



TNT Eliminate Duplicated Manual Input Using Barcodes

Overview

TNT use AutoFORM LaserNet to reduce printing costs whilst improving the presentation of all their delivery documents.

One aspect that they have found particularly useful is the ability to transpose complex strings of data into a single bar-code, then using barcode scanners to upload the data from one IT system to another. Using AutoFORM barcodes can be created and printed for laser forms and thermal label printers



Many companies have the same situation: two highly tailored applications that use common data, but are impossible to integrate. Inevitably this leads to duplicated manual input and potential correlation errors between the two systems. TNT is a company that continually strives to make their systems more efficient, so they asked EFS how these difficulties could be avoided. Marc Jenkins, EFS Consultant reports..

TNT wanted to transfer information from their hiring application to their specialist tracking system with the minimal amount of effort, time and expense.

Finding the Common Link

The common link between the two applications was the picking note. The hiring application generated the document, which contained three key pieces of information: location code, customer code and order number. It was these items that needed to be included within the tracking application. The traditional answer was to key in the data twice, but this took too long and risked keying errors.

Using Barcodes to Transfer Information

AutoFORM recommended concatenating the three items of data into a single bar-code. Once the products were picked the user could scan the bar-code and the information would download into the tracking system. Quick, simple and effective.

AutoFORM delivered the solution within 2 days of request, giving the IT department that all important quick win - with the added benefit of not having to make expensive changes to their existing IT infrastructure.

Additional Benefits - A Total Output Solution

TNT also took the opportunity to use the AutoFORM tools to redesign their picking and delivery notes to make them easier to read. While it was hard to assess a tangible benefit of doing this, operators said that the clear presentation enabled them to complete their duties more quickly and accurately. Managers said this could account for the upturn in productivity and fewer picking or delivery errors. What was certain, was that delivery paperwork looked more professional presenting a more positive image of the company.