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## Spirit News Spring 2016

Welcome to the Spring edition of Spirit Data Capture's newsletter for customers who are interested in information and news relating to mobile enterprise technologies and data capture solutions. In this issue, you can find the following articles:

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### Recent reports and guides

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- Ensuring service excellence

We hope you enjoy reading this newsletter. If you would like more information on any of the items below, please call us on 01928 718800 or send an email to: [helen.jones@spiritdatacapture.co.uk](mailto:helen.jones@spiritdatacapture.co.uk).

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### Industry news and views

#### Developing the developers' language

One of the key languages used by Spirit's developers is Xamarin, a leading platform provider for the development of mobile apps. The fact that this is one of the technologies of the future has been underlined by Microsoft's acquisition of the company in February. This also reinforces the fact that the language will continue to be developed and will enjoy high levels of support. Microsoft comments that the acquisition will "*empower more developers to build apps on any device.*"



#### Making a difference in hazardous areas



ecom has established a strong reputation for its ATEX-certified range of mobile computing and communication devices for use in hazardous areas. In addition to its technologically advanced hardware, the company is committed to being at the forefront of software and application developments. The company recently launched a video that highlights different areas in which its high-performance apps can

be used to enhance the versatility, effectiveness and productivity of its hardware. These range from asset management and video conferencing through to process automation and lone worker protection. The video can be found [here](#).

## The power of the written word

Xplore has researched and produced an article about the advantages of using tablets with handwriting recognition capabilities. This approach can make data entry almost three times faster than when using an on-screen touch keyboard. It contradicts some of the views of people who have claimed that tablets aren't as good as laptops in terms of creating content. So, is handwriting actually a better method of data entry than typing details into a laptop or PC? As in so many other areas (vinyl records, log fires, books etc.) are we discovering that the old ways are often the best? Judge for yourself by taking a look at the article: [Write this Down: Handwriting Trumps Typing on Rugged Tablets](#).



## AppForum explores IoT

Last September, Zebra Technology's, AppForum in Las Vegas focused on the topic of '*The IoT explosion and what solutions providers need to know to capitalise on it*'. The keynote speaker was Zach Shelby, Vice President of Marketing, Internet of Things, at ARM. He identified three key factors that are contributing to the dramatic growth in IoT technologies across the globe. Read an interesting summary in [Business Solutions](#).

The Internet of Things refers to physical items (from fridges, coffee makers and engines right through to smartphones and wearable devices) that are connected to the Internet and to each other in a network so that data can be exchanged between them and between any interested parties. To find out more about it, why not read [Spirit's White Paper](#) or our [blog #3](#)?

## Everlasting memories

In the future, it seems that no-one will need to worry about running out of data storage space anymore. A team from Southampton University has developed a process that will enable 360 terabytes of data to be stored on a small quartz disc. Furthermore, the information can be stored for 14 million years – long enough to satisfy anyone! The disc can also withstand temperatures of up to nearly 160 C. The data is stored digitally using new laser technology. Laser pulses write the data onto the quartz, by creating three layers of nano-structured dots, in a technique referred to as 5D optical storage. Just imagine – no more corrupted hard drives and you will soon be able to make your mark on eternity. Now, where were those old photos I wanted to keep...?

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## Industry trends and new releases

### Put it on the Slate!

Xplore Technologies has launched a new, fully rugged tablet that uses the Android 5.1 Lollipop operating system – the XSLATE D10. Powered by Intel's Atom™ CPU, this is a very flexible, strong and secure tablet that claims to have greater connectivity and performance capabilities than any other Android mobile PC.

The XSLATE D10 is ATEX-compliant and is designed to work hard and fast whilst saving batter power: the battery will last for up to 20 hours. With 4GB RAM and 64GB SSD, it also offers twice the storage space of other Android devices and can easily execute data-heavy workflows.



### Stay in touch with the TC8000



The new Zebra (Motorola) TC8000 is a rugged but very light Android industrial mobile computer, developed to boost efficiency and productivity in harsh environments such as the warehouse. Because it's fully sealed, it's even protected against jets of water and dust – and it can work in conditions of large variations in temperature, so it's also ideal for work outside.

The TC8000 touch computer has an imager that can be used hands-free, as it can be automatically triggered by the device's proximity sensor, whether it's carried in the hip holster, the shoulder strap or the cart or desktop mount. The imager offers two scanning modes: near (from near contact to 15cm) and far (from contact to 60 cm). The innovative scanning angle also makes life much easier for users.

### Get a handle on the RX10

The new RX10 tablet from Getac has an integral handle for greater ease of use, whether inside or in the field. Its Intel Core M processors ensure optimum performance, responsiveness and battery life. The tablet incorporates state-of-the-art technology, including a higher resolution, wide format display.

The RX10 uses Lumibond 2.0 technology, which provides an enhanced touch function with a readable display that can be used with gloves or a pen. To improve usage in remote locations, it's equipped with the latest 802.11ac WiFi for data transfer, and optional 4G mobile data. It also has dedicated GPS, for enhanced search capability and faster location positioning.



### The world's first Zone 1 tablet

ecom has launched the first explosion-proof tablet that has been certified for use in Zone 1 and DIV 1 environments (and can therefore also be used in Zone 2 and DIV 2 areas). The Tab-Ex® 01 DZ1 is a 4G/LTE Android tablet (based on the rugged Samsung Galaxy Tab Active) that incorporates a unique blend of electronic and mechanical protection.

The new tablet is ideal for mobile workers in potentially hazardous conditions, including those in the oil and gas, refining, chemical and pharmaceuticals industries. For more details, please contact us (we can also supply demonstration units). You can find details of our other ATEX-accredited solutions on [our website](#).

### BEC launches new eSmart Voice WMS

BEC's new solution enables everything within a warehouse to be controlled by voice technology, providing more efficient and effective management. The new product combines BEC's industry-leading eSmart® Warehouse software platform with Honeywell's Vocollect voice technology to deliver a powerful, scalable, flexible and dynamic voice solution.



eSmart Voice WMS is designed to streamline mission-critical applications, maximise throughput and provide real-time, accurate information on all warehouse processes. Users can enjoy the benefits of voice technology in every aspect of their warehouse operations, including receiving, picking, cross-docking, put-away, stock movements and dispatch. Operators use a wireless wearable computer with a headset and microphone, through which prompts are delivered and verbal responses are provided. This allows them to work hands-free whilst communicating directly with the WMS. Voice-directed technology can increase productivity by up to 35%, whilst reducing errors by up to 50%.

Take a look for yourself [here](#).

### Recent developments at Honeywell



Honeywell has implemented Datamax's extremely quick and accurate ZPL emulation into Intermec printers. This technology is called ZSIM2 and enables Zebra customers to upgrade easily to Honeywell.

Meanwhile, the Dolphin CT50 is Honeywell's most advanced enterprise-ready mobile computer, delivering real-time connectivity and best-in-class data capture capabilities. It comes with either Windows Embedded 8.1 Handheld or Android 4.4 KitKat and is ideal for warehouse, logistics and distribution workers.

Finally, there are now D70e wearable accessories available for the Dolphin 70e. These allow the Dolphin to be strapped to the user's wrist, providing an ideal solution for workers who need the flexibility of hands-free operations.

### **Updates to BarTender®**

If you're a regular user of BarTender labelling and barcoding software, you might have seen the mailer we sent out recently. This contains details of all of the recent enhancements that are incorporated in BarTender® 2016, and which include new and improved capabilities that will enhance your design and printing experience. If you haven't seen the mailer and would like a copy, please contact us.

### **Updates to MobiControl®**

Similarly, there have been several tranches of enhancements to SOTI's MobiControl enterprise mobility management platform, the latest being the introduction of version 13, which includes a range of new features and functionalities. Many of these will help to reduce the TCO of the platform still further. We have therefore produced a mailer that explains all of the key changes – please contact us for further details.

### **End of Life for some Zebra / Motorola products**

Several Zebra / Motorola wireless products have reached the end of their natural working life: RFS4000; RFS6000; RFS7000; AP650; AP6511 and AP7131. We will continue to support products that are covered by a support contract. However, the withdrawal of manufacturer support from these products could result in future vulnerabilities not being addressed.

Fortunately, we can offer you a choice of new alternatives, which also offer improvements in performance and reliability.

- To future-proof your wireless infrastructure whilst reducing the costs involved, please contact us to discuss our trade-in options. To review the replacement wireless offering from Zebra please visit [their website](#).
- The latest product prices can be found on our [eShop](#).

Please don't hesitate to contact us if you have any queries or need help in choosing new products.

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## **Recent reports and guides**

### **Wear it's all at...**

Our last newsletter mentioned a report about wearables, which continue to be a hot topic within the industry. However, do expectations align with the potential for the enterprise? A new report from Enterprise Mobility Exchange explores this question and looks at emerging case studies that show some promise and contain key considerations for wearable initiatives.

To learn more, you can download the report, [Wearable Technology: Enterprise Expectations and Potential](#), for free.

### **Opportunities and challenges for apps**

Enterprise Mobility Exchange also has another couple of free reports that are worth examining. The first is a paper that looks at factors that will help you to succeed and even exceed your expectations when developing a mobile application. [Download the White Paper](#) to learn more.

The second is a market report that explores the key opportunities and requirements for organisations that will be investing in enterprise mobility applications in 2016 and the biggest challenges that lie ahead for mobility leaders. For more information, [download the market report](#).

### **Benchmarking report**

Field Service News has released its '*Research Report: UK & European Benchmarking report*', based on the findings from Strategies for GrowthSM's annual global research. The paper, by leading industry analyst

Bill Pollock, identifies and analyses the key trends amongst UK and European field service companies. It also highlights the factors that separate the best-in-class from their peers.

Described as a 'must read' for any field service management professional, you can download the report by [clicking here](#).

## Ensuring service excellence

Another useful report from Field Service News is its '*White Paper: A guide to delivering service excellence*'. As its name suggests, this report examines ways in which field service companies can use technology to deliver higher levels of service. Examples include data capture, customer feedback collection and self-service.

To download the White Paper, [please click here](#).



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