

TOOL CRIB TRACKING

Objective/Requirements:

A large residential construction firm was looking for a more effective way of keeping track of its inventory of more than 5,000 tools and other equipment. The construction firm did not have an efficient method of locating specific tools and equipment among their multiple job sites, and found that tracking the vast array of their equipment and tools was an ever-challenging task. For example, if a tool was lost or stolen, there was no way for the company to know, and this lack of information forced the tool crib manager to purchase extra tools and equipment when a particular one was in demand. To increase their efficiency and save money wasted on lost or stolen tools, this construction firm needed an effective way to track and trace all company equipment among multiple sites and employees.

Solution:

The construction firm's problem was solved with a solution powered by IDEAM mobile application development tools. IDEAM's application development tools provide real-time communication to centralized databases using WiFi or GPRS connections over Windows-based mobile devices or smart phones.

The mobile tool and equipment tracking solution, powered by IDEAM, enables the company to track their entire tool and equipment inventory by storing the information in a single database. The solution includes the ability to add new tools into the database and print bar code identification labels to Bluetooth, wireless or direct-connected printers in a single step. When employees need to use a tool, they scan their ID badge, select the job site the tool is going to, and scan the ID label on the tool before they leave the tool crib area.

If someone is looking for a particular tool, they can query the database from their mobile device or smart phone to see where the tool is currently located. When an employee returns a tool to the tool crib area the tool ID label is scanned along with their employee ID badge and the shelf tag in the tool crib area.

The construction firm is now able to efficiently track their tools and equipment, including lost, broken and scrapped tools, along with greater accountability for tools and equipment in the field. One added benefit they have found particularly useful is that they can charge fees for equipment and tool usage because they now have detailed information on which tools were used at a particular job site. They have also been able to use their new data to maintain tooling quality automatically by identifying tools that require certification or reworking.

Application Solution using IDEAM:

- Access to real-time tool location data
- Track tools and equipment at multiple job sites
- Efficient equipment tracking and accountability
- Search for tool location information from mobile device or smart phone
- Easily print asset tags for new tools directly from mobile device
- Supports nearly every Windows CE 3, CE .NET 4.2, Windows Mobile Classic, Standard and Professional handheld device