

Barcode Data Collection Using Mobile Phones

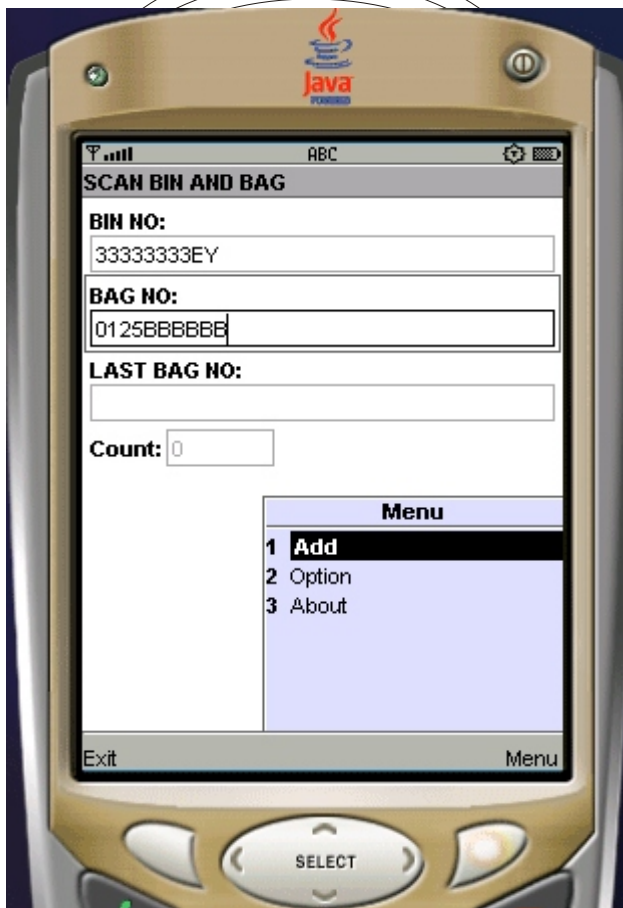
Portable barcode data collection scenario at present:

Barcode data very often needs to be collected on the "go", that is mobility is required. This Mobile data collection is achieved through specialized equipment where a typical portable bar code data terminal cost per unit is Rs 30-40 K for batch mode and Rs 60-100k for on-line mode. Also, they are expensive and complex for the end user as they require training and very often specialized application software programming.

Enter regular low cost mobile phones

Everybody has mobile phones and at a minimum, they can SMS data in addition to supporting voice. They can also store data in memory where up to 1GB is possible. They start at Rs 6K for basic models which have blue tooth capability and can also support java programming. At the Rs 8K level mobiles additionally support GPRS function and at Rs 15K mobiles support Wifi.

SMS, GPRS or WiFi
Barcode Data



Can common mobile phones be combined with barcode readers in a cost effective manner to create a portable data terminal?

Yes!

if low-cost mobiles are married to barcode readers using blue-tooth

Blue-tooth barcode readers are available from Rs 15-25K. They can communicate (send data) to normal mobiles using blue-tooth.

The data can be stored inside the mobile or further transmitted using SMS, WiFi or GPRS.

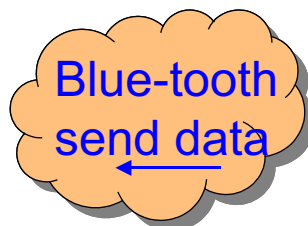
The data can also be easily processed in the mobile phone as they are fully programmable using java tools essentially like a PC.

Advantages of the system

Most users are familiar with mobiles and there is an easily available network for data transmission. The Auto ID industry should make use of the R&D from mobile technology providers for portable data collection.

Some typical applications:

- Warehouse data collection
- Courier packages delivery
- Loading of parcels
- Point of sale applications
- Airport logistics



Barcode Reader with blue-tooth



Barcode solutions on mobile phone

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