

Update Bulletin

iPAD and 14-Digit Codes for PocketOffice

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As you likely know, StoreNext's new PocketOffice system runs on the new Fujitsu iPAD hand-held computer.

The iPAD is an outstanding piece of technology that has advanced the state of the art in mobile computing. The closest alternatives are 50% heavier, and with iPAD's CE .NET architecture and Intel XScale-driven performance, competitors that once dominated this market are struggling to catch up.

And as usual, this situation leads to outbreaks of FUD (no, this isn't the disease originating in China – but the spreading of fear, uncertainty and doubt can be equally contagious). In fact, it even managed to contaminate our own people (a "staff infection?") into believing that the iPAD cannot read the new 14-digit codes.

An injection of facts:

- iPAD *can read* the complete GTIN code set, including EAN-8, UCC-12, UCC/EAN-13 and new 14-digit "UCC-style" bar codes.
- At this point, iPAD *does not* read RSS labels. In the supermarket, Reduced-Space Symbology labels would be applied to in-store weighed meat, deli etc. items if the store has converted their weighing/printing equipment to RSS.
- Fujitsu will be upgrading the iPAD to read RSS labels in the coming months – an upgrade plan for current iPADS is expected as part of the updated release.



With PocketOffice, there is little or no requirement for RSS. Meat/Deli products with these labels would not normally be scanned for shelf verification or item maintenance, and with Q-Buster™ any RSS-coded items can be treated like weighed items. In any case, the store would need to convert their coding and printing equipment to RSS, which is very rare in this market.

Retalix is currently coding the RSS and GTIN upgrades for ISS45 V7 WinPoS and V8 (V7 DOS cannot be supported do to DOS memory constraints). The highest priority is being placed on making sure this conversion is simple and automated in the store and can be accomplished remotely using the upcoming Connected Services Dealer Dashboard. All ISS45 users will have ample time to convert existing ISS45 sites to GTIN compliance prior to the January 2005 Sunrise.

StoreNext is currently assembling a comprehensive RoadMap for all StoreNext product offerings, and will provide dates for our Dealers and customers when available.

To Your Success,

Tony
Antony van Leventer

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