





Client Business Description

♦ Provider of 3rd Party Inventory Counting Services for Retail Industry.

Background

♦ Blue Chip serves retail establishments by doing 3rd Party SKU and Retail Inventory stock taking using a team of Inventory takers. Lot of the inventory taking tasks have been automated using different technologies over the past 40 years.

Challenge

- Re-automating a 40 year old Inventory Counting business that had many of its tasks automated in distributed software components.
- ♦ To facilitate fast inputs on the PDA, client had developed a proprietary keypad to plug-in on the 16 – pin interface of new generation Palm PDA. Without interfacing on the 16-pin port with the keypad, the new software could not have been developed.

Idea

- ♦ To make the counting of retail & SKU inventory using Palm PDA really fast by using a proprietary PalmQuest keypad, and a Symbol[™] Scan Gun.
- Operate the Palm application completely using PalmQuest, without needing the stylus. This will go on to make the inventory taker perform really fast on the field job.
- Market this software as a white labeled product to other Inventory Alliance group companies.



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Our Solution

- Interfaced Palm PDA with PalmQuest serial keypad to reliably read upto 3000 keystrokes / minute on the keypad.
- Enabled remote counting jobs from areas of no data connectivity. Developed a complex data synchronization layer to converge this data at the backend server for reconciliation & reporting.
- Created a flexible structure to manage multi-level categories for varied inventory setups and enabled Wi-Fi syncing of PDA & server.

Technologies Used

For Laptop & Desktop Component

 MySQL Database Server / Java Swings / JasperReports

For Palm OS Development

- Metrowerks CodeWarrior 9.3
- Steven Creeks IrDA Printer API / TCP-IP Sockets
- Palm HotSync 6.0 / Palm OS 5.2.1

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