

Hansen Inventory Gets an Edge with Bar Coding



The Challenge

Washington State's Pierce County Public Works had a vision. Larry Butner, Pierce County Supervisor, wanted to add mobile computers and bar code technology to his Hansen inventory system. Pierce County users needed the freedom to enter data not only from their parts counter, but from out on the warehouse floor and in the field.

Larry knew Hansen inside and out. He knew that bar coding's data integrity would reduce or eliminate data entry errors and redundancy, and bar coding's entry speed would increase worker efficiency.

The Solution

JMT Systems Consulting – in a strategic venture with Hansen Technologies and Intermec – designed, built and deployed a mobile data collection interface to the Hansen Warehouse Management solution.

The solution started with a mobile interface to Hansen's Adjustments, Issues, Receipts and Transfer modules. Rugged Intermec mobile bar code scanners were fitted with JMT's robust user-friendly software.

To further prevent data errors, the JMT middleware software allowed users to review and modify their collected data before it was submitted to the Hansen portal for processing.

JMT offered Pierce County their choice of non-proprietary, "open" databases that allowed full access to their data. This provided two important abilities: the opportunity to peek at field-collected data, and the ability to create custom reports from their collected data before or after it was submitted to the Hansen software.

The Benefits

Floor workers are no longer tethered to the front counter PC. They now have the flexibility to tour the warehouse floor to issue, transfer, and receive parts, as well as to make count adjustments.

Redundant data entry has been eliminated. Where the floor workers used to write down the part numbers in the warehouse and enter them again at the parts counter, they now enter part numbers only once.

The data is correct. Scanning barcodes, instead of handwriting part numbers, has eliminated the potential of transposing and incorrectly scribing part numbers.

With the addition of barcodes and scanning, the data entry process was made very efficient and usable.

"[They want their] product to be perfect. We're very happy with the new barcode functionality."

Larry Butner, Pierce County Maintenance Supervisor