

September 18,
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Newsletter

Technology & Leasing

Small Sensor Computers Will Track Inventory

quoted from **BusinessWeek** August 25, 2003

- 1) Sensor computers are small, minimal-purpose chips that are powered by and respond to radio frequencies. Early versions are in the clothing tags that set off alarms.
- 2) When powered, they respond with data about their identity, location, and environment e.g. a serial number. For inventory, they replace the bar code since they can answer inquiries about data that changes e.g. location.
- 3) The cost per chip is around 20 cents and is dropping.
- 4) They are the next generation of RFID's (Radio Frequency Identification)

Significance:

- 1) Inventory tracking of vehicles could include GPS location and fuel consumption.
- 2) Previously this kind of data from a vehicle cost hundreds of dollars to 'acquire' via direct wire.
- 3) The sensor computers have a unique IP address just like any computer.
- 4) Networks of these sensors will extend the Internet's reach on a massive basis.
- 5) Previously unreachable information will become available 'real-time'.

http://www.businessweek.com/magazine/content/03_34/b3846622.htm

<http://www.sensormatic.com>

<http://www.aimglobal.org/technologies/rfid/>

Actions:

- 1) Look at your business processes and determine how this technology can save time and money.
- 2) Also include your system databases since much of this data may be new and never-before-captured.

Working Around Legacy Systems is #1 Task

sourced from: **Optimize Magazine for CIOs** August 2003

- 1) Legacy systems continue to run most transaction-intensive operations.
- 2) Business needs evolve more rapidly than legacy systems can be changed.

Significance:

- 1) Workarounds are incomplete and sometimes inefficient fixes to the real problem. Workarounds ignore new technology and its benefits. The cost of continuing this way can escalate suddenly if an older product is retired.
- 2) Legacy programmers are becoming fewer because of retirement.
- 3) 52% of IT professionals surveyed said that 'developing workarounds' is how they improved legacy systems.

<http://www.optimizemag.com>

Actions:

- 1) Short-term and long-term strategies for all systems must fit together.
- 2) The eventual retirement of legacy systems must be addressed.

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