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ibAcus

Inventory solutions for Inventory Companies.

Outline



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- Introduction
- ibAcus Features
- Future
- Demonstration
- Here until Saturday



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Introduction

- Started 2 years ago.
- Opportunity for *hardware independent* counting solution.
- *Not* linked to any *specific platform* or *operating system*.
- Created ibAcus.
- 20+ years inventory service experience.
- 20+ years software development experience.

ibAcus Features Overview



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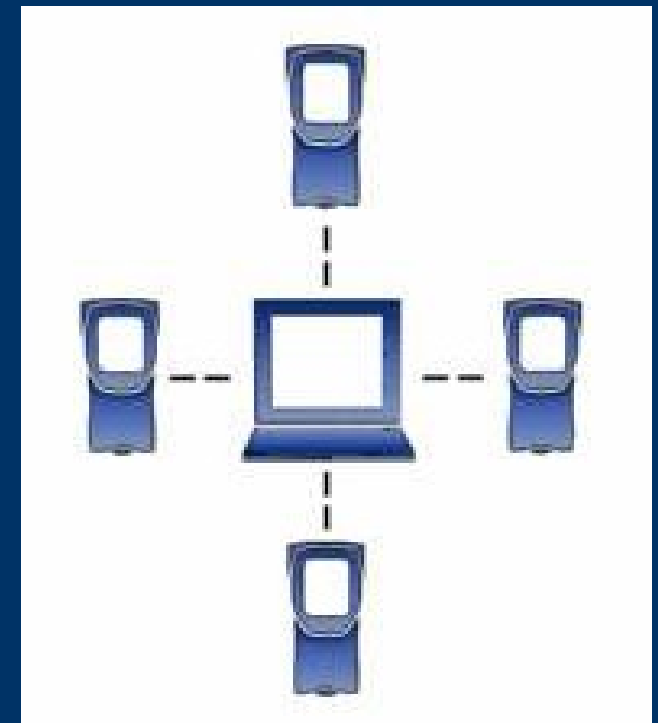
- Counting Framework
- Hardware Independence
- Site Hierarchy
- User Types
- Data Integrity
- Retail and Quantity
- Searching
- Reporting
- Automatic Updates
- Open Distribution



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Counting Framework

- Client server architecture.
- One server servicing many clients.
- Clients connect via TCP network connection.
- Clients make requests to the server which responds with appropriate actions.



Counting Framework



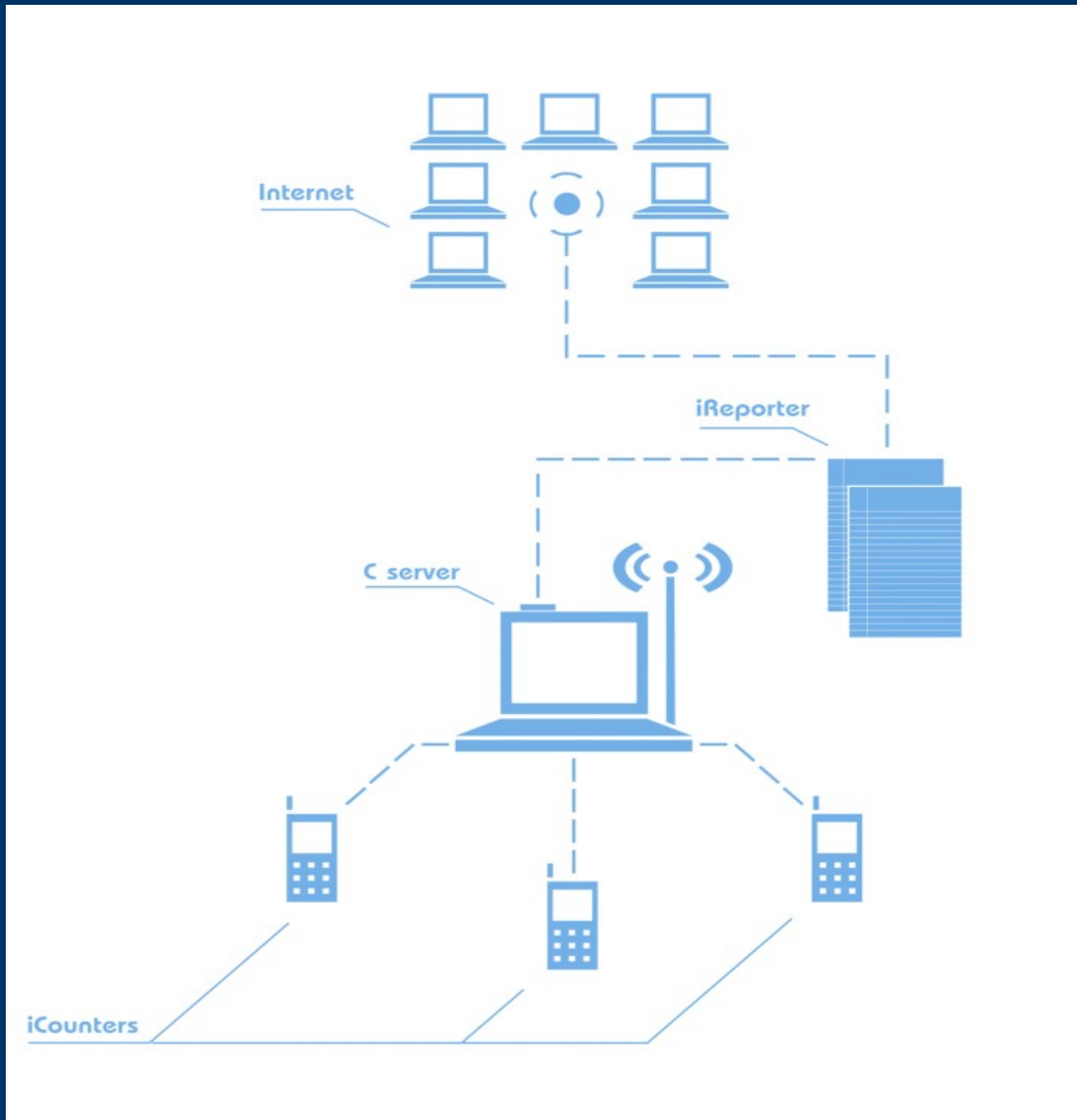
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- 3 components form the framework:
 - iCounter* Client application for counting. Runs on hand held devices. WindowsXP version also available.
 - CServer* Configures all profiles and users. Receives count data on-the-fly from all *iCounters* and stores it on disk. WindowsXP application. Open distribution.
 - iReporter* Generates reports from the count data. Easily extendable. WindowsXP application. Open distribution.



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Counting Framework



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Hardware Independence



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- General
 - C/C++ code layered to be hardware independent.
 - Protocol between CServer and iCounter is hardware and language independent.
 - Storage and transmission of data in an OS and DB independent binary format.
 - CServer and iReporter currently run on WindowsXP.

Hardware Independence



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- iCounter
 - Runs on any PocketPC 2003 device.
 - Currently tested on Symbol, Intermec, and iPAQ.
 - Simulation tests on Casio DT-X5.
 - Plans to include other devices and OSs, depending on tools, compilers, memory...
 - *Seamlessly* and *concurrently* count with *different* devices in the *same* count.
 - iCounter also has WindowsXP version.
 - Key maps, downloadable.



Site Hierarchy

- Locations
 - Sections
 - Shelves
- All items are recorded at the shelf level.
- This association is *never* lost.
- Can build dynamically using scannable section markers.



User Types

- All users are defined within CServer.
- Three user types:

Administrator Define site profiles. Manage counts. Make corrections.

Counter Perform counting using iCounter.

Auditor Perform counting using iCounter for verification purposes. Does not get reflected in the Master count.

Data Integrity

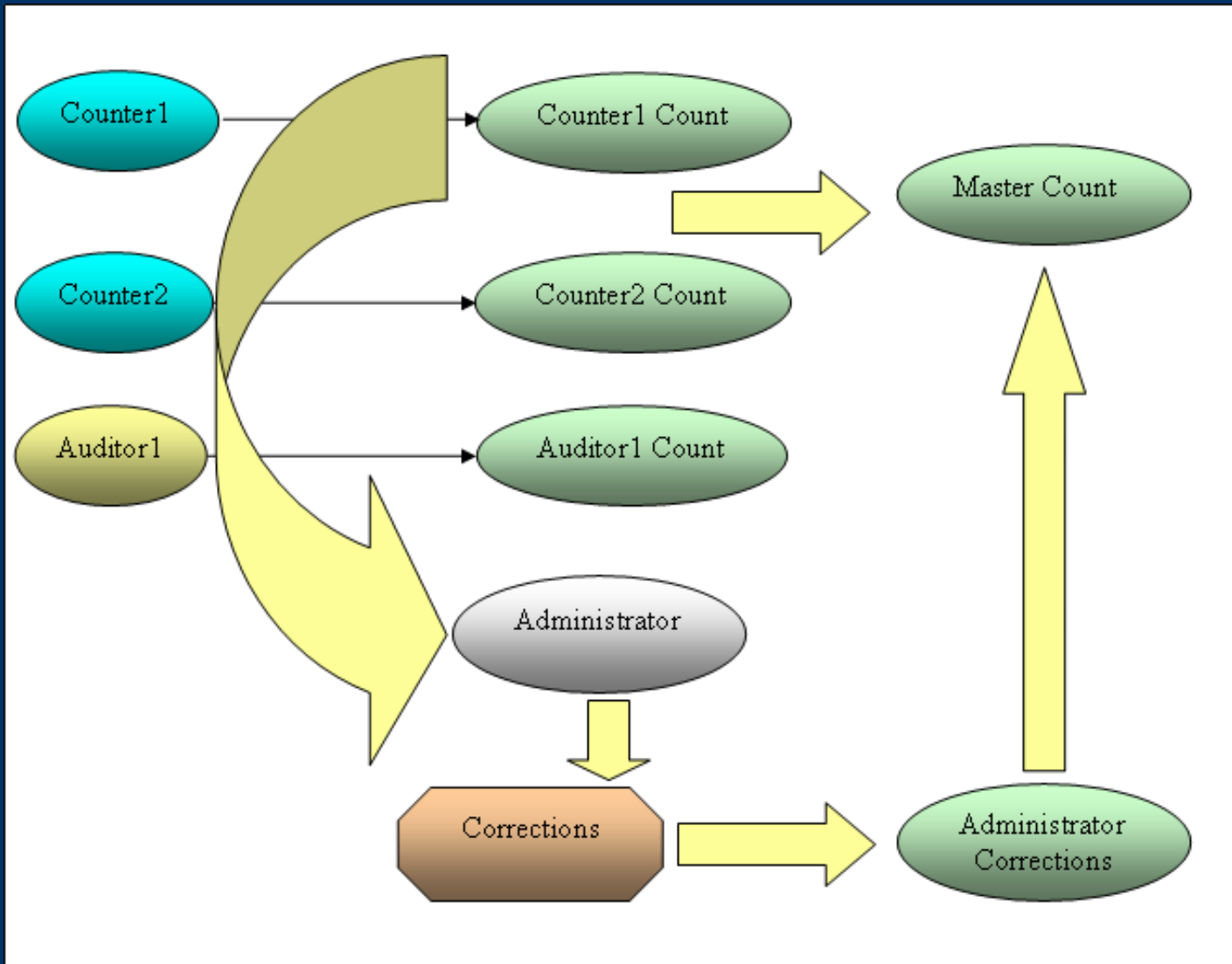


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- Counter Independence (picture).
- On-the-fly data synchronization.
- Atomic synchronization.
- Immediate writing of data in CServer.
- Automatic iCounter data backup.
- Count identification.
- Count Data Exports and Imports.
- Color coded entries.



Counter Independence



Retail and Quantity



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- *Seamlessly and concurrently* perform *both* retail and quantity (e.g. barcoded) counting.
- One button switch between retail and quantity.
- Both are recorded in the count down to the shelf level.



Searching

- Searching on Quantity count data:
 - Code value
 - Code type: UPC, EAN, Codabar, user entered...
 - Quantity range
- Result is maintained in its natural hierarchy.
- Search master or user count data.
- Search within search results.
- Report on search results.

Reporting



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- iReporter open distribution.
- Can be *given* to your customers.
 - You generate the report file.
 - Make available on your website for download.
 - Send to your end customer.
 - Customer can generate and print the reports they want.

Reporting



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- Retail and quantity reports. Read only.
- Comparison reports.
- Very quick. Requires only a few button clicks.
- On-the-fly reports, before count completion.
- Multiple counts in one report.
- Data maintained down to the shelf level.
- Barcodes can also be extracted and exported in comma delimited format.

Automatic Updates



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- iCounter hand held component
 - Automatically updates to new version at startup.
 - Requires *no* user input.
 - Uses any network connection.
 - Typically wireless.
 - Very fast, dependent on network speed.
- Many devices have persistent storage.
 - Permanent storage of iCounter, even after hard reset.
 - Then easily update to the latest version in CServer.



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Distribution Model

- CServer and iReporter are both *free* and *openly distributable*.
- Can be copied to multiple computers and given away.
- iReporter useful for your customers for maximum reporting flexibility and convenience.
- iCounter is charged per license.



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Conclusion

- ibAcus provides a framework for hardware neutral counting.
- Our goals:
 - Support the hardware our customers want to use.
 - Customer directed product.
 - Whatever is needed to make our customers more efficient and competitive.
 - Provide rich features allowing our customers to sell new services, enter new markets.

Future



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- Report styles and graphing.
- Flash card count data backup for iCounter.
- Searching on retail counts.
- Permanent section markers.
- Digitally signed iReports.
- Barcodes can be imported and/or generated allowing descriptions on iCounters (beta).



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Demo