



Automated Data Collection Made Easy

When it comes to data collection, “ease of use” tops the list of desirable features. This white paper outlines how Track’Em by RVB Systems (A Unitech Partner) was specifically designed to address this demand.

Automated Data Collection Made Easy

For five days, eight hours a day, Bob Brown sat in the training class, trying to master a data collection software product. Near the end of the last day, Bob turned to a classmate and asked, "Do you understand this?" "No," the man replied, emphatically.

These two resellers talked about their frustration, wondering how they could sell a product that, after a week of intensive training, they still did not fully grasp.

Later that day, on the plane ride home, Bob made a list of attributes an automated data collection package should have, and at the top of the list was: Ease of use. When he finished his list, he set about developing the type of product he wanted to sell. The result is Track'Em (\$895), sold through RVB Systems Group, a systems integration company that implements barcode and data collection systems.

Easy to use and low in cost, Track'Em does what many organizations need done, without the complex – and costly – bells-and-whistles that are difficult to master and rarely wanted.

Track'Em is now deployed by a wide variety of users, including large organizations – every branch of the U.S. military, universities and such major corporations as Ford Motor Company – in addition to many mom-and-pop businesses.

Why Use An Automated Barcode Collection System

True, paper and pencil, spreadsheets and handwritten lists, worked for many companies for many years. Those days, if not gone, are certainly numbered. Virtually any organization collecting data by hand today will need to automate its data collection in the not-too-distant future.

The reason is that automation provides a variety of benefits, including:

- Reduced labor costs
- Improved inventory control
- Reduced operating expenses

- More accurate data collection
- More standardized data collection
- Faster collection and analysis of data
- Better information that:
 - Reduces inventory levels
 - Boosts sales by reducing stock outs
 - Improves customer satisfaction by enhancing response times, order fulfillment accuracy and customer service
- Improved employee morale by reducing repetitive tasks

To decide if automated data collection matches your organization's need, ask yourself:

- What exactly am I trying to track?
- How long does it take me to collect the data I need? Would faster collection improve my operations?
- How accurate is the data I collect?
- How costly are data collection errors?
- How much does it cost me to collect the data I need?
- How frequently do I need to collect and view data?
- How would my customer service be improved if my data collection and inventory management were enhanced?

Deciding On An Automated Barcode Collection System

You can buy a car for \$20,000 or \$200,000. That's a big spread, but not as large as with automated collection systems, where the low end can dip below \$1,000, and the high end rockets well into six figures.

A major hurdle companies face when considering automating their data collection is the cost and hassle of doing so. Horror stories abound about data collection projects that cost large amounts of money, take months, even years to implement, only to fail.

Recently, Bob helped a manufacturer automate its data collection. The company had already bought a product, but it was so complex and cumbersome, management gave up on

Automated Data Collection Made Easy

it. "They had purchased a great package. It does everything but milk the cow," says Bob. "But it's too complicated, and most of my customers don't need any more complexity in their life." The manufacturer switched to Track'Em because it was inexpensive, easy to implement and use, and capable of doing what was needed.

If existing data is in electronic format, it can be imported into a product like Track'Em. If your data is not in electronic format, be prepared to digitize your data.

This can be accomplished by hand inputting the data into a database or using a portable scanner to scan information. Even if you have nothing – no data, no barcodes – you can still benefit from a product like Track'Em.

When choosing an automated barcode collection system, matching the capabilities of the system to your needs is critical. Buy what you need. Make certain the product has the flexibility and scalability to meet your likely future needs. Track'Em, for example, can accommodate multiple scanners, be run over a network with no additional license fees, and be integrated with back end ERP packages.

But do not buy a product so complex you are unlikely to use it to its full capacity nor have the technical skills needed to master it. Track'Em does the basics, easily, quickly and inexpensively.

Track'Em's Capabilities

Priced at \$895, Track'Em includes a portable, rugged Unitech HT630 portable data terminal laser barcode scanner and 500 preprinted barcode labels. Free remote online and telephone support regarding installation, setup and basic operation is provided for 30 days. The product is fully networkable and the cost covers from one PC to as many as you want, as long as they are at the same site. Online and onsite training are available.

Track'Em's platform is Microsoft Access. If you know Access, great, you have the ability to greatly customize Track'Em. But what if you do not know Access and have no interest in master-



ing it? No problem. Track'Em comes with a password protected tiered menu system that is readily customized. Don't like a button? Almost instantly you can hide it. Bob says some customers have boiled down their needs to literally three buttons: Receive Goods (what's coming in the door), Sell Goods (what's going out the door), and On-Hand Goods (what's currently on hand). Life doesn't get much simpler.

Customizing Track'Em to fit your needs can take literally just minutes. Most users can customize it within one day. Compare that with major products like SAP that can take weeks or even months to tailor.

Track'Em comes with:

- Four modules (inventory tracking, asset tracking, check in/check out, basic barcode label printing)
- Dozens of ready-to-use reports
- User definable fields

With it, you can:

- Add an unlimited number of records to the database
- Allow multiple users to view the same data
- Import/export data to Excel or text files
- Track inventory levels at multiple locations



Automated Data Collection Made Easy

- Print barcode labels using your existing laser printer
- Perform inventory audits and cycle counts with ease
- Run re-order reports by selected vendors or all products

Track'Em does:

- | | |
|------------------------|----------------------|
| • Asset tracking | • Library management |
| • Warehouse management | • Inventory control |
| • Evidence tracking | • Shipping/receiving |
| • Check in/check out | • Job tracking |
| • File tracking | • Document tracking |
| • Stockroom control | |

The best means for deciding whether Track'Em is for you is to try it – for free. Visit RVB Systems Group's website, www.barcode-solutions.com, go to the Track'Em page and download a trial version of the product. You can run it 20 times for free and there is no time limit for using this free version.



And that company whose training on their complex product promoted Bob to create Track'Em? No surprise: It is out of business.

About Unitech

With a commitment to improving customer productivity and efficiency, Unitech, a leading provider of data collection technologies for diverse industries around the globe, provides healthcare-specific rugged mobile computers and scanners with antimicrobial and disinfectant-ready housing. Designed for healthcare applications from the inside out, these devices are ideally suited for point of care and pharmaceutical applications.

Founded in 1979, Unitech began as a provider of custom microprocessor-based automation systems for the Taiwanese market. Today, Unitech's products and services are sold and licensed through a network of over a thousand partners throughout the world, and include rugged mobile computers, handheld scanners, RFID readers, POS keyboards, magnetic stripe readers, and fixed mount terminals. Unitech currently maintains regional business units in North America, South America, Europe and Asia.