

RFID



Pro-Found

Who? What? Where? For Hospital Equipment & Staff

WiFi networks make it easy to solve the problem

Being able to find the crash trolley, the test monitor, the drug dispensing trolley can be a matter of life or death. Wouldn't it make ward management easier if the things could tell you where they were? Wouldn't it save equipment costs and people's time? Now it is possible.

Intelligent tags that can determine where they are in the hospital can announce their location across your existing WiFi networks. Attach the tags to essential equipment and equipment can be easily found when it's needed. And that same technology can be used to locate critical medical, technical or maintenance staff.

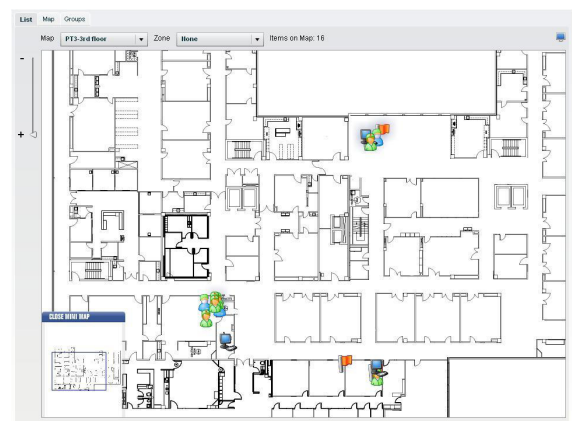
The Pro-found solution provides long range, real time, interactive tracking using existing WiFi networks, to save time, reduce equipment and supply costs time and improve services for patients.

Instant Location

Some assets have to be located quickly. Some staff need to be found at once. Where is the nearest test trolley to where I am? Where is the nearest doctor? Even, where is the cleaning team? Time wasted in finding equipment or tracking down staff could be better used in patient care. Lack of control of equipment leads to over stocking and higher asset costs. Inability to find staff means longer working hours and less effective use of personnel. Solving these problems needs the ability to know where people or things are, right now; locating them exactly within a building or across a site.

Electronic tags can make this possible. Tags can broadcast their presence, identifying their location to all that need to know about them. By attaching tags to the assets and giving key staff tagged badges, computer systems can show their location on a building plan, making it easy to locate the asset or staff member, in whichever ward, lab, or office they are.

Data can be used to provide lists of assets, their location, status and history. Data can also be used to highlight if an item (or an individual) moves out of a area where it supposed to remain, preventing critical documents or devices from leaving a site, for example.



A map display shows where critical staff and assets are in real time; tracking them down to a ward, office or corridor.

Pro-Found asset location provides immediate information on the whereabouts of critical equipment, supplies or staff; improving the utilisation of valuable resources.

CoreRFID's Real Time Location Technology

The Pro-Found Real Time Location System (RTLS) uses compact intelligent active tags, easily implemented software and standard networking components in a solution that can be deployed across existing wireless networks.

Pro-Found uses tags provided by Ekahau as the basis of hospital asset and staff tracking. These tags are equipped with a battery and transmitter that allows them to broadcast their presence. Pro-Found active tags can be sensed from many metres away and located to within a few feet. Pro-Found provides two-way communications over standard WiFi networks without expensive additional infrastructure. It is a robust, proven, system that can be quickly installed and easily integrated with other IT systems.

Pro-Found tags can be detected anywhere within 60 metres inside a building. The system can locate a tag with an accuracy of as little as three to five metres. Different styles of tag are available for fixing to assets or for use as employee badges. Asset tags feature two buttons, a buzzer and two leds. The buzzer and leds provide an audible and visual identification of the individual tag. The buzzer and led can be remotely activated across the network. Programmable buttons on the tags can indicate the change of status of an asset or can be used to summon assistance. Motion detection and temperatures sensors can also transmit their status. Tags for staff can have a message display and an emergency pull that can be used to trigger an alarm in the event of an emergency, calling assistance to a precise location with a single tug.

The Pro-Found system uses any existing, standard, IEEE802.11b wireless network between the tags and the network receivers. Data between tags and the network system is transmitted securely using WEP 40/104 bit security system.



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Tags are powered by easily replaceable, low cost, hearing-aid style, lithium batteries. Battery life varies depending how often the tag announces its location to the network. Tags equipped with a motion sensor only broadcast when their location is changed. The system checks its own tags including monitoring batteries so that they can be replaced or recharged.

Pro-Found can also track laptops and other computers using a software "tag". This can report the location of a laptop, desktop, mobile phone or PDA to the Pro-Found system providing immediate location information and better tracking of high value high mobile assets.

Pro-Found software runs on standard Microsoft Windows platforms. The location of tags is determined by the Location Engine. The location of tags and the management of tag information such as alerts, button presses and battery warnings can be managed from a PC running the Vision software.

The Benefits

Pro-Found provides live information on staff and assets. Key benefits are:

- Immediately visible asset location
- Reduces mislaid assets
- Saves time hunting for essential equipment or staff.
- Better availability means fewer expensive assets needed.
- Critical staff can be immediately found in emergencies.
- Two way system – can be used to pass messages to tags.

About CoreRFID

CoreRFID specialise in the technologies that help track, trace, audit and control; to learn more, contact us today:

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