

Remsoft Says Its AI Predicts Timber Harvests Accurately

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Fredericton tech company **Remsoft** says it is integrating artificial intelligence to enhance its planning products and give companies a more realistic look at their productivity.

The 30-year-old company started out making software to help forestry companies with their strategic planning and logistics.

About four and half years ago, the company also launched a cloud platform that takes data about a company's operations and helps with near-term planning, said **Elliot Sullivan**, director of product management, cloud solutions.

"But it's predicated on the fact that the data that you gave it is good," said Sullivan in an interview.

The company's new artificial intelligence features, though, analyze expected productivity, actual productivity and other data to give new insights into the amount of timber the company can expect to harvest in a day and predict potential delays.

"AI can start telling you, 'well maybe our predictions are different than your assumptions:'"

About 90% to 95% of the time, the factors involved in determining a logging crew's productivity aren't surprising, Sullivan said. But some things the AI will pick up on aren't obvious, such as crews working more slowly when given a bigger assignment.

Sullivan spoke about the company's work at a presentation called Emerging Trends in AI for New Brunswick's Priority Sectors & Industries during the **New Brunswick Innovation Foundation's R3** conference in **Moncton**.

Tech company **Fiddlehead** also spoke at the presentation about its recent work with **McCain** (see 2022-06-09).

Remsoft, which helps manage over 500 million acres of forests through over 150 customers across the world, including **J.D. Irving**, started beta testing the AI features last year, with the official rollout coming with its June update.

Sullivan said they have one client in New Brunswick using their operations platform, which they hope will move into using the AI, but the feature is still early into its launch.

This new feature allows the company to differentiate itself from competing technology and move into predictive analytics.

"We see it as expanding our presence on the supply chain and enhancing what we already do well," said Sullivan.

In 2020, the company also bought maintenance, repair and operations company **Xtivity** (see 2020-03-09).

Remsoft is continuing to expand its AI features, Sullivan said.

It's working on a component that can analyze weather data to predict the point when rain will make the ground too soggy for heavy equipment to operate, something that's particularly valuable in the **Southeastern United States**.

"What we're hoping to do is... come in early, tackle a problem, a very defined problem, and start growing from there," said Sullivan. "And growth to us means adding more AI capabilities."