

Group No: 06
Date: 3/04/02
Report No: 07
Project Title: Wireless Cargo Container Tracking System

Group Leader: Andrew Nikow
Advisor: Yu Dong Yao
Sponsor/Client: Interpool

Project on Schedule: NO (1.5 weeks behind)
Hours Spent Last Week: 48

Weekly Status:

During the past week the group has made good progress using the development kit and designing the project however unfortunately remains approximately 1.5 weeks behind schedule. The group has been busy developing the communications interface for the bluetooth nodes in Visual Basic, investigating multiple options of communicating with the system (i.e. TCP/IP, interacting with bluetooth medium directly), and finally developing a flow chart for the program.

The most important part of the past weeks work has been the design of the flow chart. All Visual Basic programs begin with drafting a flow chart to visually define the capabilities of a program and the logic it is based on to the programmer or user. It leads to clear definition of the purpose of the program and makes programming much easier.

The flow chart is on paper what the Visual Basic user interface will be on the desktop of the user. The user will most likely encounter a “form” with some simple options such as read from/write to memory in the form of command boxes, simple text boxes to enter or read information, and images to make use of the software easy to use. The form is currently being designed however after completion will need to be coded to provide functionality.

Probably one of the most difficult challenges is that of communication with the bluetooth system. The group is currently looking at using TCP/IP, a protocol suite that made a global internet reality, and a method of communication directly with the bluetooth. Direct communication with bluetooth would ease design however TCP/IP functions to hide the dissimilarities in different proprietary application programs and thus makes most software interoperable. This would give us a bigger customer base, easier maintenance, and ability to absorb technological advancement.

Finally, there has been a meeting with Dr. Yao set for Tuesday, March 5.