

Vodafone Data Collection Solution

The mobile form processing solution for remote workers

The Vodafone Data Collection Solution brings all the elements of a complete solution together.

Introduction

Many businesses rely on information gathered by workers based out of the office – for maintenance inspections, audits and asset tracking, for example. Traditional paper-based systems can be slow, inefficient and prone to errors, whilst proprietary electronic solutions can often be expensive, inflexible and complex to develop and maintain.

The Vodafone Data Collection Solution brings all the elements of a complete solution together. Forms can be created and published to a range of Windows Mobile devices for employees to populate and return information straight back to the office – even adding additional details like photographs, barcodes or GPS location. Data arrives accurately and securely, and is available for immediate analysis or processing without the further delays and costs of re-entry.

Benefits

Eliminate errors, improve accuracy

Paper forms are prone to errors: handwriting can be unclear and important fields may be left incomplete. Populating a structured form on a mobile device eliminates errors and ensures forms are completed as required. Users can attach photos to the form as well as read bar codes, providing a better experience and information exchange.

Improve worker productivity

Entering data on a pre-formatted form via a mobile device is faster than traditional paper-based forms. Employees no longer need to return to the office to collect and return forms, saving the time and cost of travel.

Stop delays or lost forms

Paper-based form data needs to be returned – typically posted or faxed. Besides the delay and cost, forms can get lost or mislaid. Mobile devices deliver data within seconds of capture.

Eliminate data re-keying costs

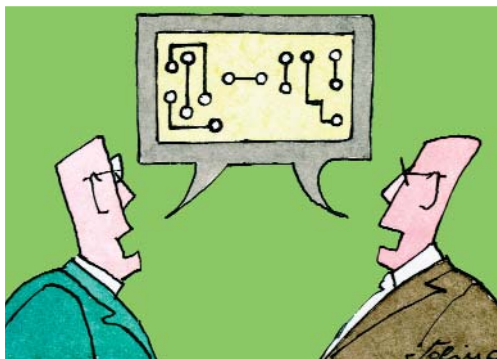
Data collected on mobile forms is returned automatically and is ready for use by staff in the office, without the additional costs of re-keying data from paper forms.

Design your own forms easily in-house

No programming skills are required. Following training, customers are able to design their own forms quickly and easily in-house. These are then simply distributed over the Vodafone network directly to user devices. Updates to existing forms can be made just as easily.

Implementation and deployment

Form creation and data management software can be installed in the customers premises or hosted by Vodafone. A secure link is made to the Vodafone Application Server to transfer data seamlessly between mobile workers and the office.



Vodafone Data Collection Solution

Potential industries and applications

Utilities	Construction
Transport (vehicles and infrastructure)	Retail
Manufacturing	Police/enforcement
Facilities management	Healthcare
Property management	Government
	Defence

...will benefit from the Vodafone Data Collection Solution for...

- General field information capture
- Customer surveys
- Maintenance reports and work order creation
- Recording condition results
- Recording operating statistics
- Updating asset information
- Health & Safety inspection/compliance
- Building surveys
- Welfare – incident reporting
- Performance monitoring
- Clinical trials
- Equipment/vehicle inspections
- Lift inspections
- Audits
- Parking enforcement
- Quality insurance inspections.

Features

The Vodafone Data Collection Solution is designed to fulfill a wide range of mobile field information capture requirements. The system comprises a number of integrated software modules which serve both office and field based-user needs. The Vodafone Data Collection Solution can exist as an independent solution in its own right or it can be operated as an extension to an existing backend system, such as a work and asset management system. The solution has been designed to put the control and management of all field data capture initiatives into the hands of the business users with little or no input from technical resource.

There are three key components of the solution:

- **Script Builder** – is used to create forms that will be published to the mobile device
- **Field Data Manager** – a central management and repository system for data captured whilst mobile
- **Script Player** – runs the forms on the mobile device.

Script Builder

Script Builder is a Microsoft Windows® based application which allows business users to create and maintain scripts – a series of questions, prompts or instructions that set out in detail what information a field user will be asked to collect when carrying out field work.

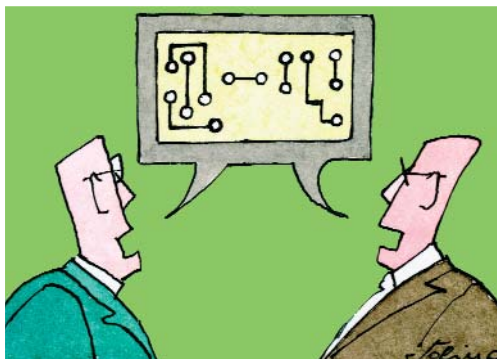
Designed from the outset for ease of use, business users can construct scripts to suit almost any type of field data collection requirement with a minimum of training. Script Builder supports the use of question types and validation rules which can be applied to the scripts used on the mobile device, greatly improving the accuracy of data gathered by field workers.

Here are some examples field that can be configured through Script Builder:

- Condition
- Numeric
- Decimal
- Single pick list
- Multi pick list
- Free-text
- Date
- Time
- Yes/no
- Instruction
- Signature
- Barcode scan
- Digital photograph
- Audio recording
- GPS location reference.

Additional items can be attached to each script question, including:

- Safety messages
- Help messages
- Multi-media elements – pictures, sound files and so on.



Vodafone Data Collection Solution

The Vodafone Data Collection Solution is designed to fulfill a wide range of mobile field information capture requirements.

Field Data Manager

Field Data Manager provides a means whereby information captured and returned from the field can be examined, interrogated, quality assured and reported on. It lets you:

- Examine individual results sets returned from the field, highlight problems and non-compliance, and produce compliance analysis reports
- Analyse the results and performance of individual users and workgroups
- Create automatic alerts so that recurring problems can be highlighted
- Analyse results by individual asset and by type of asset
- Analyse responses to individual questions or groups of questions
- Produce defect analysis reports and carry out trend analysis
- Use returned field information to update other systems
- Control what field information each Field Data Manager user has access to

- Interface directly with central work management systems.

In addition, it allows users to establish different views of their own data.

Script Player

Script Player 'presents and plays' the data collection form on the mobile device. Using an intuitive interface, it leads the user through the data capture process in a simple, consistent and logical manner.

Users interact with Script Player by entering responses to each question contained in the script. Responses are validated at the point of entry to ensure maximum data accuracy and integrity. Script Player may also present the field operator with relevant additional information when necessary – for example, help text and safety messages can be displayed when working in hazardous environments. Information captured using Script Player is saved on the mobile device and automatically forwarded to Field Data Manager when the device is next synchronized.

Way of Working component

The Way of Working component allows the user to quickly and easily navigate to the required form. Typically the Way of Working component will provide access to the asset or work order information. A field worker can then select the appropriate asset or work order from among those listed and carry out various actions. For example:

- Display additional information with the asset or work order
- Record work order closure information via a form
- Run a specific data capture form for the asset – for example, an inspection form, a maintenance form and so on.

Supported Devices

The Vodafone Data Collection Solution supports a wide range of Windows Mobile® 6.0 devices.

Talk to your Vodafone Account Manager for more details on Vodafone Data Collection Solution.