CASE STUDY

Natural Fiber Welding consolidates R&D data to accelerate innovation, improve collaboration, and position for scale.

Natural Fiber Welding (NFW) is a material science innovation company that creates plastic-free performance materials from natural inputs. Founded in 2015 with an eye toward a truly circular future, the company has raised more than $155 million since its inception. NFW partners with leading brands like Allbirds, Ralph Lauren, and IWC to bring their groundbreaking new materials to global industries.

NFW is constantly testing new recipes and running experiments to build more resilient leather, rubber, and fabric alternatives. The research team—headed by CTO Aaron Amstutz—was relying on a myriad of spreadsheets to manage the R&D processes, a homegrown system that presented two serious challenges. First, managing permissions was a massive undertaking— some scientists needed the ability to edit spreadsheets and others needed the ability to view those formulations but not be able to change data. Second, this system required constant manual intervention to maintain and connect information.

Since joining the company in 2017, Amstutz and his team has been laser-focused on bringing new sustainable materials to market. After dealing with an inefficient system for many years, they knew there had to be a more efficient way to work. "There were people spending hours every day rearranging data," Amstutz says. "How much analysis actually happened was limited by all the effort it took to get the data structured in the first place."

"As soon as I saw the Uncountable solution, I realized here's something that's actually built for what we're doing," Amstutz says. He found Uncountable was built specifically for formulators and was nimble enough to keep pace with the company's rapid growth.

> **"We spent between four and six hours a week looking for old data and summarizing it into a presentation worth sharing. Uncountable helps us locate data and put together beautiful charts and graphs in minutes."**
>
> **Skylar Clement**
> **Material Development Engineer**

Currently, NFW has about 70 users on Uncountable (about 25% of the entire company). Thanks to complex permissions and access controls, NFW expects to scale to hundreds of users across different departments as they continue to expand.

70 users on Uncountable

25%
of the company

Scale to hundreds of users in the future
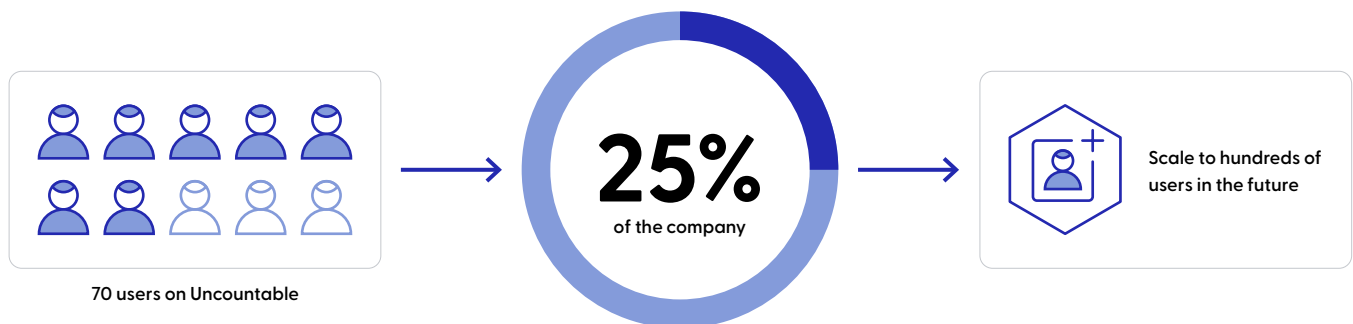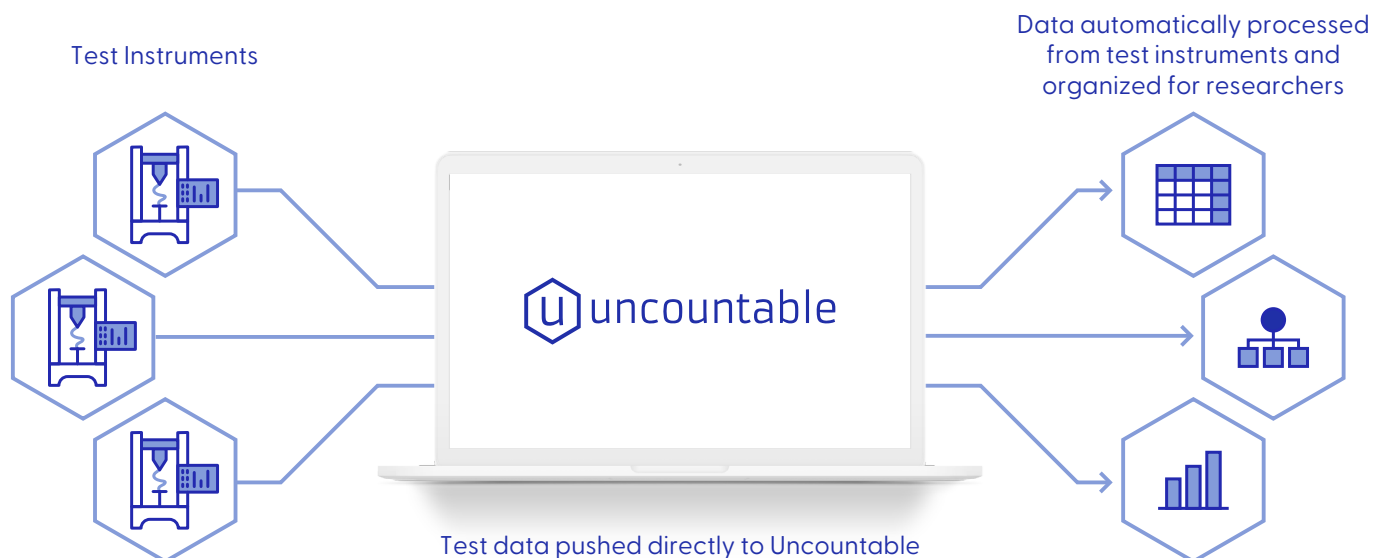
Saving hours of time each week

Uncountable has enabled Amstutz to reclaim practically all of the time he previously spent managing spreadsheets and permissions.

"Personally, I save something like 10 hours a week, maybe 20 hours a week, in just analyzing data," Fuhrman continues. "But that's magnified across my entire team because each of us is running experiments."

> **"Grabbing cells out of an Excel spreadsheet, grabbing data out of a database and trying to graph it and get it all put together would have taken hours. Now, I can do it in two or three minutes."**
>
> **Maggie Fuhrman**
> **R&D Manager**

Test Instruments

Data automatically processed from test instruments and organized for researchers

Test data pushed directly to Uncountable

Uncountable has made it easier for researchers and formulators to collaborate. Every recipe, process, and measurement gets captured in Uncountable making it incredibly easy to compare changes and results. What's more, all projects live inside the platform, enabling each team member to create visually appealing graphs and reports by pulling data out of multiple experiments with ease.

Unlocking the full potential of R&D through a strong partnership

In addition to the platform's feature-rich functionality and intuitive design, Amstutz has been particularly impressed by Uncountable's approach to customer success.

"From the very first time I reached out, Uncountable has been very, very engaged in seeing our success," he explains. Since implementation, the Uncountable team has helped drive value for NFW by proposing new features to solve their complicated data problems, and continuing to push users to leverage all of the platform's capabilities.

For more information about how Uncountable can supercharge your organization's R&D efforts and strengthen collaboration, request a demo today.