PALM BASED METER READING

PRODUCT DATASHEET

KEY FEATURES

BOSON SOFTWARE

- User defined response codes for unread meters
- Reading entries are saved in primary memory AND on backup card as route is read *
- Save previous route generations for review later
- Track who read a route by initials
- Range Checking to avoid reading mistakes
- Stores reading dates & time to the second to optionally resort reading sequence of route
- Video based instruction thru Windows Multimedia player on common Windows desktop computers
- Download new route and upload the read route by pushing single HotSync button
- Annual maintenance agreements available
- Several routes may be resident in device to avoid return trips to the office after a route is complete
- The same route can be resident on multiple handhelds allowing the readers to work on the same route
- Problem reading meter? Tap an excuse from the list box and keep going
- Previous readings and High/Low readings are optionally shown in meter details page
- Meter digits can be strictly enforced or by using floating number of digits
- Read Left-to-Right or Right-to-Left

PALM OS COMPUTING PLATFORM

- Lightweight device for easy handling - fits in pocket. Reader is free to use hands to walk, open gates, etc.
- May be used in low light conditions. Palm OS devices have backlights.
- Runs on easy to own and easy to operate PalmOS computers - inexpensive hardware and batteries
- PalmOS 5 Ready

DESKTOP SOFTWARE AND HOTSYNC

- HotSync process uploads read routes and downloads prepared routes in single button push
- Control of how handhelds operate is maintained in the office by BosonDT
- Easily add more handheld licenses through License wizard
- New readers can be trained to use Boson by watching instrucional videos included with desktop software

ADVANCED FEATURES

- Attach to reading probe to read touch pad equipped meters

** Requires use of Palm handheld with SD memory expansion card like m125, m130, m500, m505.*

BOSON

What is Boson?

The concept of reading utility meters with an inexpensive PDA was born by a large utility who was transitioning between software vendors and was shocked to find their existing handhelds would not work with their newly purchased software. After diligently researching handhelds available and pricing, the utility could not find cost-justifiable handhelds. Is there anything out there we can afford? What about using a Palm Pilot to capture the readings?

A little later and after many, many installations, **Boson** is a delivered product ready to work for your organization. It is difficult to justify large expenditures for more expensive handheld technologies which deliver less than Boson. Eventually, all technologies grow and become improved upon. Why invest huge sums into reading technology to only find the handhelds to be out of date, the batteries will not hold a charge or the hardware is physically broken and no one will repair the units? Why not use hardware which is affordable to keep extras?

Boson is software for PalmOS computers which allows you to easily read utility routes. Ionware has developed Boson to be installed by the end user with little to no assistance from us. Many of our users just follow the simple installation instructions and receive a little help from Ionware on the telephone to begin using the handheld for their routes.

How Do You Use Boson?

Entries into Boson are made using a stylus to tap numeric entries on the touch-sensitive screen as you read a route. You may also use your finger if easier.

The reading cycle is started by preparing a route on the billing computer and using the HotSync cradle to download the readings to the handheld computer. Multiple routes can be downloaded at one time.

After the routes are resident, the handheld is removed from the cradle and the route can be walked with the handheld. Boson accepts readings for electrical, water, gas and demand meters.

The customer name, service address, previous reading and meter tag number are listed on the entry screen -- the large numeric buttons help ease the reading entry. Boson checks for readings outside of high/low range but still permits entry.

The routes can be read out of order. The reader can scroll forward or backward in the route and finally jump back to the first unread meter in the route. Meters can be found by House Number, Tag Number or Service Number.

Details of each meter are provided in the Details screen - tap the screen to view location on the property, special notations, previous readings and the high/low reading checks. Trouble reading the meter can be indicated by tapping an entry in the exception list.

Entry of the reading can occur Right-to-Left or Left-to-Right. Strict number of digit entries can be enforced or a meter can be keyed as a floating entry in case the billing software is unaware of the number of digits.

ionware **BOSON** **PALM BASED METER READING**

Progress through the route is shown in percentage, how many meters are read and total readings in the route.

Boson can be attached to a probe to read meters with probe pads. For handhelds with memory expansion cards, a separate copy of the readings are kept on the memory card for backup. Each reading stored in the primary memory of the handheld is also written to the memory card.

Another strong Boson feature is allowing the same route to be loaded on more than one handheld. When readers finish their primary route - they can begin reading large routes which are read by several readers. No return trip to the office is needed as Boson stores multiple routes in memory. When all routes are read, the handheld is returned to the office and the readings are HotSync'ed back to the billing computer.

The HotSync process will return all read routes to the billing system and install newly prepared routes to the handheld in the same HotSync step.

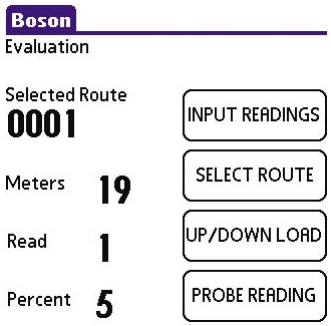
Boson is easy to interface to existing billing systems. Many, popular, utility billing systems are already interfaced. Even if you have a custom system, the interface to Boson is easy.

Boson Screen Shots

Launch Boson with a Tap!

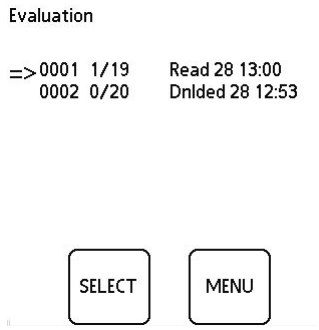
A single tap on the launcher screens starts Boson immediately. Boson is PalmOS native & OS 5 ready.

Main Screen



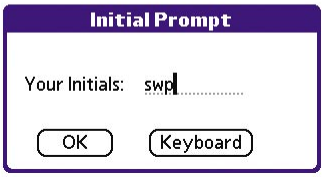
Boson shows the currently selected route, the number of meters in the route, number of meters read and the percentage of the route completed.

Select a Route



Boson can handle multiple routes (if billing software allows) on the handheld. Simply select which route you choose to read.

Who are you?

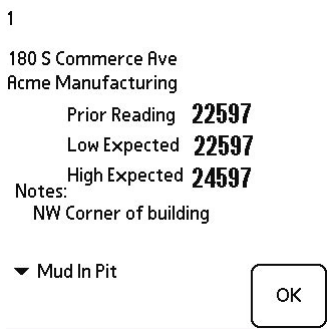


Indicate your name or initials for the readings.

Entry Screen

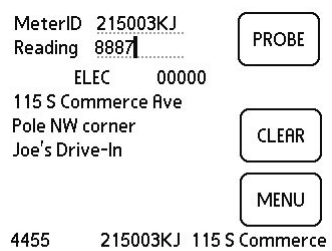
Meter data is shown. Tap in the reading using the large format keypads. Entry boxes must be complete before reading is accepted.

Detail Screen



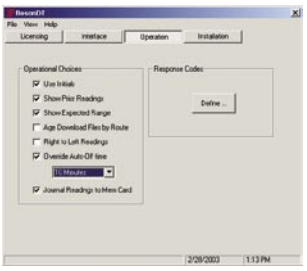
Previous reading data is shown. If reading is not possible, select an excuse from the exception list.

Probe Meter Reading



Attach a probe to handheld to read meters with touch pads.

Desktop Software - BosonDT



Interfacing and operational parameters are selected by the office and control how each handheld works.

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