

# **Tech Data Corporation**

DC Series – Printing Cart

## **Customer Profile**

Tech Data Corporation, founded in 1974, is a leading global provider of IT products, logistics management and other value-added services. Ranked 117th on the Fortune 500, the company and its subsidiaries serve more than 100,000 technology resellers in the United States, Canada, the Caribbean, Latin America, Europe and the Middle East. The company generated sales of \$15.7 billion for 2003.

Today, as a proven technology leader, Tech Data continues to forge new ground by supporting its wireless network with PowerCart's mobile, battery powered, printing carts.



## **The Challenge**

Tech Data had a typical, semi-automated distribution center process, where goods were handled many times. Purchasing placed orders with the vendors for various goods. The vendors shipped the product with weigh bills and generally bar coded the packages. Once the shipment arrived, receiving had fixed stations to which pallets were brought for identification. The internal purchase order was compared against the weigh bill for accuracy and then the individual packages were scanned, sorted and re-labeled for forwarding to the respective stores. Some items were manually recorded on the dock and the information carried to the station where the information was entered into the system, new labels produced, and then carried back to the dock where packages were re-identified and the new label affixed. This system had large room for errors and was labor intensive.

## **The Solution**

Three years ago, Tech Data began the implementation of a system that allows their distribution centre in Atlanta to scan, receive, and cross-dock for reshipment right at the shipping door. At the dock 4 fixed receiving station have been replaced with 4 mobile workstations – a PowerCart battery equipped cart that provides a work platform, a printer, a scanner, monitor, a wireless bridge and both a thermal and a laser printer.

## **The Results**

With power enough to last more than a 10 hour shift, Tech Data' mobile carts are rolled around the docks where product is identified by bar code and immediately re-routed to the store. Beyond the obvious time saving, this mobility provides Tech Data with two additional benefits. The employees no longer have to carry the product to the station for processing, which greatly reduces handling and corresponding risk of damage. Secondly, this processing at the dock allows them to receive an exceptionally large, heavy or fragile product without the traditionally required manual recording of the packaging information for reentry at the fixed station. Now these 'special' cases are processed without ever losing sight of the shipment thereby eliminating the duplication of data entry and the margin for error is virtually nil.

## **The conclusion**

"Since its implementation, the Atlanta distribution center has been number 1 in the country and plans are underway to implement 40 additional carts at the other 5 centers." Shawn Rodgers, Senior PC LAN Analyst with Tech Data.

