Use of Bar Codes in ELTON and Fixed Asset Tracker

The purpose of this document is to explain the functionality supported in both ELTON and Fixed Asset Tracker to use bar codes with the AccountAbility Mobile Scanner.

Why use Bar Codes instead of QR Codes?

There are two advantages to using Bar Codes instead of QR Codes with the AccountAbility Mobile Scanner;

1. Utilize existing bar code labels or manufacturers bar codes already attached to equipment
2. Have pre-printed bar code tags that can be assigned to equipment as required

Existing Manufacturers Labels

Utilizing existing bar code labels that have been placed onto equipment by manufacturers is a great time saver. These labels are already attached to the equipment that you are trying to track. Pre-existing labels are typically bar codes of the serial number for that piece of equipment. While in AccountAbility products the Serial number and the Equipment/Asset Tag are stored in different fields, they can be the same value. This is also where the potential problem can come into play. In the real world it is surprisingly common to find duplicate serial numbers. Most manufacturers do not ever duplicate a serial number, but we have seen many instances of two identical serial numbers from different manufacturers. Duplicate Equipment/Asset Tag values are not permitted and therefore this scenario must be handled by the user.

One technique for dealing with this issue is to wait for this circumstance to occur and then tag the second piece of equipment with a different Equipment/Asset Tag value. This approach works fine, but does require that you have either the facility to produce the occasional label or have some stock of pre-printed unique labels.

Pre-printed Bar Code Labels

The use of pre-printed bar code labels allows you to ensure that duplicate values do not happen. They do however create the need to actually sticker or otherwise attach each piece of equipment with a label and record that labels bar code value in the system. Pre-printed labels are available from a variety of sources and with a variety of characteristics, which can make them the preferred selection for Equipment/Asset Tagging. Industrial labels such as etched into steel or aluminum with various durability factors are widely available from many custom label printers.

In day to day use an inventory of these pre-printed bar code labels is kept on hand. Then as equipment is added into the system a random label is selected from inventory and the bar code value on that label is assigned to the Equipment/Asset Tag field in the system. This association between the bar code value and

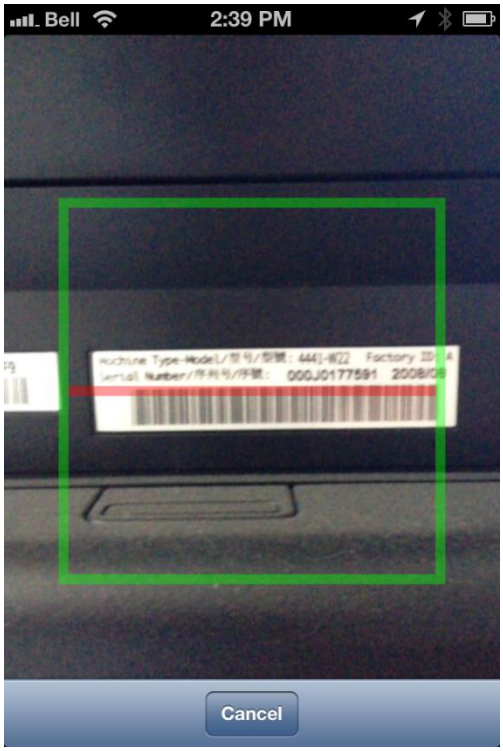
the Equipment/Asset record is all that is required to allow the AccountAbility Mobile Scanner software to determine which record is being requested.

Another advantage of this solution is that if the bar code label becomes damaged and needs to be replaced, you can assign a new value to the existing piece of equipment and all the history will be preserved.

To assign a bar code value to a record in either ELTON or Fixed Asset Tracker, you enter the value into the Equipment Tag field (ELTON) or the Asset Tag field (Fixed Asset Tracker). That is all that is required. Now the AcountAbility Mobiel Scanner app witll use the bar code label to determine which record is being used.

ELTON		Fixed Asset Tracker	
Equipment Name	EQ-000001	Fixed Asset Name	Lenovo X200 Notebook
Equipment Tag	987498	Asset Tag	8778946
Description	X50 Portable Ultrasound Unit	Description	Lenovo X200 Notebook, 2GB. 200GB
Manufacturer	Medio	Manufacturer	Lenovo
Model	X50	Model	X200
Serial Number	98798	Serial Number	79798798

This image is of the AccountAbility Mobile Scanner app in scanning mode. Simply point the scanner at the bar code stored in the Equipment/Asset Tag field and the system will identify the associated record.



CAUTION:

Camera resolution on your iOS or Android device is very important in being able to successfully read bar codes and QR Codes. Be sure to test your poorest quality mobile devices camera with your smallest reslolution bar code labels. It is common for older cameras in phones to be unable to read small bar codes. Using high quality, larger format pre-printed bar code labels can usually overcome this issue.