



Case Study

Solution Tool

SerialMagic Professional Power Upgrade + Laserchamp II Bluetooth Barcode Reader

Business Situation

Monitoring daily patrol of remote sites

Problem

A team of employees of our customer, Manutec s.r.l., performs daily patrol for critical rooms to check temperatures are ok. The problem was to remotely collect this log, assure that the employees did the patrol, and make a daily report to the customer. An important constraint is the patrol team goes into areas that have no GPRS cellular signal or any other wireless internet connection.

The solution also needed to be as simple and robust as possible.

Solution

Considering the employees already have Blackberry (Pearl 8100) mobile phones we based the solution around the SerialMagic software combined with the Laserchamp II Bluetooth barcode reader. Since the solution does not require complete cell signal coverage, it makes no difference the mobile data signal is not always present. The employee uses the LaserChamp II Bluetooth barcode reader, scans barcodes printed on sheets in the rooms and then comes back to the base. Then a special barcode is scanned to enables the Bluetooth transmission and the employee simply waits for data transferred to the Blackberry to complete. Then another control barcode is scanned to disable the Bluetooth radio, then the scanner is ready for another patrol.

The process is very simple thanks to the SerialMagic software installed into the Blackberry. Data is collected with time-stamps is sent to the iScanList.com server which prepares an email with attachment in standard "CSV" format and sends it to the email address set in the iScanList.com account for the scanners.

Totem customized the ERP at Manutec to constantly check the email address (defined on iScanList.com account), and downloads the attachment, combines it with the data of the ERP and generates a report that is sent to another email address.

Benefits

From the employees point of view the process is very simple. There was no need for extensive training. There's only one button to press on the LaserChamp for reading the barcodes, and single special barcodes to turn on and off the Bluetooth scanner radio - nothing else. This permitted to virtually instant production roll-out for the error free solution.

Initial concerns regarding the lack of a PC with an Internet connection or a constant GPRS wireless data connection coverage on the site were quickly eliminated, and due to the simple and robust nature of the solution it can be used at more sites.

GPRS traffic was already included into cellular contracts so no additional costs were needed for data transfer.

There's one more aspect to take into account, these products are modular. The LaserChamp wireless barcode scanner can be changed for another model without having to change the SerialMagic software on the Blackberry. The blackberry can also be changed without having to change the LaserChamp barcode scanner. We especially appreciated this "future-proof" solution concept.

The process has been so simple to implement we're considering expanding to use with employees badge and other similar solutions.