

SARCOM Improves Pharmaceutical Company With Inventory Tracking and Accuracy

The Challenge: A large pharmaceutical company needed better IT asset tracking.

As a leader in the Pharmaceuticals market with over 41,000 employees and markets in 158 countries, the client awarded SARCOM a new contract. The contract involved receiving, tracking and deploying IT products entering their corporate headquarters in Indianapolis, IN.

The customer needed a quick and efficient way of collecting asset information as it arrived on the shipping docks. The current system was a paper-based form that required careful documentation procedures. Errors on the forms, illegible entries and problems during data entry caused issues with inventory accuracy.

The Solution: SARCOM created and implemented a reliable inventory system.

First, SARCOM designed a Palm OS-based handheld application so inventory technicians could create and interface with asset data. Second, SARCOM designed an ODBC compliant database as the server-based data store for all asset information collected on the devices. Finally, SARCOM put a synchronization server and logic into place to manage the transfer of data between the handheld devices and the database.

With a solution in hand, running on Palm OS units equipped with Symbol barcode scanner modules, technicians were now able to quickly scan in new products. They could then review information about any item in the entire inventory using any of several search functions. Smart features such as a user selectable cache and filtered drop lists allow for extremely fast data entry.

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The Results: SARCOM provided better, more accurate inventory lists.

All three major project components (handheld application, server database and synchronization logic) came together to deliver a robust and reliable inventory solution. Each device not only delivers new items received on it, but it also collects any records that were received by other devices. Administrators can keep device dropdown lists current by simply making changes to maintenance tables inside the server database.

SARCOM used the following hardware, software and/or services:

- Database and application development
- Palm OS Handheld units
- Integrated Barcode Scanners
- Middleware Platform
- Installation & Integration

The Results: SARCOM provided better, more accurate inventory lists.

- Paperless inventory system for tracking IT assets
- Remote development reduced travel costs
- Reduction of errors and increased accuracy of asset data
- Accurate Inventory Tracking
- Reduced Costs
- Leveraged middleware platform