



WHY WOULD YOU NEED A HOST SYSTEM?

A host system is used for two main purposes: to centralize item maintenance and for reporting. Managing multiple stores from one location (head office), while having the ability to control pricing from one point is a valued feature.

- **Entry error is minimized** and pricing is standardized in every store. Having a single user perform weekly promotion entries reduces cost. By having a single individual keying the promotion on a weekly basis, is an added value that can benefit every Head Office.
- **The ability to have real time or daily sales** in a centralized hosting system is also a necessity for sales analysis. Sales increase or sales decrease must be reported to management for fast response and adjustment. A total store sale, department sales down to item sales is crucial information to report to head office.
- **Inventory value per store** is also critical information that must be centralized..
- **Loss prevention by tracking** cashier balancing number, inventory shortage, electronic journal information are all available at the store level but could also be brought up to head office.

TRANSFERRING INFORMATION

Communicating with stores may be done by using different Windows standards. For example, all stores could be linked with a WAN, a VPN, a RAS (Remote Access Server) or through FTP (File Transfer Protocol). Communication can be programmed once, twice or three times per day; for example at 10:00 a.m., noon or 5:00 p.m. This function also permits a transaction-by-transaction reporting to tally up sales up to the minute directly to the host. The Inbox/Outbox concept integrated in LOC Store Management Suite is the perfect tool to transfer information. All you need to set up is the transporter, and we will take care of the data.

OUR POWERFUL HOST CONFIGURATION

The host module will give you the ability to program an unlimited number of stores and to link stores to regions. The philosophy behind targets will let you assemble stores into various groups so you may report by individual store or a group of stores. Target setting is used to group stores for pricing or reporting purposes.

By having stores in multiple regions leads to a diverse price management. Prices must be adjusted per region to reflect the competitive market and to prevent a variance between the price and the product. By providing retailers with the flexibility of grouping stores by region, it allows for proper pricing and marketing.

LOC-SMS offers an elaborate reporting system which allows retailers to compare the sales per store, per region. The sales analysis may be done by city or state. The grouping is unlimited so a store can be part of two different groups. Sales analysis is imperative to be pro-active rather than reactive.

Managing LOC-SMS Tables

Our database structure offers the flexibility to program items by store or by group of stores. Price management may be processed per store by setting one price or it may be set by exception. The exception concept lets you program prices for every store by programming the exception to a specific store it applies too. Our target concept gives you an unlimited level of pricing that provides the flexibility you may need. The same items may be available in two stores but the stores are located in two different States. No need to worry if the tax rates are different since all information is maintained at target (i.e. per State) and not only per price. When we designed our database, we made sure to fully support multiply stores and multiple scenarios. It is for that reason most of our tables hold unlimited records to grant the flexibility of unlimited store groupings.



MANAGING YOUR SYSTEM FROM THE HOST

Communication from head office to a store will relay any changes done from Head Office on the schedule that you are comfortable with. Changes could be configured to stop at the store server but could also be sent directly in the POS of every store. Changes are easily reported at the store level to insure store management is given complete information before it is applied to the lanes. Labels can be printed at the host or at store level; all depending on your operations.

Data integrity is also important to the management of your stores. You may trigger a file validation from Head Office by validating all the major tables and obtain a complete report on the differences between both databases. You may also trigger certain fields of the database for a quicker validation. Adjustments may be performed at the head office database or at the store database. A record of all communications will also give you the connection that failed at any store location.

MANAGING YOUR STORE

Sales Information will be uploaded to the Head Office based on a schedule that can be decided upon. You may schedule the store to send every transaction or a full day of information. You may also schedule periodical transfers and the system will only update the sales that were not received on the preceding communication. You want to know the change done at the store level for the items file integrity? Simply flag this option and every change done at the store level on the item file will be reported at the Head Office.

OPERATOR MANAGEMENT

The operator files may be managed at store level or at Head Office. Depending on your configuration, you may have all cashiers information split by cashier for every store right at your fingertips. The system will allocate a range of cashiers available by store to avoid conflict with Head Office. Cashier numeration may also be allocated from Head Office and communicated at store levels. You may also leave the store manage their operator files and the information will be uploaded automatically in your HOST system without any intervention. For your loss prevention department, having the information by cashier is basic and will provide the ability to track cashier operation centrally.

CUSTOMER MANAGEMENT

Customer files may be voluminous. LOC Store Management Suite gives you the flexibility to maintain your customer files in the location that will make the most sense to you. You may decide to have the customer files directly at the POS, or to reside in the store server. For larger customer files, a host system will hold all the customer information. The POS will then question the database from the Head Office to get access to customer information such as: credit limit, shopper level, points, accounts receivable balances and so on.

From the Accounts Receivable, you might want to print a statement at the store level or at the host level. The decision is based on your organization and both options are available to fit your needs. With this flexibility, it becomes effortless to block an account; it can easily be done at the Host level.

INVENTORY MANAGEMENT

Transfers between stores can become an inventory nightmare. Managing the transfer of goods between two stores is also time consuming. LOC Store Management Suite will let you create a document from store #1 when the goods are transferred by creating an invoice. This invoice will be electronically sent to store #2 which is to receive the goods and automatically adjust inventory from both stores in one single intervention. Again, by not having to duplicate data entry, your margin of error is greatly reduced.

Organizations such as yours can now centralize order processing from one location using LOC Store Management Suite. All stores enter their purchase orders; send them via LOC-SMS transfer to Head Office. The merchandiser at head office will receive all orders from the different stores; make orders to the supplier according to the precise store needs, thus avoiding overstock.

