

Automated Data Collection

Project Benefits & ROI

There are many opportunities to optimize your business efficiencies through automated data collection. This will in turn result in a streamlined, leaner structure and processes, putting you in an advantageous position to react to business changes in your environment. It also relates to ROI. When you talk about more accurate picking, fewer returns, better cycle count, things of those nature, you will see a clear ROI and will want to invest in the technology. You will be better positioned to handle increased business volumes with existing, more productive labor resources. You will also be better positioned to handle your customers efficiently and thus provide greater value to them as their supplier.

Accuracy

Properly barcoded parts, lots and locations provide for accurate data entry and scanning into your ERP application. With a scan of a barcoded field, there will be no occurrences of transposing numbers or keying of wrong numbers. For example, when somebody goes to pick a product, it could be that there are two products that are very similar. Their product numbers may be off by one digit. So in a manual environment, where somebody is writing down on a pick ticket an item number, maybe they transpose a number or they write down what they thought they picked, but they took the wrong number; they took the wrong product. In an RF environment, they're scanning in a number. If you get an item that's not on the order, the system tells you that you can't ship that item - it's not on this order. So what the system is really allowing them to do is validate items that they're shipping out.

Timeliness

The value of timely data in the system provides increased levels of information in the hands of the people who need that knowledge. With the current manual processes, material availability or locations are significantly delayed with the entry of hand written tickets, which are manually keyed into the system at a later time. Often, locations will be keyed after the material has already been moved elsewhere.

Workflow

The simplification of the scanning operation is critical to the business function. It is all about workflow. Our RF programs are built to emulate the workflow of the actual business process, while updating the ERP application in the background; simplification of the scanning operation is critical to the business function. It is all about workflow. Our RF programs are built to emulate the workflow of the actual business process, while updating the ERP application in the background, using its existing business rules. The existing screens were never created to emulate the workflow of the operation; they were designed as a manual batch process after the actual work had taken place. That is where most of the productivity is gained in the RF and bar code implementation. As long as a proper workflow is designed into the RF programs, the data is collected at the point of creation and there is an efficient update of the database in real time.

Accountability

With proper portable computer sign-in procedures, users are tracked to the actual transactions as they occur in the warehouse. Proper supervisor authorization is needed to handle override situations (such as handling discrepancies in receiving or inventory count variances). This makes it easier to pinpoint any areas of concern where a higher than acceptable number of transaction errors may occur.



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