Features

Differences TRIMIT Production vs. BC Manufacturing

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TRIMIT

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Introduction

In this document, the differences are described between production in TRIMIT and Microsoft BC Manufacturing.

TRIMIT Production is not based on standard BC Manufacturing

There are three reasons why TRIMIT has its own Production functionality and not using standard BC Manufacturing functionalities.

- TRIMIT started in 1991 with a vertical solution for the furniture industry. At that time there was already a need for Production functionality, which was not available in standard Navision yet.
- 9 Years later Navision came with the first Manufacturing features. This was a very generic solution that can be used for all sorts of Production. However, specific industries required customization. TRIMIT Production already contains all necessary features for having 'discrete'[1] Production.
- The core of the TRIMIT solution is the configurator. With the TRIMIT configurator basic Products with lots of variations are handled. The Items are created 'on the fly' and the Bill of Materials (BOM) is calculated from a Master BOM with business rules (TRIMIT Formulas). This configurator is therefore heavily integrated with Production functionality. The Microsoft BC Manufacturing solution is lacking the basis for properly working with the TRIMIT configurator.

You could argue that the configurator and all the required functionality could be built into BC Manufacturing. However, the result will be so different from the existing TRIMIT Production solution that for current customers upgrading means re-implementation.

An advantage of having TRIMIT Production is that Microsoft BC Manufacturing modules/objects are not necessary. This makes the price of the Microsoft license cheaper (Business Central Essentials vs Business Central Premium) .

Differences Production Order and BOM

The principals of TRIMIT Production and BC Manufacturing can be compared. Both solutions have different Production Order statuses. In both solutions a Production Order can be released, so that it becomes work in process (WIP). This also requires their own financial setup for WIP (Interim) G/L Accounts. However, the principles are the same and setup in the Inventory Posting Setup.

Both solutions are also integrated with BC Warehousing and can work with Item Tracking (Lot tracking and Serial Numbers). BOMs can also be exploded on Sales Lines in both solutions.
In the table below, the differences are shown between TRIMIT Production and BC Manufacturing.

FUNCTIONALITY	TRIMIT Production	BC Manufacturing
Type	Discrete	Generic
Configurator	Integrated	-
Shop Floor Management	TRIMIT App available	-

[1] Discrete production is the production of distinct items. The resulting products are easily identifiable and differ greatly from process manufacturing.

FUNCTIONALITY	TRIMIT Production	BC Manufacturing
BOM	Apart from fixed BOMs also temporary BOMs possible that are calculated based on a Master BOM and TRIMIT Formulas	Only fixed BOMs on Items
BOM Versions	Only Workaround due to the fact that temporary BOMs are created on the fly based on the Master BOM with the most recent info	BOM versions possible
Components	Materials and Operations/Setups in BOM Component Lines: one table	Materials in Production BOM Lines. Operation steps in Routing Lines: two different tables
Parallel Operations	Only as workaround with Sub-assemblies	Standard BC
Link Materials with Operations	In BOM Component Line structure	Via Routing Link Code
Related Order	Orders for Make-To-Order products are linked directly	Only via Order Tracking
Reservations	TRIMIT generally does not work with BC reservation feature. Alternatives available	Reservation Entries can be made. However, very labor intensive and rigid
Assembly Orders	Treated as Production Orders	Separate functionality
Managing multiple Production Orders	Production Collecting Orders (=combination of individual Production Orders which contain only 1 Item)	Only individually, but a Production Order can contain many different Items.
Production Order Status	One field for Order Status: New, Planned, Released, Partly Finished, Finished, Closed	Different pages for Simulated, Planned, Firm Planned, Released, Finished
Matrix items	Via Production Collecting Orders	-
Outsourced Production	Labor can only be purchased as (Cost) Item	Labor can be purchased
Automatic Creation of Transfer Orders for Outsourced Production	Control via Production Collecting Order or SKUs depending on the company process	Transfer Order Lines only controlled by Stock Keeping Units (SKUs)
Production Bins	Per Location	Per Work Center

FUNCTIONALITY	TRIMIT Production	BC Manufacturing
Archiving	Possible for Production Orders and Production Collecting Orders	-
Unit Cost	In Production Order detailed overview of pre-calculated cost based on BOM and post-calculated cost based on consumptions	Only current value on Item that needs to be produced

Differences in Material Planning

In both production features the planning of the Raw Materials is almost identical. Both solutions react on the availability in BC and consider the Reorder Point, Fixed Reorder Quantities and Maximum Inventory. Both solutions can also work with periods in which the demand can be combined. Both Manual Consumption and Forward/Backward Flushing is possible in either of the solutions.

However, there are also differences. These can be found in the table below.

FUNCTIONALITY	TRIMIT Production	BC Manufacturing
Demand Planning[2]	MRP for both dependent and independent need (MRP I+II)	Independent need: MPS Dependent Need: MRP
Planning Parameterization	Extensive: via MRP Setup	Limited to filters on Order Lines.
Period for combining demand	MRP Period. Start Date determined via MRP Setup.	Reorder Cycle. Starting at 1st demand
Planning Horizon	Multiple of MRP Periods	Independent from Reorder Cycle
Availability Check	Extensive: Throughout BOM structure optimized by use of Management Levels	Minimal
Planning per Location	Per Location or Overall	Only per Location
Planning Direction	Vertical track planning possible.	Level by Level (Top-Down)

Differences in Capacity Planning

The differences between TRIMIT and BC regarding time planning of Production Orders are more fundamental. Microsoft BC can only plan according to a Capacity Calendar. TRIMIT has more possibilities among which Date Calculation based on lead times. On the other hand, BC can plan according to constraint capacity, which cannot be done in TRIMIT. However, planning with Production Series comes very close.

[2] Independent need is demand resulting Sales orders and stock parameters. Dependent need is demand resulting from Production Order Component Lines.

Both solutions work with Work Centers in which different production steps can be executed. Both solutions are not very visual. External Apps can be used to have a visual production planning. Integration with these Apps may require customization.

As discussed above, there are several significant differences between TRIMIT Production and Microsoft BC Manufacturing. These are shown in the following table.

FUNCTIONALITY	TRIMIT Production	BC Manufacturing
Capacity Unit of Measure	In Minutes only	Other UoM possible
Production Steps	Operations	Machine Centers
Planning Type	Forward Planning. (only with a specific setting JIT planning can be simulated)	Forward and Just-in-Time planning (JIT)
Capacity Planning	- Lead Time - Date Calculation - Infinite Capacity - Production Series	- Infinite Capacity - Constraint Capacity
Capacity backward planning consecutive operations	Operations are not planned automatically on same day. (ending time is 0:00h on starting date next operation)	Looking at capacity on same day before it looks to previous day. (real times)
Bottleneck Management	On Work Center	-
Dampeners	On Time (per MRP Setup/ Order Type)	On Time and Quantity

Conclusion

The Production principles in both TRIMIT solution and Microsoft BC are based on common supply chain methodologies. That is the reason why there is a huge overlap between the two manufacturing features. However, there are also differences that can make the difference. In general, do not automatically assume that everything that is possible in Microsoft BC is also possible in TRIMIT and vice versa.

This document should provide you sufficient insights in the differences between the two solutions. However, if you want to know more about how TRIMIT Production works, training is very recommendable.