LinksPoint White Paper

GPS Options for Mobile Computing

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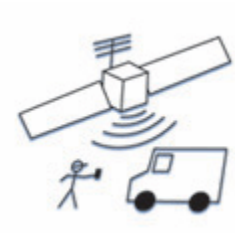
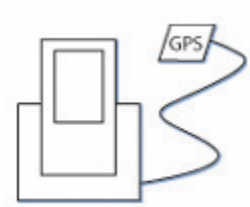


Enterprises and government agencies in record numbers are arming their field workers with mobile computers to automate their business processes "outside the four walls." Global Positioning System (GPS) technology can be easily deployed alongside mobile computing applications to provide a number of tangible benefits. This white paper explores some of the benefits of GPS and details GPS receiver options available for use with enterprise-grade mobile computing devices. GPS increases field worker productivity and provides greater enterprise efficiency when added to core enterprise applications for work order management, route accounting, inspection, inventory management and many others. GPS can add a location dimension to the basic application, for example providing a time and location "stamp" to transactions or activities. It can also enhance field capabilities with applications for vehicle tracking or asset management or driving directions or other location aware applications.

There are three basic options available when choosing a GPS receiver for use with your mobile computing application. Each option has strengths tailored to specific uses. The option you choose will depend on how you plan to use GPS in the field. Here are the basic options:

"Snap-on" GPS Receivers – These are designed to attach to the mobile computer and have a physical connection to the device. Power for the GPS receiver is received and GPS data is transmitted to the device through a serial port on the mobile computer. This combination is the most integrated and is well suited for field workers who do not rely on vehicles or use cases where GPS is needed both in and out of the vehicle. For more info, visit http://www.linkspoint.com/gps.asp

Bluetooth GPS Receivers – These are designed to capture GPS data and transmit it to a handheld computer wirelessly using the Bluetooth protocol. These receivers have their own internal battery and can be used in the field outside a vehicle, or they can be hard-wired in a vehicle for transportation-related applications. One of the unique features of LinksPoint's Bluetooth GPS receiver is that it can function as both a real-time GPS receiver and a data logger at the same time. This allows the GPS receiver to be used simultaneously for real-time applications, such as navigation or location stamping, and logging applications such as vehicle history tracking. For more info visit http://www.linkspoint.com/bluetooth_gps.asp



Serial GPS Receivers – These are designed to plug into the vehicle docking cradle for a handheld computer and draw power off the cradle or can be wired into the vehicle. These receivers feature an external antenna that is placed on the roof of the vehicle and cabled directly to the cradle. GPS data is available to the handheld when docked in the cradle. Serial GPS receivers can provide cost savings when there is only a need for GPS when the handheld computer is in the vehicle. For more info visit http://www.linkspoint.com/serialgps.asp

In conclusion, we'd like to note that LinksPoint's GPS hardware and software are designed to work alongside your core field application to add the benefits of location to your field solutions. We hope this has shed some light on your options for GPS receivers for use with mobile computers.

About LinksPoint

LinksPoint provides Location Powered Solutions built around three enabling technologies – Global Positioning System (GPS), Geographic Information Systems (GIS) and Mobile Computing. LinksPoint helps enterprises work more efficiently with solutions for vehicle tracking, navigation and field data collection. LinksPoint's products are used by transportation companies, utilities and government agencies. LinksPoint technology was used by the FDNY at Ground Zero, an application that won the 2002 Exemplary System in Government Award from the Urban and Regional Information System Association (URISA).

Products & Services: LinksPoint tools make mobile workers more productive including, *RouteTrak™,* and *Field Force Navigator™.* The company also manufactures the *GlobalPoint GPS™* line of specialized GPS receivers for mobile computing devices and ruggedized handheld computers.

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