



Remote Order Entry Module

Remote Order Entry is an exciting add on or stand alone module to the Gateway Advanced software. It gives you remote, accurate entry and release of orders in the system (Microsoft's Dynamics SL) that is 'back at the office'. Sales and delivery personnel are able to access information about their customers while they are on site, giving them a huge advantage over the competition. The Remote Order Entry module has also been enhanced so that 'two step transfers' are easily accomplished. Shippers and Receivers can now use the power of Remote Order Entry. We will discuss that function later in this document. Here are some scenarios where Remote Order Entry shines!

In our first example, we ask you to imagine a bread truck going to the local corner store. Normally the delivery person would have to write the order on carbon less multi-part forms that are hard to read (is that a number one or a seven ?). Then head office personnel would have to interpret and then enter the order into the system so that an invoice can be produced. This is generally done the next day assuming that all the documentation makes it back to head office, complete and intact. Data entry of the order would then be required.

However, with the **Remote Order Entry module**, the driver enters the Customer Id into the handheld device (Symbol's PDT8100 series is an example of a unit with cell phone capability). The device establishes a TCP/IP RAS or digital packet connection with the home office network through it's built in cell phone. It then replies with the full customer name and address on screen as confirmation that the system is connected and that the driver is entering the order for the right customer. The user also sees the credit amount available to that customer at that time or if the customer is on credit hold. (The credit limit is reduced on the display screen as each line item is entered into the hand held device.) The driver then just scans the barcoded item. The unit replies with the inventory description, price and quantity available for sale. The driver then enters the quantity that he is leaving with the customer. When the driver is done with the order, a simple 'Enter' at the item scan provokes the question: "Is the order complete ?" If it is, the order is released for further processing back at head office by Dynamics SL's Process Manager. Once Process Manager has processed the order according to the steps set up in Dynamics SL, the sales are updated and the invoice prints, sometimes before the driver has even left the corner store.

The handheld device can be equipped with an optional wireless printer that can be attached to the driver's belt. This would print out a 3 inch packing slip for the store manager's records and/or signature.

The handheld device will keep the connection open for another minute to see if there are any other orders to be taken, such as returns for credit, etc... The connection is only made when the Customer Id is entered, indicating that the driver is ready to place an order. This saves on cell phone air time if you are using a RAS connection. However, if you are using a digital packet connection, the charges for this air time are on a per packet basis. This means you are only paying for the time that it takes to send the packet even though the connection remains open. You will have to research the cellular technology available in your area.

The second scenario that would lend itself to the Remote Order Entry would be an outside sales force, equipped with the Remote Order Entry software and hardware. They would be able to take orders from the field and have them instantly entered into Dynamics SL's Order Management/Orders screen. No entry of the order is required at the office, the amount of inventory for sale is available to the salesperson and the customers credit limit is available as well. The order can be shipped out, assisted by the Barcode Gateway, and invoiced in a short span of time, improving productivity and lowering cost of sales.

The Remote Order Entry module can also be used to accomplish 'a two step transfer'. The first step is performed in Remote Order Entry and based on how Dynamics SL's Order Management Order Steps are set up, a packing slip can be produced. Once the shipment is confirmed shipped, the inventory in Dynamics SL's Inventory module is moved out of the warehouse/site and into a state called 'In Transit'. The second step of the transfer is performed in Dynamics SL's Inventory Receipt screen which receives the inventory from the 'In Transit' state and into the receiving warehouse/site. This is helpful when the business's warehouses/sites are in different geographical locations and the inventory is physically moving from site to site. Remote Order Entry allows the user to access all the Order types that are set up in Dynamics SL's Order Management which makes the 'TR' (Transfer) type available to use.

Gulfstream is offering this system as an extension to the existing Gulfstream Barcode Gateway or it can be purchased on its own. Contact us for pricing and hardware requirements for the Remote Order Entry module.

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