

SDReader6

A White Paper on the Route Management System

Introduction:

The vision of SDI is to become the premier software engineering systems provider for the metered utilities industry through a total commitment to customer service and product excellence.

Significant Digits Incorporated (SDI) is a software engineering company that focuses primarily on the utility industry providing software tools and embedded systems for route management, meter reading and utility billing. The vision of SDI is to become the premier software engineering systems provider for metered utilities industry through a total commitment to customer service and product excellence.

Historically, SDI was incorporated in 1992 when work was begun on the first SDReader Route Management System. The initial implementation was completed in 1993 with SDI's first customer. It was the first Route Management handheld meter reading system offered as a complete Microsoft Windows based tool. Development tools have since evolved and SDI with them. Today, SDI utilizes the latest Microsoft.NET environment to develop their utility management, meter reading and billing systems. SDI is staffed by competent and capable software engineers with a wealth of experience that reaches back to the 1970's. Through this experience and a strict determination for customer satisfaction, SDI's client base climbed to 400 in 2007 with customers spanning the United States, Europe and the Middle East.

Significant Digits Incorporated does not work on its own however. SDI has partnered with the top meter equipment and electronic equipment providers to offer the customer the highest quality equipment and software tools. Also SDI is constantly updating and increasing the scope of their products to ensure that they stay on the forefront of the technology curve. Not only does SDI constantly increase the scope of their current offerings, they also develop new technologies to increase the productivity of its users.

Significant Digits strives to win your business through superior, cutting edge products and retain your business through excellent customer service.

In summary, SDI is realizing their vision to become the premier software and hardware provider for municipalities and utilities through their commitment of providing powerful software products and excellent customer service. SDI prides themselves in being innovators in the field of utility management and consistently staying ahead of the technology curve by constantly thinking forward. The commitment to excellence in product development and customer support pursued by SDI can be summed up by a single fact. Their first customer remains a customer.

SDI utilizes the latest Microsoft.NET environment in all their software development.

SDI works hard to stay ahead of the technology curve.

SDReader6 was designed to help reduce the stress of route management

SDReader6 automatically calculates mapping coordinates based upon 911 addresses.

Overview:

Route management can be a confusing and difficult chore given the diverse options of equipment and services available. Hence SDI has created SDReader6 to simplify this task. As with all SDI products, SDReader6 was developed in the latest Microsoft .NET environment and runs on Microsoft Windows 2000, Windows XP and Windows Vista. SDReader6 also supports automatic updating. Any available updates are automatically updated when SDReader6 starts up.

SDReader6 has the functionality to seamlessly interface into any billing system and hosts of AMR systems. Through system configuration the specific user functionality is streamlined to their particular requirements simplifying their implementation details.

The way SDI incorporates mapping technology into SDReader6 is innovative in the ease with which it is done. All that is required to map meter points on a map is MapPoint and 911 addresses. From this data, SDReader6 automatically manages meter points for mapping tools, while supporting other methods of management as well.

SDReader's Graphical User Interface gives feedback at each process step being performed guiding the user through. SDReader6 also meets the Open Systems Foundation Goals for compatibility. This means the data can be rapidly imported to a number of different host packages. For example, the data can easily be viewed in Microsoft Access or Excel. Moreover, SDReader6 supports a host of AMR systems through both Handheld and Laptop mobile reading systems.

Solution Details:

The following is a chronological description of how SDReader6 interacts with the billing system and the meter reading devices.

- SDReader6 receives the download routes from the billing system and manages the data according to user requirements
- SDReader6 prepares and manages the internal database including map points if mapping is enabled
- The supporting route files are sent to the meter reading devices
- After the reading process is completed, SDReader6 accepts and prepares readings for transfer to the billing system
- A number of reports can be studied before reads are transferred to ensure completeness and correctness
- SDReader6 transfers the readings file to the billing system adhering to billing system requirements for processing and billing
- In a network environment, SDReader6 can be implemented from a number of workstations all sharing the same data while controlling specific equipment

*The SDI Suite comes with
SDReader6, a choice of meter
reading tools and even a billing
package*

*SDI offers utilities a resource for
one stop shopping.*

Business Benefits:

There are many benefits to using SDReader6. It is part of the SDI Suite of tools that includes several options for meter reading and billing. With SDReader6 comes the choice of SDReaderCE for handhelds, SDMobile or even a combination of the both. For the first time, Significant Digits Incorporated has included a billing package, aimed at mid to small utilities, into a route management suite. In addition, SDReader6 can interface with any billing system including custom designed systems.

The system configuration allows the functionality to be streamlined to the specific needs of the user. This removes all unnecessary layers of implementation details making the operation as simple as a minimum set of mouse clicks.

SDReader6 offers this great functionality to the utility management community at an exceptionally affordable price. The software is intuitive and easy to use. Namely, a half day for installation and a half a day for training is all that is typically required for full use of the product.

As always, SDI's personable and knowledgeable customer service is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. With a billing package aimed at mid to small utilities, an advanced route management tool, and versatile meter reading applications, SDI offers utilities a source for one stop shopping.

Summary:

Significant Digits Incorporated has been providing advanced software and hardware technologies to the utility management community since 1993. The staff of expert software engineers is constantly developing and re-engineering ways to better serve their customers. By utilizing the latest advancements in hardware technology and software development practices, they remain on the cutting edge of utility management innovation. In addition, Significant Digits Incorporated offers around the clock customer service that is knowledgeable and personable.

SDI has developed the SDReader6 route management tool to simplify the task of utilities management and meter reading. Significant Digits Incorporated is always on the path of innovation. They have incorporated several key features to SDReader6, such as mapping and automatic updates, that improve functionality as well as simplify the overall process for everyone involved. SDReader6 was designed to meet the Open Systems Foundation Goals for compatibility which means that the data can be imported to many different host packages such as Microsoft Access, Excel and many others. Moreover, SDReader6 incorporates as many open system tools as are available in the AMR market.

Along with SDReader6 comes a range of choices for route management including multiple ways to gather meter readings and even a billing package (EZ2QB). This package, which includes SDReader6, coupled with SDI's long history of commitment to great customer service makes this tool a no brainer to implement.