

Technology in handling

One size does not fit all

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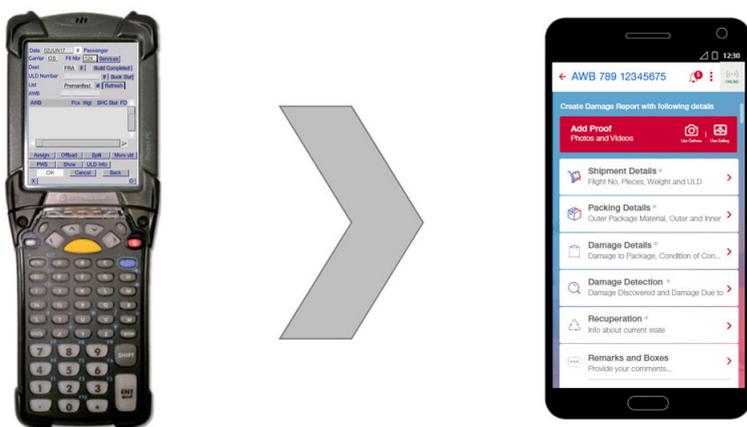
Apps that run on mobile devices are a welcome evolution to warehouse handling to improve adoption and efficiency. Using modern API integration to Cargospot allows devices to be swapped out as technology evolves. As augmented reality technology (such as smart glasses) matures, even more options will become available to further enhance the user experience.

Historically, mobile users in the handling environment all used the same set of shared devices where device ergonomics were a compromise across the different types of users. While many tools, such as rugged barcode scanners, have been created to more effectively automate the processes – these can be quite costly, and often times, do not consider their most effective day-to-day use, other than needing to be sturdy.

Ease of Personal Use

Instead, many handlers choose a different route. Modern 'app' functionality running on iOS, Android, and Windows allows different devices for different types of users.

After all, usability is essential to effectively optimizing the enhanced functionality of the cargo systems we utilize on a daily basis. The apps are already formatted to the same devices and mobile systems the user is already familiar with and owns.



New OS | New form factors | New UX

Touchscreens have also changed the game, allowing historical barcode scanning or keying data to be replaced with a simple touch and swipe. Larger screens on tablets can finally remove paper from the operation. And furthermore, a tablet can store the daily to-do list and give the ability to check off items as they are completed, enabling warehouse staff and managers to more efficiently track daily and hourly progress.



More powerful than we imagined

Shared “warehouse scanners” that are more likely to be mishandled, lost, or broken along the way are a thing of the past with the falling cost of such mobile devices. This reduced cost means they can be assigned to individuals who assume personal responsibility. Since no one wants a cracked screen on their personal phone or tablet, they are more likely to be treated well and less likely to require replacement.

Finally, these devices have become more powerful – allowing more complex apps to work harder and simplify life for the user. Automatic detection of data types from scanned data, automatic verification of user actions in real time and features, like barcode, QR, and address scanning that have become standard in consumer smartphone apps can be applied to the business environment.



More Devices = More Options

Furthermore, applying user experience techniques common in consumer apps, such as simplified app menus and multilingual set up, user accessibility is easy for anyone.

Bringing together these elements is no small feat. As technologies personalize and consumer products have made a great leap forward in the world of personal mobile devices, it is our duty to adopt this technology. Not only for the benefit of our employees, but also our businesses and customers. These allow various functions of the warehouse and handling business to choose the device that best serves them, and not be tethered to technology that may no longer be relevant to their business and personal needs.

Click on the images below for a demo

