Warehouse Barcode Scanning Options in IQ reseller

IQ reseller
The #1 IT Reseller Profit Management Software

This whitepaper explains the differing methods IQ reseller users take when collecting data and processing inventory in the warehouse. Each method has its own features and benefits. Understanding all the options is essential for determining the best strategy for your IT reselling organization. In many cases the best strategy is to use a combination of methods.

1. Tethered class 2 laser scanning options such as Symbol 4007 I, LS 2200 series for $100.
2. Mobile "cart" based system using wireless laptops or desktop machines.
3. Wireless PDA style Pocket PC scanning systems Symbol 8800 series, $1600.Designed to work with IQ reseller**Mobile** wireless PDA style data collection.

Tethered Scanning

Scanners attached to a computer are called tethered scanners. This is the least expensive and easiest to setup for any user. They can be up and running in 10 minutes. Ruggedized units are very affordable at $100 to $150. IQ reseller recommends the Symbol 4007i USB and LS 2200 scanners. These have a powerful class 2 laser and are programmable such that when a scan is complete it can engage a down arrow key to move the cursor on to the next step. The down arrow allows you to create a quick workflow in the IQ reseller receiving and inventory updates portion of the application where the cursor is moved down the grid after each scan allowing you to immediately scan the next serial number being received. 100 Disk drive serial numbers may be scanned in 100 seconds. Tethered scanners can be connected to any PC via USB and collect data from manufacturer-provided serial number and product barcodes on the part. Collection of data by scanner is 100% accurate as compared to a 5% error rate for hand typing serial numbers.

Mobile Cart

A mobile cart based system works well for companies processing smaller parts in multiple locations. Space available in shelves, or bins built into the cart, can be used to move parts to various locations in the warehouse updating locations easily via the tethered scanner or short range wireless scanner (not PDA style). The advantage of the cart is that the user has access to all of the features available to them in IQ reseller. In addition the network provides full access to email and other applications. A wireless access point installed in the warehouse provides the necessary network connection to the mobile cart.

Shelf locations may be printed in barcode equivalent available from any barcode font generator available on the internet from Word or Excel. You may try this now at: http://www.barcodesinc.com/generator/index.phpin Once printed place them on the shelf warehouse locations. They are easily read by the scanner, allowing easy updates of the inventory location.

The latest mobile computers have 8 hour battery life (or extra batteries). Older units need a power source to run the notebook on the cart for the workday, which can be accomplished using a 12 volt automobile battery attached to a DC-to-AC converter to bring the power up to 110volts to run the power supply for the computer. The converter generally costs $30 to $40, and the battery slightly more. A trickle charger for the battery recharges it in the evening for the next day. Therefore, a bill of materials to build a cart system is:

Bill of Materials

1. Cart on wheels with shelves and bins
2. 12 Volt auto battery
3. DC to AC converter
4. Wireless notebook or computer and Monitor
5. Tethered scanner (or short range wireless)
6. Wireless access in warehouse
7. 12 volt trickle charger

IQ resellerMobile

Mobile is an abbreviated screen, PDA style application which allows the user to wirelessly perform the following warehouse tasks in the IQ reseller application:

- Receive inventory
- Record condition code of inventory e.g., New, Ref, Remanufactured etc.
- Record any comments pertaining to that individual item, e.g., damage etc.
- Update locations
- Removal of one part from another
- Build-up of a machine or assembly
- Use of barcode placeholders to uniquely identify inventory items for further processing later.

Any device that supports a web browser can use **Mobile**. Wireless PDA scanning devices are uniquely suited, since they have the capability to collect and display data with the scanner. Available models include:

Symbol PPT 8800 wireless PDA Style series:
The 8800 runs on the Windows Pocket PC OS and has a class 2 laser scanner which will read through the darkest antistatic wrap. Reading manufacturer serial numbers and product numbers through antistatic material is essential as it saves processing time. If goods are tested and repacked, the class 2 laser can read the IQ reseller generated barcode label through the antistatic bag should you choose to place it inside. In addition, the laser allows greater distance in scanning warehouse locations for locating or re-locating product in new locations with the **Mobile** application.

The 8800 does not have a "blackberry" style keyboard. This is because it has multiple ways to enter data:

1. Most interesting is the "transcriber". The transcriber allows the user to write anywhere on the screen, and the device converts what is written to type text and inserts it into the field where the cursor resides. It is very accurate in its ability to convert appropriately whether you are printing or writing. Thus, adding comments to inventory items anywhere in the inventory process becomes very easy:
   - Scan the IQ reseller generated label
   - Add comments to inventory item or update inventory location.
2. The 8800 will also allow users to receive and send email via outlook. It has a 400MHZ processor and works in any 802.11 wireless network 128 bit WEP encryption can be used for tighter security.
3. The 8800 allows voice processing as well. With a headset and microphone, voice response programming works from keywords, such as using the word "condition" to move the cursor to the condition field. In this example, speaking the word "refurb" causes the condition code to be updated to "refurbished." There is an additional cost for this type of programming.

These wireless units cost around $1600 each because they are "ruggedized." They can be dropped from a 4 foot height onto concrete multiple times, and may be kicked around and still work fine. The batteries are long life and will work an 8 hour day without recharging.

Every update in the system happens in "live" mode. There is no batch processing. Every user is working from the same database. This allows the company to keep the inventory accurate at all times.