

# CONOPS Preparation

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# **1 The Current System or Situation**

## **1.1 Background, Objectives, and Scope**

Right now the current system uses a traditional check-out system where a store staff person scans each item, collects the payment and bags the groceries.

The objective is to implement a self-service check-out system in all their stores.

In the new system the customer will scan the items and bag them, and they will pay for their groceries by inserting a card or currency or swiping a credit card.

This would make checkout faster since the self checkout system requires less hardware making it easier to install more of these which in return would make the process more efficient.

## **1.2 Operational Policies and Constraints**

You depend on your personal to use your checkout meaning that there are times where the checkouts are idle.

You require two person to operate the checkout (the costumer and the cashier).

The cashier must be present during the entire checkout process.

### **1.3 Description of the Current System or Situation**

The system is operating inside a supermarket, it requires a carrier band, a screen, a printer, scanner gun, scanner panel and a Point-of-Sale.

This Point-of-sale can take cash, credit card (Which are link with different credit card providers system) and also support Apple Pay and Google pay.

The cashier needs to use the carrier band to bring the items near her so she can use either the scan panel or the scan gun to get the pricing of the item and add it to the POS.

The carrier band has a fixed amount of items it can carry at a particular time, the speed depends on the expertise of the cashier, the amount of items of the customer and the current availability from the remove payment providers.

The cost of operation requires to maintain all the hardware and also the cashier salary.

### **1.4 Modes of operation for the current system or situation**

The regular mode of operation would be that the cashier scans and creates a final bill for the customer and the customer paid, but there are some cases that the cashier requires to return a transaction or requires to open the cash drawer.

In this case the cashier would require to call a supervisor that can overwrite this transaction or gain more access to the cash drawer.

## 1.5 User classes and other involved personnel

In the current system exists there types of user, most of the time the user are going to be:

- **Cashier:** Who can control the carrier band, add items to the bill, create the bill and confirm payment.
- **Costumer:** Who manually add items to the band and pay the bill

If a situation arises there is another that has access to the system which is the supervisor who has access to overwrite instructions created by the cashier.

## 1.6 Support environment

For this system there are three companies that take care of the different parts of the system, one company maintains the carrier band, the other takes care of the POS and the last one takes care of the payment provider.

## **2 Justification For and Nature of Proposed Changes**

### **2.1 Justification for changes**

The reason to update this system is because the Partial Foods is having too much checkout IDLE on regular days you usually do not need to operate all of the checkouts but there are cases that get saturated and there are too many clients to supply the demand.

From a business perspective also doesn't make sense to all of the cashiers operating the checkout if there is not enough demand.

The new system would require less hardware, not need a cashier to be operated since the users are the ones who would be doing the checkout, since it takes less space we could add more of them and also the lines would be faster.

### **2.2 Description of desired changes**

The capabilities that are going to be added is to enable customers to operate the machine itself, since the users are doing the entire checkout workflow we are going to remove the carrier band.

We are going to add a bagging area and a security scale, we are going to remove the cash registers and we are only going to accept credit/debit cards, smart-cards and NFC/Mobile Payment methods, we are not going to accept cash.

Initially we are going to keep the two systems and gradually will be replacing the previous system with self-checkout machines, in the end we are going to have 4 cash registers with the old system and the rest is going to be replaced with the new system.

We are going to start with 5 people to monitor the self-checkout system and also assist customers with the new system but gradually they are going to be 3 people monitoring.

Two times during the month a company is going to come to do maintenance to the machines, the first time is going to maintain half of the machines and the second time will take care of the rest.

## **2.3 Priorities among changes**

### **2.3.1 Essential features**

- Accept payments (Credit/Debit Card, Magnetic Stripe Cards)
- Support for the bagging area
- Support for the security scale
- Overwrite system

### **2.3.2 Desirable features**

- NFC/Mobile Payment Options
- Vouchers/Coupons/Deposits

### **2.3.3 Optional Features**

- Integration with loyalty System
- Support for Smart-cards

## **2.4 Changes considered but not included**

We consider installing a face-recognition software to speed up the process for the loyalty card system but the development and cost wouldn't make it cost effective.

We consider asking the users their email address so we can send the receipt via email and also collect their emails for marketing campaigns but it would require that we have a reliable internet connection and we would have to maintain the infrastructure.

## **2.5 Assumptions and constraints**

### **2.5.1 Assumptions**

- The costumers knows how to operate the system
- The cashiers know how to use the system
- There is always going to be at least 1 staff member to help the customers use the system
- We will always going to have a reliable connection with the credit card providers
- The customers will not shoplift
- The system will know how to apply discounts and promotions

### **2.5.2 Constraints**

- The maximum weight that the scale supports its 60kg
- The SCO (Self-checkout) system do not support refunds
- The SCO do not accept cash
- The SCO will not work if the scale do not work



## 3 Concepts for the Proposed System

### 3.1 Background, objectives, and scope

The new system is a Self-checkout (SCO) system, this enables users to do the checkout process without the need of a cashier.

The reason we are doing this is because there are some days that we are receiving too many clients and there are not enough cashiers so the lines are becoming larger and the clients are getting anxious because it takes them too long to pay.

A lot of the machinew in the old system stays idle most of the time, this new system would optimize this by not needing a cashier to control the checkout process.

The new system would have two types of user:

- **Costumer:** Scans, bag and weight the items, and also pay.
- **Super user:** In case something happens this user can overwrite customer operations and has access to more functionalities.

### 3.2 Operational policies and constraints

#### 3.2.1 Operational policies

- The super user is able to overwrite costumer actions
- The super user is able to shutdown the system
- The super user is able to the system to sleep

#### 3.2.2 Constraints

- The new system only supports credit/debit cards, NFC/Mobile payments and Magnetic Stripe Cards.
- The scaling system only supports up to 60Kg
- The POS system needs to run on Windows Operating System.

- The POS system requires at least 2 meter of space between systems to enable the best use of space.
- The system requires at least one person to be operated and up to 2 (one customer, one super user) running the system at the same time.

### **3.3 Description of the proposed system**

The system will operate in the store where people do their groceries, near the supermarket exit, they are going to be running alongside the old system.

This system will require a wired connection for electricity to power the scanner, printer, scale and POS system. It will require an internet connection to the supermarket server and also requires an internet connection with the payment providers.

The system requires a scanner, a scale, a printer, a touchable screen, a bagging section and payment interface.

The system needs to be able to read barcodes and QR codes, coupons and also need to support promo codes.

Each SCO system consumes 10 watts with all the hardware running at the same time, 5 watts on idle and 2 watts on sleep mode, the supermarket runs from 6:00AM - 10:00PM (16 Hours).

The cost will depend on how many of the SCO will run at the same time, the cost of the electricity and the cost of the internet services, which these ones are outside the scope of the project.

The operational risk factor would be that if the scale gets broken the SCO is not going to work, and if the system loses internet connection the customers won't be able to pay since the system doesn't support cash payments.

Since the system only handles one customer at the time the system is really fast.

### **3.4 Modes of operation**

### **3.4.1 Regular**

In this mode all the systems are ready to use the scanner, screen is at 100 percent of brightness, the bagging system the payment terminal and the scale are working.

### **3.4.2 Idle**

The machine dims the screen at 50 percent, the bagging system gets shut down, the payment terminal shutdown, the scanner gets shut down.

### **3.4.3 Sleep**

The machine sleeps the operating system and all the hardware systems gets shut down.

### **3.4.4 Training**

All the systems are turn on as regular but the checkout information do not get store and the payments don't get send to the payment provider.

### **3.4.5 Maintenance**

All hardware systems gets shutdown but the mechanical pieces get unlocked.

## **3.5 User classes and other involved personnel**

**Costumer:** Do the checkout process. These are regular people that purchase in the supermarket. They have different backgrounds.

**Super users:** Overwrite customers actions. This type of users are trained personal, they are employees Partial Foods employees, they know how to operate the SOC system, they are previous user from the old system.

**Maintenance:** They do diagnostics on the system and fix possible issues. They are engineers from the development team, they have technical background and also know how the system interacts with the other parts of the company.

Usually customers would interact with super users in case they need help or if an issue happens.

Super users interact with maintenance because they know what is the current state of the system.

Other type of users that do not interact directly with the SOC systems are the payment provider services, they are an attachment to the system but the maintenance do not have jurisdiction with the payment terminal.

### **3.6 Support environment**

The company will provide support for the software itself but the bagging area, the scanner and the SOC hardware will be provided by the manufacturing company.

The payment terminal would be provided by the company bank or other third party service.

Regarding software the maintenance cycle would be each quarter and would be 3 years warranty support, for further support a new support agreement would be required.

Support only support the software itself not the hardware of the system, for hardware maintenance would be the a third party supplier and they offer a 5 year warranty with yearly maintenance cycle.

## **4 Operational Scenarios**

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## **5 Summary of Impacts**

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