December 2002 - Issue #2

Looking for an inventory management that doesn't merely interface, but *integrates* with your Visual AccountMate System?

Executive Concepts Inc. Introduces:

DART — INVENTORY MANAGEMENT SOLUTIONS

for

AccountMate SOLUTIONS THAT FIT

DART is a Direct Access Remote Terminal system that allows you, the user, to query and update your live Visual AccountMate data in Real Time from anywhere in the building using wireless, radio-frequency terminals.

Finally, a reasonably priced solution for inventory management and more!

In this Issue:

- Learn more about DART, our new, exciting product!
  Read More
- See how DART is able to update your Visual AccountMate data in Real Time
  Read More
- Check out the wireless devices that are used to run DART
  Read More
- This issue's feature: Ship Sales Order.
  Read More
- We want to hear from you!
  Read More

DART - What Is It?

DART is a software solution that makes use of reliable and reasonably priced Radio-Frequency terminals. The system is available with most common required functions for efficient and effective inventory management. DART integrates seamlessly with Visual AccountMate.

Within a secure environment, DART allows users to perform daily activities without being bound to a wired Visual AccountMate device, achieving greater productivity. For example, users can pick and ship an order wirelessly from anywhere in the warehouse!

Benefits of Real-Time:

One of the major advantages of DART is that all updates occur in real time.

Real time updating means that once data changes, the entire system can see the change immediately. For example, as your employees receive a shipment, the system instantaneously performs the appropriate updates in your Visual AccountMate database.

Real time updates of Visual AccountMate production data sets DART apart from its competition. Unlike similar warehouse management systems, there is no delay in streamlining data because there is only one database. DART updates occur as they happen, not on an hourly schedule or once nightly. This means that the RF users, the office staff, and the decision makers are all using the same, up to date information through the workday.

The primary benefits of DART can be narrowed down to CAT – Cost, Accuracy, and Timeliness. DART's updates in real time will improve the speed of your business, while increasing the accuracy of your data, all at a competitive price!

Wireless R/F Devices

Radio Frequency terminals transmit and receive information from a

base station. This is similar to how wireless (not cellular) phones operate. A typical RF device will consist of a keypad entry and, if appropriate, a built-in scanner.

Some RF devices store the programs directly on the RF devices, and communicate as a standard wireless network connection. This arrangement can be costly since the hardware tends to be more expensive, the programs must be replicated on all devices, changing programs can be time consuming, and network connections/concurrent users costs more..

The approach of the DART system involves a base station that connects to the com port of any workstation that is connected to the network. Each base station communicates to the host computer via the serial port.

DART sends a data prompt from the host computer to the base station. The base station then transmits the data prompt via radio frequency to the intended RF terminal. The RF terminal displays the prompt and waits for the operator to respond with the appropriate data.
Upon entry, the RF terminal transmits the data back to the base station, which in turn passes it on to the host computer. The application on the host computer processes the information and sends back the next data prompt and the process repeats.

Each base station can support up to 16 RF devices and communicates to the host computer via the serial port. One base station placed upside down in the ceiling at the centre of the building will usually result in good coverage in a 550 x 550 foot warehouse (that's over 300,000 square feet).

This Issue's Feature: Ship Sales Order

Shipping a sales order is a common procedure for most companies. DART simplifies shipping, by scanning all the information needed on the sales order.

A user can simply log on to the RF device and a menu of available functions will appear. Select 'Ship SO' by entering the appropriate menu code and press <Enter> on the RF terminal.

DART begins with a prompt to the user to enter or scan in the number of the sales order to be shipped. The system will then prompt the user to enter or scan in the item number. You can enter the item either by item number, bar code, or by the customer's item number. If the item has specifications such as colour, or size, DART will ask for this information as well.

The user is then prompted to enter in the item quantity to be shipped. If your business makes use of serial numbers, or lot numbers, DART incorporates these concepts and will prompt the user to enter the appropriate information to track your items correctly.

Once the user is finished entering items on the sales order, a new menu appears with the following options: Post, Review, Add, or Cancel. The user can post the sales order, review the items he has already scanned, add another item or cancel the shipment of the sales order. If the user posts the sales order, the system performs the appropriate updates, just as if the shipment was done from a PC!

All of this can be done from a wireless RF device anywhere within the building!

We Want To Hear From You

Suggestions for other functions you would like to see DART perform? Questions about any of DART's features? Looking for more information on the RF devices?

We want to hear from you! Please send us an email at info@executiveconcepts.com or call toll-free 1.888.324.7877. Or visit our website for more information: www.executiveconcepts.com.