

SDRouteManagerCE

A White Paper on Handheld Route Management

Introduction:

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.

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

SDI works hard to stay ahead of the technology curve.

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.

Overview:

SDRouteManagerCE is the migration of SDI's SDRouter route management application to the Windows CE and Mobile platforms. Like all current SDI products, SDRouteManagerCE is developed in the Microsoft .NET environment which allows the latest technologies to be incorporated.

SDRouteManagerCE 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.

SDRouteManagerCE is the mobile version of SDRouter6 that has been streamlined to run on handheld computers. The GPS, GIS Mapping and WorkOrder capabilities have remained along with the ability to collect GPS meter points and pass them to the billing system. Ease of use has improved however. A route can be prepared and ready to read in two clicks.

SDRouteManagerCE 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, SDRouteManagerCE supports a host of AMR systems.

SDRouter6 automatically calculates mapping coordinates based upon 911 addresses.

Solution Details:

- SDRouterManagerCE utilizes a Graphical User Interface in combination with touch screen technologies maximizing the ease of operation
- Download and upload files are created right on the handheld and are transported directly to the billing system
- The preparation of the download and upload files has been streamlined. Preparation takes a minimum of 2 clicks as does uploading
- GPS collection and mapping capabilities are included
- Various settings options are available to the user including:
 - Show High/Low
 - Mapping turned on or off
 - Selectable route storage
 - ERT tone selection
 - Carrier frequency selection
- Multipliers can be set for the upload
- Number of dials can be set for the download

The SDI Suite comes with SDRReader6, 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 SDRouteManagerCE. It is part of the SDI Suite of tools that includes several options for meter reading and billing. SDRouteManagerCE can be run from any handheld device running Windows CE 5.0 or higher and Windows Mobile. This can even be run from most smart phones.

SDRouteManagerCE can be used with any utility billing system utilizing a standard billing system interface or a billing package specific billing system interface. If SDI does not have the billing system interface on file, they will create it.

SDRouteManagerCE offers great mobile 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, SDI remains on the cutting edge of utility management innovation. In addition, Significant Digits Incorporated offers around the clock customer service that is knowledgeable and personable and second to none.

SDRouteManagerCE was developed in the Microsoft .NET environment to be used with handheld computers utilizing the Windows CE and Windows Mobile operating systems. SDRouteManagerCE focuses on ease of use and speed. The application has been trimmed for optimal speed on the handheld, but still maintains the robust options that SDI's applications are known for.

Briefly, SDRouteManagerCE makes the route management process easier by incorporating it directly into the handheld so that billing system's communication with the handheld does not have to go through a middle man program. SDI's personable and knowledgeable customer service is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. With the features included in SDRReaderCE and the SDRouteManagerCE system, in combination with the competitive pricing and customer service offered by SDI, make this a no brainer tool to incorporate.