

“Scan the bar code and deliver” Internet based order tracking

Many transport companies see it as self evident that they can pinpoint the location of their vehicles and consignments anytime. Their customers require precise status information regarding their orders, and the companies themselves need to be able to react quickly to new or changed orders and delays in their execution. The technologies most frequently used are GPS to determine the location, and GSM (SMS or voice) for the communication between the driver and his dispatcher.

Small and medium sized companies are increasingly confronted with the same demands. For many of them the current systems are not an option. Apart from the considerable costs incurred by installation and maintenance, there are often problems integrating the new system.

The tracking solution by Ergon Informatik AG implements order tracking with minimal technical overhead and greatly reduced investment and maintenance costs. It is based on Java technology, standard industry terminals with bar code readers, public communication networks and centrally run servers. The system is very flexible, both what regards the hardware on which it can be implemented, and the data that can be traced. Consequently it can easily be adapted to the specific needs of a transport company and integrated with existing software.



The driver only needs to scan the bar code on the shipping documents or the package itself. The data are then transferred via GSM/GPRS and the Internet to the central server. The dispatcher uses the same channels to access the data. Existing disposition or accounting systems can be source or target. The customer can independently check the status of his consignments via the Internet.

Technologies: Thanks to the platform independent Java Technology, there are hardly any limits to the choice of handheld devices for the drivers. Thanks to GPRS for the wireless connection, the application can be online at all times without incurring connection fees. In the same way messages can be sent from the dispatcher to the driver. Moreover the location of any vehicle can be traced without any costly GPS installations.

Company information: Ergon Informatik AG (<http://www.ergon.ch>) is a software engineering company based in Zurich, Switzerland. Apart from realising software solutions in the fields of finance and telecommunication, its focus has for many years been on mobile applications, yielding a wealth of experience unique to Switzerland. *youtrade on Palm* was the world-wide first Java based transaction solution on a mobile device. On the order of Meteo Schweiz, Ergon developed applications for mobile phones, and for the Swiss rail company SBB applications for surveying passenger volumes on its trains and the handling of freight trains. Ergon closely cooperates with Credit Suisse and other notable financial institutions in Switzerland and abroad.

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