

Ranger releases wireless GPRS scanner

UK based Ranger Computers Ltd, who specialise in EPOS and data collection, have released news of a groundbreaking new product called Phoenix/Otis. This latest addition to their range, shares part of its name with its broadband based predecessor Phoenix, but boasts an even lower cost solution to the problem of capturing and transmitting barcode data.

Using GSM cell-phone technology, Phoenix/Otis links scanned data to 'Ultimate' (a dedicated web server in the 'Cloud') without the need for any local computer equipment, installation or infrastructure. Phoenix/Otis connects directly to the local cell-phone network and will work anywhere there is mobile phone coverage. Phoenix/Otis is especially suited to large networks of scanning locations where installation and maintenance of traditional terminals can be ruinously expensive.

Phoenix/Otis, designed with bandwidth and tariff caps in mind, compresses barcode data to keep bandwidth to a minimum; the compact data is then routed directly to 'Ultimate' ready to be viewed in real time via any web browser. As well as reporting date and time of each scan, Phoenix/Otis also reports back geographical location information so each unit can be tracked, verifying the scanning location. The 'Ultimate' web server can be configured to automatically forward scanned data, accompanied by time stamp, location and a unique identification code to end user systems using XML or other data formats either in real time or in batches as required. Batch data can be compiled to user's specifications and supplied automatically in flat file or spreadsheet format. The system also provides continuous monitoring of the Phoenix/Otis network and displays status content graphically.

David Viewing, Director of Ranger Computers Ltd said "We have worked extremely hard to keep the cost of ownership on our latest addition the Phoenix/Otis at a minimum." With its low running costs, its ability to be used in countless scenarios, and no installation or local computer requirements; the Phoenix/Otis is a very attractive product for anyone capturing barcode data in the field. The unit is currently employed in the UK by the Official Charts Company and in Finland by the IFPI (International Federation of the Phonographic Industry) where it is used to compile Finland's download chart.

Phoenix/Otis can work with any standard fixed or hand held barcode scanner, from budget CCD types to premium laser models. The system can also be used to work with existing EPOS or other types of scanning equipment. When used in this way, Phoenix/Otis can bring all the benefits of real-time reporting to legacy systems without any requirement for software or infrastructure modification.

To find out more information about this and other exciting products visit www.rangercomputers.com.



Above: Ranger's latest product Phoenix/Otis