



For Immediate Release
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ARTS Announces new POS Standard: Web Services for POS

New York City, January 12, 2009—The Association for Retail Technology Standards (ARTS), the standards division of the National Retail Federation, is pleased to announce the release for comments of Web Services Point of Service (WS-POS). WS-POS is a new standard currently under development as part of UnifiedPOS version 2.0, planned for release in late 2009. WS-POS enables POS devices such as printers, scales and scanners to be connected to multiple transaction touch points such as POS terminals, mobile devices, virtual POS terminals and enable the retailer to use the power of Service-Oriented Architecture (SOA) to allow access to POS peripherals anywhere in the store or enterprise.

“WS-POS changes the retail transaction environment by supporting POS device sharing in the store”, says PK Do of IBM chair of the developing work team. “With WS-POS, retailers can reduce their expenses by sharing POS device peripherals like printers and scanners across multiple POS terminals.” The benefits of WS-POS for retailers include: ease of integration with new and existing devices in an absolutely vendor and application neutral manner; reduced investment by allowing the sharing of peripheral devices; faster reconfiguration of hardware and software to meet the ever changing requirements for better shopper experiences; and the potential for increased customer satisfaction through faster check out services. Hardware and Software providers benefit from ease of implementation in all operating environments and simplified device management across the enterprise.

When WS-POS V1.0 completes its Public Review cycle and all public feedback has been evaluated by the work team, it will then be presented to the ARTS Technical Committee for vote, a process expected to be completed in first¹ quarter 2009.

“In the meantime work continues on UnifiedPOS 2.0 which represents a fresh look at how to interconnect POS peripherals in an environment based upon the industry advances in software and hardware technologies”, reports Paul Gay representing Epson and chair of the UnifiedPOS technical committee. “The work to maintain and enhance the now 10+ year old API-based UnifiedPOS standard continues with Version 1.13 of the specification scheduled for release in the first quarter of 2009. User feedback, POS device feature enhancements and clarification of the standard are the focus of the committee’s commitment to offer legacy support.”

UnifiedPOS 1.13 includes updates that reflect continued feedback from device service developers and application development programmers based upon their use of earlier versions of the UnifiedPOS specification. In addition it includes enhancement to the POS Printer to better facilitate the creation of form like receipts and documents that require drawing of continuous “ruled lines”; added additional two dimensional bar code symbologies to the POS Printer for Data Matrix, QR Code, Micro QR Code, Aztec, and Micro PDF 417. It includes changes to the Tone Indicator device to allow “melody” tones or fixed two tone sequences (“siren tones”) to be produced enabling better feedback for operator and customer experiences. Also included are enhancement to the reading of weight on the Scale device allowing a

zero weight as a valid measurement and further refinement of the requirements for using XML-POS, the foundation of Release 2.0 and the basis of future generation XML-aware POS peripherals.

Demonstration of WS-POS and UnifiedPOS are available in the ARTS Pavilion booth 1859 on the NRF Annual Convention exhibit floor.

The Association for Retail Technology Standards of the National Retail Federation is an international membership organization dedicated to reducing the costs of technology through standards. Since 1993, ARTS has been delivering application standards exclusively to the retail industry. ARTS has four standards: The Standard Relational Data Model, UnifiedPOS, IXRetail and the Standard RFPs (in partnership with NRF). Membership is open to all members of the international technology community--retailers from all industry segments, application developers and hardware companies.

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