cost. The ease of access to data also saves time and money in using and analyzing operator rounds data.

## 2. Scalability

SaaS-based solutions are easily scalable. Organizations can easily add or remove users as needed. This is important for businesses that are growing or that experience seasonal fluctuations in traffic.

## 3. Security

SaaS security technologies like two-factor authentication and data encryption while storing and transmitting in the Cloud, makes it more secure than traditional on-premises solutions. With SaaS-based operator rounds, organizations get a centralized data repository with backup that eliminates the need to create backups at the individual plant level. This helps in easy data recovery in case of any unwanted situation/accident at a particular plant level. According to RapidScale, 94% of businesses have seen an improvement in security after switching to SaaS solutions

## 4. Compliance

SaaS-powered operator rounds help to comply with industry regulations. The SaaS providers' experience in meeting the requirements of various regulations helps organizations stay compliant with new regulations with ease.

## 5. Remote access

Operator rounds backed by SaaS technology allow anytime anywhere access to data and systems. This is of great use for industrial plants that are spread across geographies. The system also helps frontline workers who are working in remote locations. They can easily access relevant data in case of an emergency.

## 6. Collaboration

The Cloud makes it easy for multiple users to collaborate on data and tasks. Maintenance and operations teams can access and share information with ease easily through the SaaS-based platform. This helps in improving productivity and efficiency.

## 7. Automated reporting and data analytics

SaaS-based systems generate automated reports which save a lot of time and manual effort. The reports provide actionable insights using which the maintenance teams can plan a better strategy to prevent equipment failure and reduce unplanned downtime.

## 8. Competitive Advantage

Despite the growing popularity and its multiple benefits, many organizations still prefer legacy systems. For the enterprises that choose to implement SaaS-based operator rounds, there's a clear competitive edge that comes with the ease and accessibility that SaaS brings along. By being early adopters, organizations stay ahead of their peers in the market by gaining expertise and maturity in the Cloud-based processes while others just start planning the implementation.

## 9. Upgrades and maintenance

SaaS providers are responsible for upgrading and maintaining the software and hardware that powers organizations' SaaS-based operator rounds solution. This means that companies don't need to worry about updates and upgrades.

## 10. Quality control

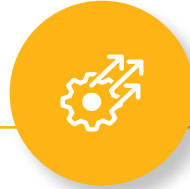
SaaS allows single-format documentation which helps eliminate chances of manual errors and inconsistent reporting. Data and information consistency breaks down the information silos as the system does not allow multiple versions of documents. This in turn eliminates confusion and chances of data dilution.

## Big Benefits

The adoption of SaaS has the potential to support operational and organizational efficiencies, with the study identifying three key benefits:



Cost savings were identified by **42%** of respondents



Getting things done more efficiently (**40%**)



Better allocation of IT resources (**38%**)

Dell Technologies

## A Real Advantage

**77%** of businesses believe SaaS technology gives them a competitive advantage.

Verizon



# Introducing mRounds: SaaS-based Mobile Operator Rounds for the Cloud

Innovapptive, a global leader in connected worker solutions, has developed a [SaaS-based operator rounds system](#) that corrects all the problems associated with a paper-based process.



## What Differentiates mRounds?

Most operator round products in the market offer 'point' solutions that don't integrate well with Asset Performance Management (APM) and Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) planning systems such as SAP and IBM Maximo. Innovapptive's SaaS-based operator rounds solution integrates data such as functional locations, equipment, and hierarchies and allows operators to "drag and drop" and build their physical walkthrough route plan.

Operators can record observations, and issues, and create actions directly from the field during the round. These issues can be converted to an ERP Notification and the operator can track the closure of the notification, as it evolved from a notification to a work order and through the different statuses.

In addition, Innovapptive offers other unique differentiation, such as integrating digital shift logs, generating shift handover reports, tracking acknowledgments, publishing notice of change (NOC), and generating alerts. Innovapptive is the only connected worker platform that allows enterprise customers to effectively bring their connected assets, frontline workers working in operations, maintenance, warehouses, and back-office together to improve productivity, safety, compliance, and uptime.

The mRounds solution is powered by Innovapptive's "Low-Code/No-Code" platform that allows for instant digitization of rounds. Once authored by a "Business/Citizen Developer," rounds can be scheduled to capture valuable field data on equipment operating conditions, safety, quality, environment, and compliance. Field personnel can quickly capture anomalies and any issues observed proactively to prevent a safety or downtime-related incident.

mRounds is an enhanced version of Innovapptive's existing SaaS-based RACE™ Dynamic Forms and Operator Rounds solutions that replace slow, time-consuming paper-based equipment and safety checks with quick, easy-to-complete digital ones. The new SaaS solution provides enhanced features such as automated analytics, shift logging, shift handover reports, alerts, notifications, issues logging, actions, and more.

mRounds operates as a standalone SaaS solution connected to the Cloud. This permits data collection and sharing from anywhere, at any time. The application also offers online/offline capability with rapid synchronization for use in areas with poor connectivity. mRounds operates without an ERP, such as SAP or IBM Maximo. This delivers more freedom and utility. However, the solution can be easily integrated into a back-office ERP if desired.

## What You and Your Team Can Accomplish with mRounds

Innovapptive's mRounds SaaS-based mobile operators rounds offer an intuitive, easy-to-use solution to:

- Eliminate slow and cumbersome paperwork
- Gain greater operational visibility
- Cut equipment downtime
- Extend and improve asset life and reliability
- Reduce accidents and improve safety compliance
- Decrease operational costs

mRounds offers fully digitized rounds planning and scheduling. Managers and supervisors can easily configure, create, edit, issue, and monitor operator rounds, including:

- Adding data validation rules, filters, and label changes
- Analyzing results to make knowledge-based decisions regarding corrective action
- Assigning and managing tasks, crews, and roles
- Affixing notes and/or photos
- Attaching work instructions and SOPs
- Ensuring mandatory tasks cannot be skipped without a note

On the other side, operators and technicians can raise notifications for corrective action before an issue becomes catastrophic, resulting in a costly EHS incident or asset downtime.

## mRounds use cases



### Plan and schedule operator rounds

- Adding data validation rules, filters, and label changes
- Analyzing results to make knowledge-based decisions regarding corrective action



### Operator rounds execution

- View and execute tasks from one place
- Digitally access standard procedures and documents
- Work in online and offline modes



### Post-execution

- Real-time data capture and execution progress
- Raise notifications directly from the app
- Auto-create Shift handover reports and observation dashboards

# Ready to Join the Operator Rounds Revolution? Arrange for a Free Demo Today

Keep your team informed. More efficient operator rounds are available now. [Click here](#) to discover the benefits and advantages of a SaaS-based solution by visiting our mRounds microsite. [Click here](#) to view a short introductory video. Our experts are standing by to offer a free demonstration of mRounds, answer your questions and understand your unique needs. [Click here](#) to schedule a no-obligation demo or give us a call at **844-464-6668**.

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Produced in the United States of America. 2023-254

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