



## Increasing supply chain productivity. Solution brief

### Your Goals: Reduce Operating Costs & Increase Output

The retail supply chain is an arena fraught with opportunities to improve the bottom line. The integration of mobile AIDC (automatic identification and data capture) devices with IT infrastructure and business processes have enabled businesses to realize a higher level of sustained profitability.

In the warehouse, the distribution center, and points in-between, labeling and barcode-scanning technology have enabled the firm's IT and supply chain leaders to reduce operating expenses, and increase labor and worker productivity.

HP's All-in-One (AiO) solution stands out as a solution that can work within these environments to deliver a needed edge in a time of increasing industry competitiveness.

### Challenges

Operations and IT in warehouses and distribution centers have to reliably support business processes to meet demands from all quarters of the firm. Executives demand bottom line performance, while stores in a network are increasingly using technology to tune demand for

replenishment in real time. Management must keep pace with these demands, with limited time and resources to analyze and adjust, high-turnover labor forces, and operational processes that are increasingly difficult from which to squeeze refinements.

Mobile AIDC devices are one productive avenue being used to attack these problems. These devices offer increased labor productivity, mobility and flexibility, faster and streamlined processes, while in many ways lifting a burden off the floor worker.

The Handheld All-in-One offers these benefits, with additional advantages to comparable devices and solutions.

### The HP Handheld All-in-One Solution

The All-in-One is a device that combines three critical functions—printing, 1-D/2-D barcode scanning, and wireless IT connectivity—in a mobile form factor that allows a hands-free working condition.

This device prints human-readable information directly on the surfaces common in a warehouse or distribution center environment, including paper, cardboard, plastic, and metal surfaces. Its specially designed magenta ink is optimized to provide maximum visibility to your workers.

Using this device, workers can perform processes while wirelessly connected to a mobile computer, workstation, or server via Bluetooth or Wifi network. With an ergonomic design and long-lasting batteries, workers can perform for 4 to 8 hour shifts without need of interruption.

## Applications

When integrated into the IT infrastructure and operational processes, the Handheld AiO can enhance a variety of warehouse and distribution center applications and usages including:

- Picking and Sorting

As workers navigate the warehouse to pick products for order, the AiO gives a non-intrusive way to scan and mark products for sort. Time is saved because the hands-free nature of the device allows quick handling in quick succession to scanning and printing.

- Receiving and Cross-Docking

When incoming units are unloaded, the necessary scanning, labeling, and routing that must be performed can be consolidated from many stations into one. Thus, a setup that previously utilized separate stations for scanning

packages, for generating and applying labels, and for routing packages to destinations, can be configured to one worker with multitasking capability. This consolidation optimizes labor, while the multitasking has been shown to significantly increase the throughput of units through a facility, critical in time-sensitive cross-docking applications.

- Process Exceptions

When the inevitable product or unit arrives that doesn't fit within existing processes, the AiO can provide an ad hoc, but standardized marking capability. Much of the clarifying information or instructions that workers manually write on packages are ambiguous, confusing, or downright unintelligible to other facility workers. With the AiO's marking and labeling printer function, workers can not only enjoy clearly delineated labels, but in formats that allow identification of the specific worker making the notations.

## Summary

On the floor of the warehouse, distribution center, and other parts of the retail supply chain, HP's Handheld AiO device can increase productivity, decrease operating expenses, and optimize labor efficiency.



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