



RFID - Summit Retail Solutions

Case Study

CLIENT CHALLENGE

Summit Retail Solutions works with major retailers across the United States to perform "roadshows," or product demonstrations for major retailers. With over 150 on-site sales representatives, efficiently managing and tracking inventory movements is a critical necessity for their business. The time-consuming process of manually counting received inventory shipments, coupled with the potential for inaccuracies due to manual entry of data led Summit Retail Solutions to investigate alternatives for this process

MCFTECH SOLUTION

In collaboration with Summit Retail Solutions, MCFTech developed a RFID solution (radio frequency identification) that would leverage Summits existing custom-built web portal (separate portal case study is also available at mcftech.com). This portal was built on top of their existing core Quick Base application and provides greater efficiency with their field representatives. The new RFID solution allows for the scanning and tracking of inventory items via a handheld mobile device. Inventory items are all "tagged" which allows everything in a shipment to be simultaneously scanned and automatically entered into their Quick Base Inventory Management application. This eliminated the human error involved in data entry and dramatically reduced the time it took to process inventory item shipments. As a result of this, Summit is now receiving more accurate and faster inventory movement information back to the whole organization.

HOW IT WORKS

MCFTech's solution centers around a RFID handheld device that scans and uniquely identifies inventory items containing an EPC (Electronic Product Code). The unique advantage that RFID technology provides is that it scans all the items within a certain range vs one at a time like optical barcode scanning. This capability allows the capturing of hundreds of items or more with a single scan. Once scanned, all of the items are processed by a secure MCF integration and added to Summit Retail Solutions existing Quick Base application. This Quick Base application is used for analytics, reporting, and tracking purposes. Location of inventory items when scanned, time of scans, type of scans, user scanning the items, and a host of other metadata is compiled in the system automatically by this process.

MCFTech also facilitated the ability of Summit Retail Solutions to print the EPC tags that are used on the inventory items and scanned by the RFID device. This afforded them the flexibility to print the EPC tags at their local inventory warehouse facilities in addition to being able to order them from a 3rd party if needed.

QUOTE

"Timely and accurate inventory reporting is critical in our business. We needed a reliable, lightweight RFID solution to tie into our current inventory platform (built by MCF) and challenged the team at MCF to deliver. They exceeded our expectations, evaluating both the hardware and technical requirements, and delivered a slick, user-friendly, and bug-free solution that is a game-changer for our sales representatives."

DARREN FREDETTE

Senior Vice President,
Finance and Strategy



Business Wise, Technology Savvy
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What makes this so productive for Summit, is that the RFID solution was streamlined to seamlessly integrate into Summit Retail Solutions existing web portal. The integration was built with a core focus on user experience and trackability. Buttons to launch the RFID scans were incorporated right into Summit Retail Solutions portal UI for easy, intuitive use by the sales representatives. To convey problems with scans to the user, error handling was implemented to provide user feedback in the event of erroneous scans. Scanning items that were not contained in a particular order, or scanning items not belonging to Summit Retail Solutions are examples of the types of error handling in use. In addition to error handling, logs detailing additional information about the scans were developed allowing administrators to monitor the usage of the RFID implementation and build up confidence in its accuracy.

OUTCOME

Overall, this improved process allows Summit Retail Solutions the ability to efficiently and accurately track and log inventory movements across the country. Using this data, their existing Quick Base application gives administrators the ability to report on key areas of interest to further improve their inventory management system.

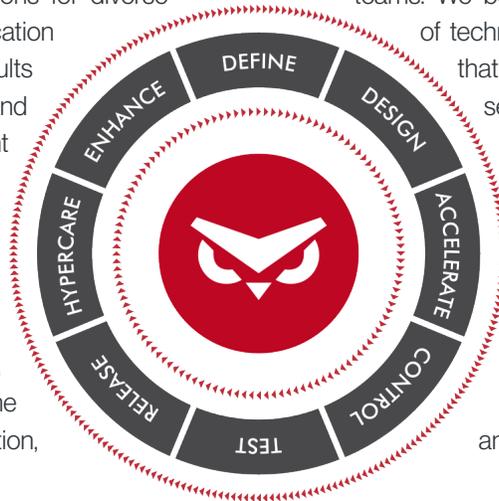


ABOUT MCFTECH

MCF Technology Solutions delivers Services, Strategy, and Products to business customers worldwide. We focus on the successful development, deployment, and support of Business Applications for diverse business understanding and the thoughtful application high-level of collaboration with our clients and results virtual company, MCFTech provides resources and Australia, and the Middle East. Our global footprint countries as well as systems that touch nearly

We utilize a proven methodology, dubbed the of successful engagements. It is an iterative, on extensive experience with leading software management practices such as Lean, Six-Sigma, our expert teams to deliver technical solutions to the to help our clients achieve flexibility, collaboration, marketplace.

We believe that the best solutions are born out of sound business understanding combined with the skilled application of technology. Why accept anything but exactly what you need from a software application? You shouldn't! Contact MCFTech today to find out more.



teams. We believe the best solutions come from a sound of technology. Our Business-First approach assures a that satisfy the organizational needs. As a modern, services in the Americas, Europe, Africa, Asia, includes deployments in more than twenty ever corner of the business world.

"The MCF Way," which has led to hundreds customer-centered methodology based development, business process, and project Agile, and PRINCE2®. This methodology allows world's top companies. We bring the best value and intelligence in adapting to a changing global

