

# ScanBlaster

---

**White Paper**

**February 2005**

---

## **DISCLAIMER LANGUAGE**

Information in this document is furnished only under a Customer License Agreement or non-disclosure agreement, and may be used or copied only in accordance with the terms of such agreement. The software described in this document is protected by copyright, and may not be copied on any medium except as specifically authorized in the license or non-disclosure agreement.

This document is also protected by copyright, and may not be reproduced or transmitted, in whole or in part, by any means, including photocopying, facsimile transmission, or reduction to any electronic medium or machine-readable form.

## **COPYRIGHT STATEMENT**

Direct Deposit, Food Distribution, MICR Encoded Laser Checks, Multi-Bin Advanced Distribution, Point of Sale® Professional, Professional Retainer Control, Remote Salesperson, Remote Salesperson Laptop, ScanBlaster, Time and Billing®, Time and Billing® Professional, and Timekeeper® are copyrighted © 2005. All rights reserved.

Best Software and Best Software product names mentioned herein, including MAS 90®, MAS 200®, MAS 200® SQL, and MAS 500®, are registered trademarks or trademarks of Best Software, Inc. and/or its affiliated entities.

Microsoft® Windows® NT®, 95®, 98®, 2000®, ME®, and XP® names and logos are registered trademarks of the Microsoft Corporation. Copyright © 2005.

All other trademarks and copyrights are the property of their respective holders.

|  |
|--|
| <b>NOTE:</b> This document was last updated on February 1, 2005 at 9:30 A.M. |
|--|

---

# Contents

**CONTENTS** ..... 3

**OVERVIEW** ..... 4

**ELIMINATE MANUAL ENTRY** ..... 5

*Ability to Scan Data* ..... 5

*Download Capabilities* ..... 5

*Continued Control Over Processed Data* ..... 5

**QUICKLY PROCESS MULTIPLE TRANSACTIONS** ..... 6

*Ability to Process Numerous Transaction Types* ..... 6

*Update Inventory Information Thoroughly* ..... 6

**COST-EFFECTIVE HARDWARE SOLUTIONS** ..... 7

*Compatible with PDA Devices* ..... 7

**SCANBLASTER FOR MAS 90 OR MAS 200** ..... 8

**PROBLEMS SOLVED** ..... 8

*Eliminate Manual Entry* ..... 8

*Quickly Process Multiple Transactions* ..... 8

*Cost-Effective Hardware Solutions* ..... 9

**TECHNOLOGY FEATURES** ..... 9

*MAS 90 or MAS 200 Integration* ..... 9

*Open Architecture* ..... 10

**CONCLUSION** ..... 11

    RECOMMENDATIONS ..... 11

    SUMMARY ..... 11

---

# Overview

You manage an extremely demanding warehouse. You have new items that need to be stocked, sales orders with items picked and ready for processing, and you just received a new shipment of purchased items. So what's delaying the process? Is it your unorganized warehouse layout? Hardly. Is it your employees? Definitely not. For most warehouses manually entering data into their inventory management software holds up inventory stocking, shipments, and invoicing.

***When you manually enter data into your inventory management software, you increase the processing time and the chance of errors when managing inventory.***

When it comes to processing inventory quickly and efficiently, most warehouse managers look for ways to:

- Eliminate manual entry of data into inventory management, sales order, purchase order, and bill of materials software
- Process multiple transactions types simultaneously
- Provide cost effective solutions that are easy to follow

With the proper software and hardware, manufacturers, distributors, importers, and exporters can quickly and inexpensively process transactions without a huge learning curve for employees. This white paper covers each of the listed inventory goals and the solution you need from inventory management software. This white paper also offers the recommendation of using MAS 90® or MAS 200® with the ScanBlaster module, and details how certain features can help you eliminate manual entry while reducing processing time.

---

# Eliminate Manual Entry

When your staff is manually entering data into your inventory management software, your data is more likely to error-prone and time-consuming than having the information electronically entered. This section offers recommendations and features needed in inventory management software to help increase data reliability and reduce entry time.

## Ability to Scan Data

By selecting inventory management software with a scanning solution, your employees will be able to scan barcodes on individual items, on shipment labels, and on receipt of goods forms to quickly load all the information about the products, shipments, and receivables without manually typing the data. Wireless scanners will allow your staff to easily move through your warehouse and gather the inventory information.

## Download Capabilities

Select inventory management software that not only allows you to scan inventory data, but also includes the ability to download the information into the system on a company-wide basis as required. If your employees stock large amount of an item that sells quickly, the employee should be able to download the information immediately instead of waiting for a shift change or for an entire shipment to be entered.

## Continued Control Over Processed Data

Just because a company decides to move to a software with scanning features, doesn't mean that the information available should be mindless zapping of barcodes! Select inventory management software that will review the file data and ensure the information is in the correct format before processing the data. When the data is processed, your company should have the option to review each item available before incorporating the changes on a system-wide basis.

---

# Quickly Process Multiple Transactions

Some scanning solution software limits you to the types of transactions you can process, and does not include all the information your business requires. This section offers recommendations and features needed in an inventory management software with scanning features to fully save your company time when processing inventory.

## **Ability to Process Numerous Transaction Types**

Your scanning solution should allow your employees to process numerous warehouse transaction types, such as inventory receipts, transfers, shipping, receiving goods, material assemblies, and material disassemblies. Not only should your business be able to process number types of transactions, you should not have to complete all entries for one type of transaction before moving on to another type of transaction. If you need to process a sales order then an inventory transfer, you should be able to complete that information without stopping to download the sales order data into your company-wide system before completing the inventory transfer.

## **Update Inventory Information Thoroughly**

Select an inventory management software that contains a scanning solution that not only lists the product name and the sales order or purchase order it belongs to, but also includes detailed data about the item. For example, for inventory being stocked, your employee should be able to include the bin location, the amount being stocked, the lot or serial number, and the price of the item.

---

# Cost-Effective Hardware Solutions

With wireless scanners costing anywhere from \$900-\$2000 dollars, equipping your entire warehouse personnel with these devices may not be the most cost-effective solution for your company. This section offers recommendations and features needed in an inventory management software to allow your company select the most inexpensive hardware solution for you.

## Compatible with PDA Devices

Palm OS handheld devices have revolutionized how people conduct business. Your company can purchase a barebones Palm OS device with a scanner for well under \$200.00. Realistically, you can purchase ten Palm OS devices for the same amount as one wireless barcode scanner! When selecting an inventory management software to help you process inventory, don't only consider the cost of the software. The hardware you use could be a larger purchase than you would expect. Select a software that can work on a Palm OS handheld device.

# ScanBlaster for MAS 90 or MAS 200

ScanBlaster contains many of the features that can help you solve the problems of manual entry, slow transaction processing, and expensive hardware solutions. ScanBlaster follows the technology standards set by Best Software® with their MAS 90® or MAS 200® application.

## Problems Solved

ScanBlaster allows your company to track inventory while tying the data into your MAS 90 or MAS 200 accounting, distribution, and manufacturing system. This section lists the features required for eliminating manual entry, processing transactions quickly, and providing cost-effective hardware solutions, and how ScanBlaster includes and handles these requirements.

### Eliminate Manual Entry

| Features Required                          | ScanBlaster  |
|--|--|
| Ability to scan data                       | The ScanBlaster module runs on a Palm OS device with a built-in scanner to read barcodes available on items, shipments, and receipt of goods.  |
| Can download information quickly as needed | With ScanBlaster, you can scan a new shipment of merchandise and download the information immediately to the Bar Code module. This information will then be available on a company-wide basis.   |
| Remain in control of your inventory data   | ScanBlaster reviews the file structure of downloaded data before importing the information. If the structure is not correct, the employee will need to correct the information in a Notepad file before being able to finish the process. Users will also have a chance to review the inventory data within MAS 90 or MAS 200 before committing the changes. |

### Quickly Process Multiple Transactions

| Features Required                        | ScanBlaster   |
|--|---|
| Access to numerous types of transactions | With the ScanBlaster module you will be able to process: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Inventory transactions, such as inventory sales, inventory issues, inventory transfers, inventory receipts, and physical inventory.</li><li>• Shipping</li><li>• Receipt of Goods</li><li>• Bill of Materials Assembly</li><li>• Bill of Materials Disassembly</li></ul> |

| Features Required  | ScanBlaster   |
|--|---|
| Ability to process different transactions simultaneously without a forced download | The ScanBlaster module allows you to process multiple different transaction types without needing to download the information until the user is ready. You can download only one type of data such as inventory data, or you can download all the data at once. |
| Manage updates to full inventory details   | ScanBlaster not only includes the product name and amount, but the updates also includes the item cost, warehouse location, bin location, sales order number, purchase order number, invoice number, product weight, and lot or serial numbers.                 |

### Cost-Effective Hardware Solutions

| Features Required            | ScanBlaster   |
|------------------------------|---|
| Compatible with a PDA device | ScanBlaster requires a Palm OS 3.5 or later handheld with at least 2 MB. Users may also utilize the Palm OS device to run other applications in addition to ScanBlaster, including Remote Salesperson PDA and Timekeeper. |

### Technology Features

The ScanBlaster software requires MAS 90 or MAS 200. ScanBlaster is installed as a separate module to the MAS 90 or MAS 200 system. For full technology features and requirements for MAS 90 and MAS 200, visit Best Software's website at [www.bestsoftware.com](http://www.bestsoftware.com).

### MAS 90 or MAS 200 Integration

Recommended by more CPAs than any other business management application in its class, Best Software's MAS 90 offers a broad selection of feature-rich solutions, including accounting, financial reporting, distribution, manufacturing, and e-business management. The software is widely recognized for its ease of use and its ability to empower customers with insightful information.

MAS 200 offers all the functionality of MAS 90, but incorporates all the benefits of a client/server platform, including more efficiently distributed processing, high performance, enhanced data integrity and reliability, remote access support, and scalability. MAS 200 is also available on the Microsoft SQL Server platform.

The ScanBlaster module allows users to turn their Palm OS handheld devices into bar code scanners to track inventory goods. This module allows your employees to upload the new information from their handheld devices to MAS 90 or MAS 200. The ScanBlaster enhancement can share information with other MAS 90 or MAS 200 modules when integrated. The ScanBlaster module can be integrated with the Bar Code, Inventory Management (with or without Job Cost), Purchase Order, Sales Order, Bill of Materials, and Multi-Bin Advanced Distribution. The following table describes the data available to each module from ScanBlaster.

| Module                          | Data Shared  |
|---------------------------------|--|
| Bar Code                        | The Bar Code module must be installed and setup before you install ScanBlaster. This module allows you to print bar-coded reports and labels, and imports records generated on the Palm. |
| Inventory Management            | ScanBlaster allows your company to scan items to be entered as inventory. This information will then be made available in the Inventory Management module.                               |
| Purchase Order                  | ScanBlaster enables your staff to scan items for receipt of goods. The information can then be downloaded from the Palm handheld device to MAS 90 or MAS 200.                            |
| Sales Order                     | ScanBlaster enables your staff to scan items for shipping. The information can then be downloaded from the Palm handheld device to MAS 90 or MAS 200.                                    |
| Bill of Materials               | ScanBlaster enables your staff to scan items for use during assembly and disassembly.  |
| Multi-Bin Advanced Distribution | ScanBlaster enables your staff to scan items for inventory transactions. You can also use Multi-Bin Advanced Distribution for scanning items with multiple bins.                         |

## Open Architecture

Unlike most inventory management software packages, the ScanBlaster source code is available to all Best Software Master Developers to further modify the software to suit a particular company's specific needs.

---

## Conclusion

This section details final recommendations for selecting an inventory management software and summarizes the topics discussed in this white paper.

## Recommendations

- If you are interested in purchasing ScanBlaster, have your reseller perform a system review of your current inventory management software to ensure ScanBlaster is the right software for your company.
- Sign-up warehouse managers and employees for training courses to use ScanBlaster to its fullest potential.
- Learn about each setup option available in ScanBlaster and how it affects the entire manufacturing system.

## Summary

Although many manufacturers, distributors, importers, and exporters deal with the struggles of managing inventory, the ScanBlaster module and a Palm OS handheld with scanning device make handling inventory data a painless procedure.

***We are committed to helping your company succeed. Your reseller will help you choose the right products and training to suit your current and future business needs.***