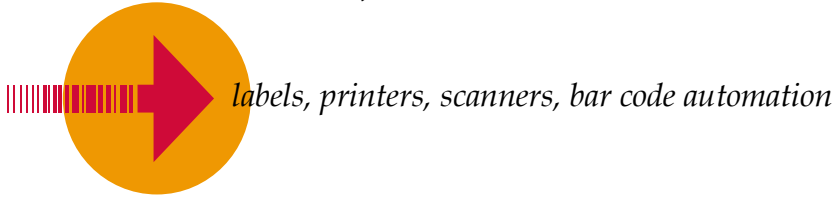


TRACKINGSOLUTIONS, INC.



Plumbing & Electrical Truck Application

Problem:

A plumbing company was experiencing issues with their inventory. Though the company knew how much inventory they had in total, they did not know how much was on a given truck at any given time. Thus, when a driver was dispatched to a job he/she might get out inspect the situation and then return to the truck only to find that the item that should have been stocked on the truck was not there. This meant the driver either had to make a run back to the warehouse or to a local store to get the item. The latter not only meant lost productivity due to the driving time, but it also ate into the jobs margins.

In addition, parts were not accurately tied to specific jobs or invoices, so there was no way to track how profitable a particular job was. There also was no data to analyze after the fact to determine if a specific flat fee needed to be adjusted.

Solution:

Items Implemented:

- Custom Access Database for tracking the inventory on the trucks
- 7 Symbol 1550 PalmOS Scanners – One for each truck and the warehouse
- 4,800 Preprinted Part Number Labels for positioning on the bins in the trucks
- Bar Coded Part Book for each Truck

We designed a custom access database to keep track of each individual trucks inventory. Then set up each truck with a Symbol PDA Scanner preloaded with program specific to the truck. The program would ask for the invoice or job number, and then ask the individual to scan the part number(s) used on the job, either from the bin or the part number book. The PDA would automatically capture the truck number and the date/time. Upon arriving back to the office, the PDA data would be uploaded to the database.

At various intervals throughout the week, the warehouse manager would generate a restock report and load up the individual truck bins with the parts needed to bring them back to the preset stock levels identified in the database. The warehouse manager would use his PDA to scan the parts for each truck, and then upload that to the database. A replenishment report would be printed and put with the parts. Upon loading their truck, the drivers would sign their individual replenishment reports as verification that they received all of the parts listed.

Result:

The plumbing company now has a firm grip on their inventory throughout the company. The new way of operating has shifted parts responsibility to the individual drivers, and as a result missing parts, some from pilferage, have been reduced drastically. Productivity has improved since runs back to the warehouse for parts have virtually been eliminated. In addition, the company has the capability to analyze their jobs and determine if their flat fee charge per job type needs to be adjusted.