

LATEST APPS FROM ABACA

AS THE WORLD STARTS TO GET BACK TO SOME SORT OF NORMALCY POST-COVID, UK-BASED SOFTWARE SPECIALISTS, ABACA SYSTEMS, HAVE PLENTY OF NEW DEVELOPMENTS TO SHARE WITH THE MARKET.

For many companies, the lock-down period from March 2020 until mid-2021 caused disruption, especially for companies that needed collaborative ‘face time’ with their teams to ensure ongoing development of products and services. Although development never stopped at Abaca Systems, it was hard going for sure.

“We have always relied on interaction between the team and having everyone work from home did slow down some of our development cycle,” says Dominic Batty, Joint Managing Director. “But now we are back to the office in person, the acceleration in product updates and new releases has been noticeable. We have four primary developments, including Delivery 3000, Portal 3000, FLT3000 and a new SFDC.”

Helping Drivers

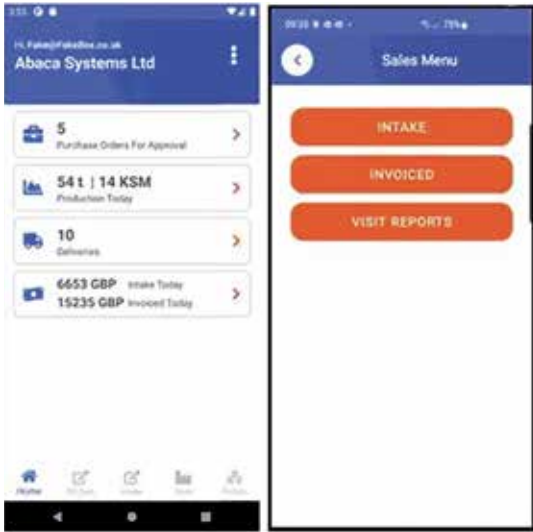
“Delivery 3000 is our new drivers phone/tablet app for making deliveries and vehicle tracking,” explains Batty. “The new app interacts seamlessly with the main Packaging 3000 business system,



Left to right: Dominic Batty, Joint Managing Director and Jim Ottley, Senior Developer.



Delivery 3000



Portal 3000

updating it on vehicle progress and identifies empty vehicles returning to base. It is a great tool and it is now possible to be 'paperless' using Delivery 3000."

It works in a totally intuitive manner; as the vehicle is loaded, a pre-delivery notification is emailed to the customer, advising them a vehicle is on its way with details of the products being delivered. The customer can use this notification to check the items off when the vehicle is being unloaded. If there are any amendments needed to the delivery, they are made directly in the Delivery 3000 app. After unloading, the customer can sign the phone/tablet screen and a copy of that signed acceptance is immediately uploaded to Packaging 3000 and emailed to the customer's accounts department. The app then displays details for the next delivery to the driver and provides a route to the delivery point.

Portal 3000

Abaca's Portal 3000 web app continues to grow in functionality and now has pages to track vehicles

and display vehicle delivery progress and store signed PODs for easy retrieval.

Having been completely revamped recently, the Portal 3000 phone app now provides more in depth data for sales reps and sales managers who are on the move. Machine availability/capacities have been added, as well as drill downs to order details and invoice details. "The

look and feel has been updated to be in line with other apps we are now providing," confirms Batty.

For the fork lift

The latest in Abaca's suite of apps, FLT3000 has been designed for android tablet PCs, to be mounted on fork lift trucks. There are two applications in FLT3000.

- **Raw material handling:** the driver can see the number of pallets of board in front of each machine

on the app. They can select a machine and are presented with the line-up of jobs to be run; they can then select any job to see the board required and available. Using Abaca's RF3000 scanners, the fork lift truck driver moves the board required to the front of the machine and the FLT3000 updates in real-time. Using this app makes the process of raw material handling paperless and ensures no pallets are missed, as the app clearly shows if required board has not been delivered to a machine.

- **Vehicle loading:** this app provides the driver with a list of vehicles planned for despatch. Selecting a vehicle for loading provides an on-screen bar code, which is scanned using the RF3000 scanner. The tablet then displays all the pallets of stock and their locations for loading in the correct order. As each pallet is scanned onto the vehicle, the app updates in real time to ensure accurate and efficient loading without the need for paper loading sheets.

FLT3000 Vehicle Loading

TRIP NO.	Vehicle	STHART01	Trip No.	VTR063166	Est. Loads	75	Est. Pallets	75	SHOW BARCODE	BACK
	Depart Date	Jun 21	Time	15:00	Cut. Loads	0	Cut. Pallets	0		
	Customer	ABACA SYSTEMS LTD		Delivery Zone: M KEYNES / A						
VTR063055	Jun-17	08:00								
VTR063075	Jun-20	07:00								
VTR063155	Jun-20	11:00								
VTR063196	Jun-21	16:00								
VTR063168	Jun-22	16:00								
VTR063169	Jun-21	08:00								
VTR063170	Jun-21	09:00								
VTR063185	Jun-20	08:00								
VTR063197	Jun-29	11:00								
VTR063199	Jun-29	06:30								
VTR063216	Jun-17									
AVAILABLE										
Product Code	Customer Reference	Dimensions (mm)	Required	Picked	Available					
RDB290604/P	TRANSFER - MAY/JUNE/JULY	388 x 230 x 140	4,000	0	2,125					
RDB281855/P	TRANSFER - MAY/JUNE/JULY	382 x 382 x 176	2,000	0	1,120					
RDB285353/P	TRANSFER - MAY/JUNE/JULY	600 x 380 x 150	2,160	0	1,200					
RDB298599/P	TRANSFER - MAY/JUNE/JULY	452 x 371 x 33	960	0	408					
Location	Batch No / Load No	Revised Date	Pallet Type	Weight	Quantity					
F / 0096	W/D496292 C / 11	30/03/22	EURO	136	160					
F / 0097	W/D496292 C / 10	30/03/22	EURO	136	160					
F / 0125	W/D496292 C / 5	30/03/22	EURO	136	160					
F / 0207	W/D496292 C / 13	30/03/22	EURO	136	160					
F / 0446	W/D493983 C / 19	06/01/22	EURO	136	160					

New SFDC

“We have always had touch screen SFDC recording, but there has been pressure to integrate it to machinery,” explains Batty. “As a result, we have completely rewritten SFDC now in a .Net environment and will be releasing this across the entire customer base free of charge soon.”

The new SFDC allows for machinery integration as part of its specification. It will also incorporate a quality checking system and will alert the machinery operators to checks required during the production cycle and record the results of the checks as entered by the operators.

“The machinery integration has been successfully trialled at two sites,” concludes Batty. “We



are currently putting together a standard kit which will comprise of a PLC and data collection unit per machine which will be pre-programmed for use with our new SFDC system and so all the

customer will need to do is fit the PLC to their machine. The kits will be designed and programmed to suit the relevant type of machine such as printer slotter, casemaker, rotary and flatbed die-cutters.” ■

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