

Proof of Delivery & Collection

Mobile Data Solutions

Overview

Opus Fleet & Distribution supports delivering mobile data solutions for the Supply Chain. Over the last two years over 1600 mobile data terminals, utilising Opus Fleet & Distribution mobile data applications have been successfully deployed.

In implementing a proof of delivery (POD) and/or proof of collection (POC) solution, customers are generally motivated by similar business objectives, centring around: improved delivery accuracy, real-time availability of delivery information, the transition to a paperless environment and the significant reduction in back office overheads.

All solutions use a proven and reliable mobile data terminal application architecture - these are built up around core software components with configurable as well as completely custom elements specific to a customers operational process requirements.

Mobile data applications can be run on any Pocket PC platform, from ruggedised industrial devices, such as the Symbol and Intermec PDT range, to personal digital assistants, for example, the O2 XDA or HP iPaq. Additionally the same applications can be converted to run on Java phone devices (see the Opus Fleet & Distribution Java phone product sheet for more information).

Allied with a standard mobile data terminal development architecture, proof of delivery/ collection solutions also utilise standard host software components that link any third party manifest and schedule generating system (be it an ERP, sales order processing or warehouse management system) to the chosen wireless data network (such as GPRS) and the destination mobile data terminal.

These host software applications are standard “off the shelf” components and have been tried and tested in countless customer implementations.

This modular approach, blending standard components, configurable elements and customisable controls, allows reliable applications to be rapidly developed to meet customer operational requirements.

Business Benefits

- Vastly reduced administration overhead, less phone management and less paperwork
- Real-time answers to customer queries - can also be accessed directly on-line by the customer using web enabled reports PDF document data warehouse (see Opus Fleet & Distribution Reports Product Sheet)
- Streamlined delivery process, no in-cab paper mountains or paperwork going missing
- Improved loading and unloading controls
- Improved delivery accuracy and service levels
- Application ensures step by step procedural enforcement with driver
- Improved cash flow and real-time POD uploads to host systems can automatically trigger invoicing



▲ CUSTOMER VISIBILITY/SERVICE

▲ ASSET & LOAD VISIBILITY/ SECURITY

▼ BACK OFFICE OVERHEAD

▼ TURN-AROUND TIMES

▼ ERRORS/DELIVERY DISPUTES

▼ QUALITY COSTS

▼ INVOICING DELAYS



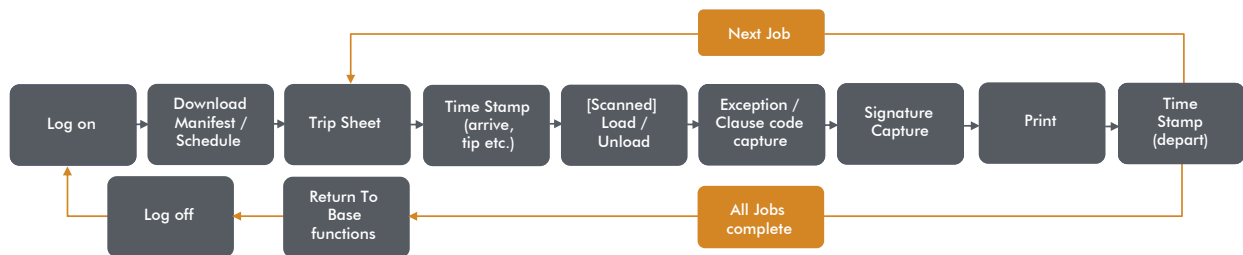
Key Features

- Standard modular software architecture deployed on both mobile data terminal and host systems
- 100% proven and reliable communications protocols - “plug and play” software controls supporting GPRS, GSM and Mobitex wireless data networks
- Mobile applications support Pocket PC operating systems and can also run on Java phones
- Core process components often require minimal configuration - facilitating rapid development, test and deployment
- Custom modules are written to exactly fit a customer’s specific operational needs
- Wide range of peripherals supported both in terms of hardware (for example printers, PortaPOD’s and image capture). Additional software components are often incorporated, for example; 2 Way messaging, Vehicle Inspection, Last Mile Satellite Navigation, MDT Automatic Vehicle Location

Functional Summary

A modular layered approach is used for terminal application development. Most of the customisation occurs in the higher levels of the application, namely the Graphical User Interface and logic which is often tailored to a specific customer’s operational requirements.

However, from experience, mobile data terminal applications typically follow a similar high level process such as;



All of the Graphical User Interface (GUI) and Business Logic (defining the application process) components, whether new, customised or re-used, have been developed using Microsoft embedded Visual Basic. Using this development environment, application functionality can be built very quickly from an ever expanding library of existing application screens and associated logic. Other standard software elements that are often incorporated, include:



This same development language is used to build on this framework for more specific custom elements unique to a customer’s application.

The net result of using this proven and well established development approach, combining highly reliable plug and play data storage and communications software components with re-used and uniquely developed Graphical User Interface and logic components, is a stable, rapidly developed and reliable mobile data solution.