

## NAGS Update went into effect on January 11, 2009

NAGS released their quarterly data on Monday January 11, 2009. Digital Business Controls handled the distribution and execution of this update for its customers. Thank you to those customers who are currently not hosting their server in DBC's data center for ensuring access was available to your server in the days leading up to this update. This made certain that DBC was able to connect and load the new data. A NAGS comparison spreadsheet is available at our website on; [www.dbcontrols.com](http://www.dbcontrols.com). Please follow the steps to create a login and you will be given access to this file as well as other useful information that Digital Business Controls has put together for your use.



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## Use Barcoding Technology to Streamline your Business

At first glance the world of barcodes could appear as a very dry topic and one that is not thought of unless you're standing in line at a local market.

The truth is, barcoding has become a very effective way for businesses to streamline their processes, cut back expenses, and avoid data entry errors. It's amazing how many small businesses do not utilize this simple yet powerful technology.

For businesses who are looking for technology that causes rapid improvement without costing a lot of money or requiring complicated implementation, we recommend barcoding technology. As you can imagine, many businesses utilize barcode scanners to track and manage inventory, but there's a myriad of other uses that can be used for barcoding such as identifying employees by scanning their badge, or using a barcode to recognize a document number such as an invoice.

Barcode scanners are simple input devices that read barcodes and then pass that information to your computer. This information can be utilized in many different ways. There are also different scanner options available to you. Some of the methods

to scan barcodes include:

**Pen or Wand-Type Scanners:** requires the operator to swipe the pen over the barcode.

**Handheld Scanner:** with a handle and typically a trigger button for switching the light source on.

**Stationary Scanner:** Wall or table mounted scanners that the barcode is passed under or beside. These are commonly found at checkout counters at grocery stores.

**Fixed Position Scanner:** an industrial scanner used to identify products during manufacturing.

**PDA Scanner:** A PDA or smartphone device that will allow for barcode reading.

Barcode printers are also available to allow users to print their own barcodes based on the information entered. Whatever option you chose it's important to remember that barcodes are simple, easy to use, and not as expensive as one might think.

Do more with the same (or fewer) human resources. Barcode automation allows your team to do more. Your business can grow and become more efficient with the same staff you already have.

# Utilizing a Barcode Scanner in ChameleonWare



A business' biggest expense is employees. Why not keep an eye on this expense? For example, many companies use a time clock, but that requires the employee to punch a card, write their time down, or input their information into the computer. Of course these methods require time, and human input that could ultimately lead to error.

At the recent request of a customer, DBC began working on ways to

integrate a barcode scanner into our ChameleonWare software package. The first idea was to print employee ID badges that contained a barcode on them. This barcode would identify the employee when it was scanned at a time clock station. Scanning the card when they came in would clock them in, and as they were leaving for lunch or for the day scanning their card would log them out. This allows the computer to handle the data

interface and also ensures that the person logging in/out is actually that person.

This feature is just one small idea of what can be done. Other ideas include printing barcodes on transactions and scanning those instead of typing in numbers, and using a barcode to accurately track and remove/add inventory as it comes and goes from your system. The possibilities are certainly endless when it comes to this exciting technology.

## Windows 7 First Glance...

Three years after re-releasing Windows Vista, Microsoft unveiled their newest option in the world of operating systems, Windows 7. It was released in late October of last year. I opted to load it on my laptop in December. I'm leery of any big change on a laptop that I use 10 hours a day. Windows 7 loaded flawlessly and I found all the drivers I needed using Dell's website. Windows 7 boots and shuts-down much faster than any other OS that I've run in the past. Its start menu is full of goodies that help productivity immensely. The snipping tool and post it note are small modules, but I am not sure how I ever lived without them. Overall I'm extremely impressed with what Windows 7 has offered. I've had no hardware compatibility issues or freezing that I experienced with Vista. So far Windows 7 has exceeded my expectations and I look forward to my continued use of it. For more information visit Microsoft's website to take a tour of Windows 7.

## WWW.DBCONTROLS.COM to see new updates

Updates are currently in the works for [www.dbcontrols.com](http://www.dbcontrols.com). These updates include a users section allowing customers to login, track hardware, review documentation and other material, and update store and contact information to name a few. These changes are currently under construction and users will be notified as soon as they are available.

Giving users the ability to login and manage their own hardware and other data helps keep

the DBC staff informed on changes with their customers as well as ensuring that we're offering the best service available. A website is a wonderful tool for any business to use as a vehicle of communication. As a user, if you have questions about our site or suggestions, please feel free to contact us and review these items. Please visit our site for news and other information regarding DBC and our software.