

RFID



Tracking Information Technology Tags for CoreRFID's IT-Tracker™

*Selected RFID tags give **affordable, effective** identification for IT*

Fitting RFID tags to information technology assets is a cost effective way of improving the management of devices both inside and outside the data centre. But adding RFID identification to servers, PC's, laptops and other devices presents problems.

Users need to choose tags that are both cost effective and can be used in the environment of the data centre. Attaching RFID tags to devices as small as mobile phones or USB data storage drives creates particular problems.

As experts in the field, CoreRFID have selected a range of RFID tags that are ideally suited to IT tagging applications.

RFID & IT Devices

Setting up a tagging approach for information technology devices needs careful consideration. With IT vendors starting to make tagged devices available as a factory-shipped option, users need to plan their own IT asset management approach so that it can take advantage of this while also handling IT devices from other suppliers.

CoreRFID offers tags for two main approaches to IT asset tagging: low frequency tags and ultra high frequency (UHF) tags.

Low frequency tags have been in use for many years and are available cheaply in a wide range of form factors, making low frequency a convenient and low cost approach. On the down-side, low frequency tags can only be read by holding the reader close to the device in question.

UHF tags are a more recent development but are now well proven. They have well supported, globally implemented, standards and the price of both tags and readers is improving continually. UHF tags can be read from a greater distance (typically up to 10 meters) making it possible to scan a room or a data centre rack with a single pass. UHF tags are used by IT vendors for factory-shipped tagged devices (for example HP's Factory Express service).

CoreRFID works with customers to select the ideal tags suitable for use within the data centre, in the office and for portable or mobile computing devices. For IT asset tracking, CoreRFID also offers IT Tracker™, an easy to implement software system that allows for office based or data centre asset tracking and integrates with corporate asset management and help desk systems.



The identification of IT assets needs specialised RFID tags.

The selection of tags is tuned to the needs of the data centre and IT tagging in the office.

The Range of IT Asset Tags

CoreRFID works with a number of tag manufacturers in order to make available a range of RFID tags suitable for IT asset tracking. CoreRFID's range of selected tags take account of such problems as on-metal mounting (which can interfere with the tag's antenna), secure mounting, problems with electrical and or magnetic fields (especially in power supply switching or generator cabinets) and the difficulty of mounting tags on small devices such as mobile phones or in cramped spaces such as data centre blade server racks.

A selection of the UHF tags commonly used for IT asset management applications are shown here. These tags are all compliant with EPC Global's GEN2 standard. IT hardware vendors that are already shipping devices with tags attached use this standard. These tags can be used to identify other devices.



The Confidex Steelwave Micro, a miniature tag designed for on-metal mounting. Able to be reliably attached, the tag is suitable for mobile assets like lap-tops.

Read range: up to 2.5m

Footprint: 38mm x 13mm x 3mm



An EPC Gen 2 standard film based UHF passive tag, suitable for use on mobile devices such as this Blackberry.

Read range: 2-5.5m depending on material

Footprint: 80mm x 80mm x negl.



The Confidex Halo, a lightweight UHF tag with a long read range, suitable for in-rack systems such as blade servers and for inaccessible devices.

Read range: up to 7m

Footprint: 60mm x 12mm x 14mm

In addition to providing a wide range of commercially available tags, CoreRFID also provides a custom tag creation service allowing tags to be manufactured to meet a particular customer need. CoreRFID's experience of providing tags used in high-vibration and high-magnetic environments, among others, means that we can offer the ideal solution to meet customer needs, matching tag housing, fixing, overprinting and other factors to the customer's requirements.

About CoreRFID

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