

Elevator Pitch

In recent years technology has been accelerating at an exponential rate. Back in 1995 the historic dot-com bubble brought about a site known as eBay. For many, eBay changed the concept of shopping – anything that someone was willing to buy, someone else was willing to sell.

One of the beautiful things about eBay was that it facilitated the creation of companies no one would have even imagined before. People were able to set up shop on eBay selling everything from broken laser pointers to hand painted rocks.

Fast forward to 2016 and eBay is still alive and kicking, although to many it is a shadow of its former self. The ever-growing trend is for small businesses to have their own eCommerce website in order to sell just their products. Thankfully for those not so technically inclined, many companies have sprung up to save the day with easy to use eCommerce management web services.

The inherit problem with these services, however, is that while they provide the online support necessary for running a small business, the devil is in the details. Billion dollar companies like Amazon have entire departments dedicated to keeping track of inventory and other simple, menial tasks. But for the average small business owner, this is all a completely manual process, which can take a significant amount of time away from other, more important goals – such as marketing and advertising.

So how do we fix it? Our idea is to create an inventory management service which will utilize the progress made in embedded devices to allow for someone, such as a small business owner, to automate as much of the logistics as possible.

More specifically, we would like to create a small application which can be used to check in new inventory, record important information, and automatically update a database, and subsequently eCommerce site, with the appropriate details. With just a smartphone in hand, someone would be able to take pictures of, and record the details for items as they come in. The application would then assign that item a unique identifier for the database and be able to program an NFC sticker which can be placed on the item. After putting the sticker on the item anyone can come back at a later date and scan the NFC tag to see all of the information about that item.

Thanks to the modern eCommerce website supporting the ability to manage inventories through importing and exporting .csv files, we can automatically transfer all items added by the device to the active database. Meaning that as soon as an item is added to inventory with the appropriate information it is loaded onto the store's website to start being sold. Similarly, when the item is purchased and goes through the process of being shipped out the item can automatically be scanned and removed from inventory.

We believe this simple idea could potentially profit small business owners in an immeasurable way. By minimizing the cost associated with logistics companies can spend more of their time growing the business. This would lead to larger and larger companies already using the inventory management system tag infrastructure, providing endless potential growing clients.