

Barcode scanning and inventory control

Our client is a small independent business. They have 2 shops and a website.

The problem they faced was keeping the eCommerce in sync with the stock in the shops and also knowing in one shop what the available stock was in the other shops.

The website is already functioning and has a database running behind it.

Our solution was to build a simple till program that could be run on the PC in each store. This till program would talk to a £25 USB hand held scanner that you commonly see in shops nowadays.



Each time an item is sold the website database is informed and the stock level is decremented.

Conversely the till can handle items being received for stock. In this case, the item is scanned, the number in the box is entered and the database is updated.

An added benefit for the individual shops was that they knew what stock levels were at the other shop. So if a customer came in and they were out of stock, rather than the customer going elsewhere, the other shop could post it to the customer directly, the item could be available next time they were passing or the customer could pop into the other store, reassured that the item was there and waiting.

The original web developers had no idea how to build additional software, their solution was based on an Open Source platform and third party scanner vendors were only aware of "BIG TICKET" solutions. So by taking independent advice they were able to realise a simple cost effective solution that met their requirements exactly.