

Glossary

A

Antenna

A device used to transmit and receive RF communication between a CBS and SmarTalkers. One transmit and up to four receive antennas may be attached to each CBS. Antennnas are usually installed on the ceiling.

API (Application Program Interface)

A set of functions that can be used by the application software to access the functionality of the EPL Base Software.

Attachments

Mounting devices used to attach SmarTalkers to shelf rails.

Audit Log

A module of the EPL Base Software that is used to record EPL Table maintenance operations.

B

Bedcheck

A background function that verifies SmarTalkers are working properly. If a SmarTalker does not respond to a bedcheck message, an error is recorded.

Burst

The CBS communicates with SmarTalkers in bursts of information. A downlink burst to a SmarTalker contains 132 bits.

C

CBS (Communication Base Station)

CBSs receive and transmit data and control functions between the EPL controller and the SmarTalkers. Up to 20 CBSs can be installed in a store. One CBS is defined as the primary CBS and the others as secondary CBSs. CBSs are usually installed in the ceiling.

CBS Power Supply

This external AC/DC converter supplies DC power to a maximum of five CBSs. An additional CBS Power Supply is required for each additional group of 5 CBSs.

Coverage Area

An area within a store where there is reliable RF communication between CBSs and SmarTalkers. More than one CBS is required in a large store to attain adequate transmission reliability.

D

Descriptor Symbols

One symbol on a SmarTalker LCD indicates when the SmarTalker and CBS are out of synchronization, and another symbol indicates when the SmarTalker's battery is low. The other symbols on the display are available for the retailer's use.

Downlink Burst

A CBS sends data to a SmarTalker in downlink bursts. A downlink burst contains 132 bits. Examples of downlink messages are Bedcheck, Price Update, Load Memory, and Change Display Register.

DPC (Dedicated Personal Computer)

This PC, acting as the EPL controller, reads the customer's PLU file from the In-Store Processor/POS system via a LAN connection and communicates the information to DecisioNet System.

DSP (Digital Signal Processor)

Part of the CBS control module that converts analog signals received from the RF receiver to digital signals. The DSP then processes this data and sends it to the microprocessor. The DSP also receives and encodes data to be sent to a SmarTalker from the microprocessor and transfers it to the RF transmitter.

E**Error Log**

This module of the EPL Base Software records and displays communication errors between the ISP or DPC and a SmarTalker.

EPL (Electronic Price Label)

The EPL, also referred to as a tag, is the device attached to the store shelf that displays information for the customer. The trademarked names for NCR's tags are SmarTalker and SmarTalker II.

EPL Base Software

A software application for the DecisioNet System that runs on the EPL Controller and does is not dependent on the type of POS system used. The EPL Base Software controls the core DecisioNet functionality such as initialization of a SmarTalker, display of price on a SmarTalker, and diagnostics.

This software also provides a set of standard API functions that can be used to interface with the EPL Application Software and other software controlling the POS system.

EPL Batch File

A file containing a group of records used when making changes to the EPL table. The batch file may be created at the store or downloaded from headquarters.

EPL Case

A piece of shelf rail, the same length as the SmarTalker, that can be used to secure a SmarTalker to the merchandise shelf. This rail protects the SmarTalker from accidental damage and from theft.

EPL Controller

EPL controller refers to an In-Store Processor (ISP) or a Dedicated PC (DPC). It is the computer physically connected to the primary CBS that sends price information from the PLU file to the DecisioNet System for display on SmarTalkers.

EPL Removal Tool

This tool, also called an EPL puller, is used to remove SmarTalker tags from shelf rails. A different tool, also called an EPL puller, is used to remove SmarTalker II tags from shelf rails.

EPL Serial Number

During manufacture, a distinct 8-digit (32-bit binary code) number is assigned to each SmarTalker and stored in the SmarTalker's RAM. The serial number and its barcode equivalent (Code 39) are printed on the back label.

EPL Standalone System

A system that runs the EPL Software on a dedicated PC separate from the ISP. In this situation the DPC has a copy of the store data base and communicates with the ISP to receive maintenance (price update) data.

EPL Table

A file created during the initial DecisioNet System installation that links SmarTalkers to PLU items. This file also contains other data used to define the attributes of each SmarTalker.

I

Initialization

The process by which a SmarTalker is registered in the EPL data base, associated with a particular product, and synchronized.

ISP (In-Store Processor)

The computer in the store that contains the price database used by the POS system. The ISP integrates PLU information into the DecisioNet System.

Item Table

A table created from the POS Item file (PLU file) and used as an item data base in the standalone DecisioNet System.

L**LCD (Liquid Crystal Display)**

The type of display in SmarTalkers and SmarTalker IIs.

P**PC (Personal Computer)****Pre-EPL Table**

A data file used to is create an EPL Table.

Promotion Message

Promotional message(s) such as "SAVE," "OFF," and "FOR SALE" can be displayed on the SmarTalker LCD alternately with the price. Up to 3 messages may be programmed.

R**Register Data**

These messages, such as stocking information and aisle number, may be used by store personnel. They can be displayed on the SmarTalker LCD by pressing a micromotion button hidden behind the front label or by transmitting an instruction from the processor.

RF (Radio Frequency)**RS-232/RS-422 Converter**

This device converts an RS-232 communication line from the EPL controller (ISP or DPC) to an RS-422 line connected to the CBS(s).

S**Shelf Rail**

A device which can be attached to the existing shelf/gondola to secure several SmarTalker tags to the shelf and protect them from accidental damage and from theft.

SmarTalker

The trademarked name for NCR's Version 1 Electronic Price Label (EPL). Also referred to as a tag, this device attaches to the store shelf and displays information for the customer.

SmarTalker II

The trademarked name for NCR's Version 2 Electronic Price Label (EPL). Also referred to as a tag, this device attaches to the store shelf and displays information for the customer.

Store ID

A unique number is assigned to each store and used by the DecisioNet System to prevent unintentional transmission of signals between stores.

Superframe

A unit of data containing 16 frames (25,344 bits) that is sent to a SmarTalker.

T

Time Slot

A unit of time assigned to each SmarTalker during which the SmarTalker "listens" for a transmission from a CBS. Also a unit of time during which a CBS transmits either a downlink message to a SmarTalker, or a steady signal (hum) that is used by the SmarTalker to reflect an acknowledgment (ACK).

TOD (Time Of Day)

A clock used by the DecisioNet System to trigger display changes.

U

Uplink

An uplink is an acknowledgment message (ACK) sent from a SmarTalker to a CBS in response to a downlink burst.