

Online mobile evolution in retail

More and more retailers see the advantages of going online

Boxnet provides a modern web-based POS software for small to large retail chains. With an online POS system you store all data in one central location. Changes in price and stock levels are immediately updated in all stores at the same time.

Many of Boxnet's customers requested a mobile solution to handle inventory counting, ordering of products and receiving goods. These types of tasks can be time consuming without a mobile device with a barcode reader. They turned to Raptool to help them build the application.

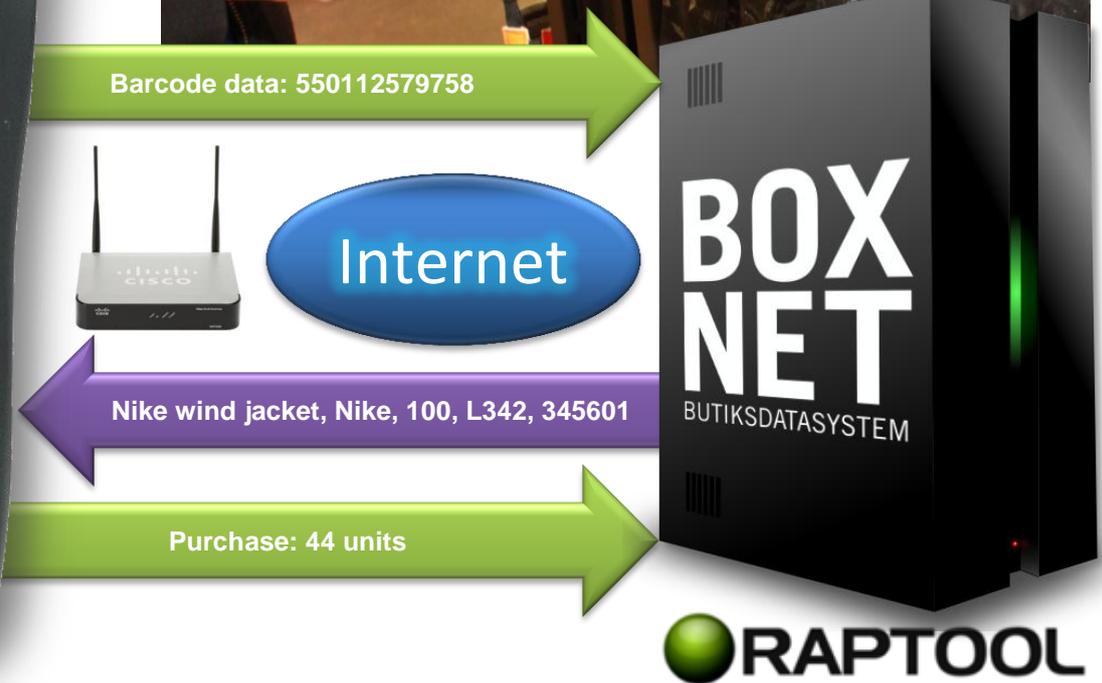
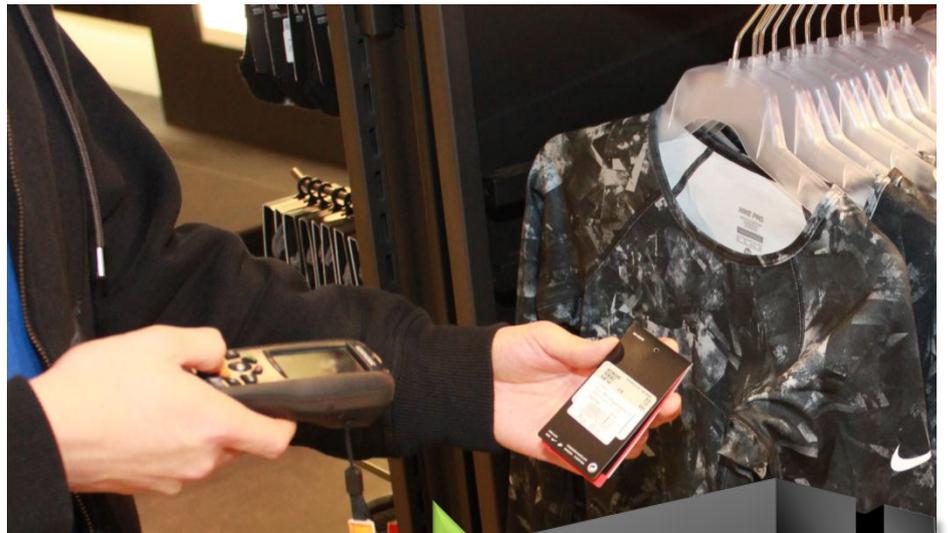


Online Mobile Application

In the Raptool rapid application development tool we could build the three applications that Boxnet needed in only 14 hours, including integration. Since Boxnet is an online POS-system they also wanted the mobile devices to be online. Each store has a Wifi network that connects the mobile device to the internet. When a barcode is scanned in the Raptool application the data is sent in real time to the central

POS server through a secure internet connection. The server then sends the requested data back to the mobile device. The same real time data is shown both in the PC-POS and in the mobile devices.

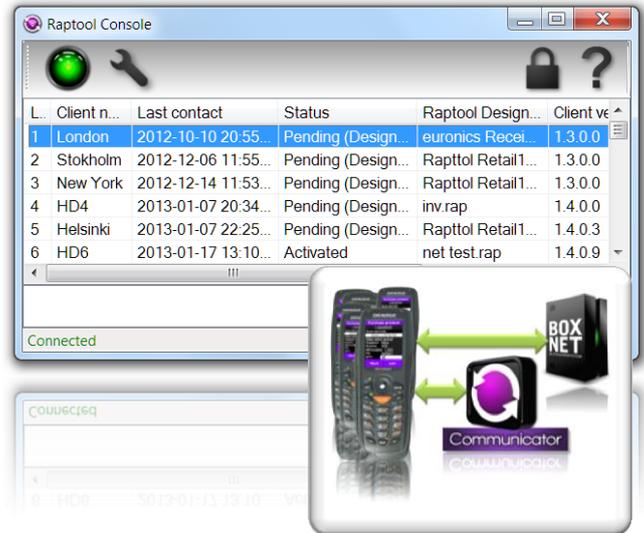
Customer	Löplabbet
Vertical market	Retail
Field of use	In-store logistics
App developer	Raptool
App development time	14 hours
ERP/ePOS System	Boxnet
Mobile applications	Inventory, Order, receiving
Hardware	Datalogic Memor
Communication	Online WiFi



The Integration

Raptool has a standardized web-service integration engine. Boxnet simply added a new service for mobile devices that the Raptool Mobile Clients can connect directly to.

The Raptool NET Communicator is normally used to send and receive data between the POS/ERP and the mobile devices. In a Boxnet installation the Raptool Communicator is used to give the mobile devices information on how to contact the Boxnet web-service. The Communicator is also used to maintain and manage the mobile devices. If a Boxnet customer wants a new function in their mobile devices it is made with the Raptool Designer. This new application is then uploaded to the Communicator through the Console. The next time a mobile device connects it will automatically be updated with the new application.



Customer profile: Löplabbet

Löplabbet is one of the chains of shops that use the Boxnet/Raptool mobile solution. Löplabbet, or "The Runner's Lab", is a chain of shops committed to providing shoes and clothing for runners. In their stores you get expert help in finding the right running shoes for your unique body and way of running. They have equipment that helps them analyze your feet and a treadmill where they can see your running style in order to give you the perfect pair of shoes for your feet.

The images are from Löplabbet's new flagship store in Stockholm, Sweden. With over 800 square meters it is the biggest store for running equipment in northern Europe.



Trends in retail enterprise mobility

In an online solution no data is stored in the mobile device. There is no risk of losing data if a device breaks during operation. Online can be a big advantage since changes are reflected immediately in all the devices and the POS. For example, when registering a received order with a mobile device the products are instantly available for sale in the stores' POS-system.

An increasing number of Raptool's customers in the retail sector are choosing online solutions. However, most new customers still choose offline mobile solutions since they are not ready to install and maintain Wi-Fi in all their stores. Most customers prepare for an online future by making sure that the hardware and the software have wireless capabilities. We see fewer USB-based communication solutions and more network-based solutions. In these installations the mobile devices work offline and store the data in local databases in the mobile device. The devices are then docked to an Ethernet-dock or synchronized through a Wi-Fi access point that connects the mobile device directly to a central Raptool NET Communicator. This way there is no new software installed on the PC in the store. This lowers the installation, maintenance and support costs.

More and more retailers are beginning to see the advantage of using the mobile device as a sales tool. Instead of walking to a fixed terminal the sales person uses the mobile device to help customers check prices, take orders and check stock levels in their own as well as other stores in the chain. In these types of applications online, up-to-date information is a big advantage.

Raptool

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