Barcode Inventory System Propels School District's 'One Laptop Per Child' Initiative

SUMMARY

Balsz School District aimed to nurture the abilities of all learners by providing each student in the district with a new laptop computer. Their existing inventory software was outdated and lacked the functionalities needed to handle this upcoming eighteen-month project. After extensive market research, Balsz chose to implement ASAP Systems' asset tracking solution to build a mobile, scalable and school-friendly equipment checkout process.

THE CHALLENGES

Controlling the Influx of Student Resources

With a seemingly endless flow of equipment circulati among students and faculty, it was easy to lose track of supply counts and inventory whereabouts. For Balsz School District, this challenge was compounded by the fact that their inventory now included high-priced tech equipment such as laptops, monitors, projectors, SMART boards, cameras, classroom furniture and networking equipment. With enrollment rates on the rise, and the district planning to add another 2,000-3,000 assets in the coming eighteen months, it became crucial to replace their unsuitable system.

"Staff and students borrowed valuables periodically and spontaneously across several campuses, making it hard to find items in a timely fashion and know what we had on-hand in real time," said Hazen Kor, Network Engineer at Balsz School District.

Faculty was eager to get the project started, but realized they needed a more user-friendly and flexible tracking system that could easily integrate with their active directory network server, as a library-like equipment management system.

FITTING THEIR NEEDS

All the Bells and Whistles

The system needed to be barcode based and include the following features:

• Track item location, return dates, reservations, and availability
• Assign asset categories, active/inactive status, and location
• Control user access levels to the equipment database
• Provide real-time syncing and updates
• Generate reports to track cost, funding source, and usage history
• Integrate with active directory network
• Print barcode tags and catalogs

IMPLEMENTATION

Embracing The Modern Solution

The School District began implementing ASAP System's asset tracking platform in the fall of 2013. Kor noted how ideal the setup process was—" Getting it up and running was smooth and straightforward, it only took a handful of hours from start to finish—installing the software, importing the data, and then configuring the interface fields. " Additionally, after completing the initial hours of training, the staff was comfortable using features in the system and successfully adopted using mobile barcode scanners to manage the new equipment.

THE SOLUTION

Demonstrating Value on a Day-to-Day Basis

"Being a public school district, we often have unique software requirements that most private businesses don't have. Passport has done a wonderful job adapting to those requirements, making our jobs a lot easier," says Kor.

Kor and her team are now tracking over 9,000 pieces of equipment as a result of using Passport to manage the new assets purchased for the 'One Laptop Per Child' initiative. With each asset tagged by a barcode and every asset file imported into the sequel server database of Passport, the district finally had the tools it needed to successfully take on the project, as well as future asset management tasks. The real-time tracking capabilities and configurable features have proved invaluable to the staff, providing them with answers to all who, what, where questions related to their inventory since 2013.

OTHER CASE STUDIES

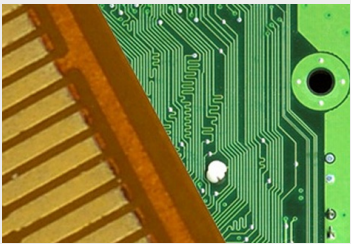### Matagorda County Edu. Services

Automate the inventory record-keeping process and identify which equipment was given to teachers/students and when.

Quasar Bio-Tech

Gained the ability to track product assembly processes including inventory with batch numbers.

PICA Manufacturing Solutions

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Corfu Foods

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About Balsz School District

The Balsz Elementary School District is a school district on the east side of Phoenix, Arizona. It currently includes five schools, which are: Balsz Elementary School, Griffith Elementary School, David Crockett Elementary School, Orangedale Early Learning Center and Brunson-Lee Elementary School.

About ASAP Systems

ASAP Systems provides leading barcode based inventory management and asset tracking solutions, offering both cloud-based and on-premises systems. ASAP Systems helps businesses of almost every industry vertical reduce manual data entry, labor hours, and automate record keeping throughout their inventory workflow. ASAP Systems has offices in San Jose, California (headquarters) and Austin, Texas.