



Un-Attended Truck Scale Kiosk Makes Life Easy for Truck Drivers

The Opportunity

In late 2008 John, a local businessman decided to build a Truck Wash and Un-Attended Truck Scale in his small community of Columbus Junction, Iowa. John worked in cooperation with the local division of a major pork processing company to evaluate the need for the services he planned to provide. He then moved forward to acquire property directly across the street from the processing plant to locate his new venture.

The pork plant processes approximately 10,000 hogs per day into processed meat products that also ship from the facility. This gave him the confidence that there would be adequate truck traffic needing to be washed and weighed to justify the expenditure.

The decision was made to first build the truck scale and then the truck wash facility. The Scale

could be built very quickly and begin generating income, in comparison the Truck Wash that would be more costly to construct and have a slightly longer time to completion.

To justify the project, the scale system would need to process an average of 12 trucks per day at a cost of \$8 per transaction. This was easily achievable given the number of trucks per day in and out of the plant.

He contacted Craig at his local Authorized Distributor for Avery Weigh-Tronix full line of weighing products. After some consultation, a suitable Weigh-Tronix truck scale was selected to fit his application.

The distributor also selected TSW Automation of Nashville, TN to provide the technology portion of the project. After consulting with the customer and distributor, TSWA proposed a turnkey control

system to exactly suit the needs of the project.

The Solution

The distributor installed an 11' x 80', Avery Weigh-Tronix triple platform truck scale on the site, and provided an AWT 1310 programmable weight indicator to TSWA to incorporate into the control system kiosk. TSWA was contracted to design and build the operators kiosk to include the following features.

Adjustable Mounting Pole

The kiosk was supported on dual steel mounting stand that would allow for a flexible mounting height to adjust for varying concrete elevations.

Color Touch Screen Interface

The kiosk was based upon an industrially hardened PC platform running a Windows XP based operating system and provided a 10" color LCD display for communication to the user. This allows for adequate hardware interface capacity as well as being able to provide bi-lingual support to users. The panel also includes a stainless steel numeric keypad for data entry.



A thermostatically controlled heater unit assures the internal temperature of the enclosure remains warm even though the Iowa wind chill often reaches -20 degrees below zero.

Payment Flexibility

The kiosk allows for several different payment options. The Cash acceptor accepts bills in denominations of \$1, \$5, \$10 and \$20. Change is automatically dispensed using one dollar bill currency. In the event that the change dispenser runs out of dollar bills, the system adjusts the user display to read "Exact Change Only" and sends an e-mail, alerting John of the condition. A text message is also sent to his cell phone so that the change dispenser can be refilled.



The kiosk also allows for credit card payment for transactions. The system accepts Visa, MasterCard, American Express, and can be programmed to accept virtually any credit card, or fleet card from private networks. Credit card transactions are securely and immediately cleared, via the Internet connection at the kiosk. Payment is then instantly applied to the appropriate checking account.

The price to weigh on the scale is \$8.00 per use, but there is also a re-weigh number provided on the

printed ticket that will allow an additional weighment to be done for \$1.00, within one hour of the original.



This allows a truck driver to pull away from the scale, adjust his load and check his weight again to make sure he is legal before leaving the scale site.

The kiosk also allows the owner to produce and issue coupons for promotional weighments as well. Users can enter a number on the printed coupon to purchase a weighment.

Dual Ticket Printers

Dual 80mm wide thermal ticket printers were provided for redundancy. Should one printer malfunction or run out of paper, the system automatically reverts over to the other printer and sends an e-mail the owner's office, and a text message to his cell phone to alert him that he will soon need to replace the empty roll.

The printed ticket includes Day, Date, Time, Re-Weigh Authorization Code, and truck weight information. The triple platform scale allows the ticket to include independent Steer Weight, Drive Weight, Trailer Weigh, and Total Gross Weight information allowing the driver to adjust his load as required.

Duplicate remote ticket printing is also available anywhere on the network.

Walk up report generation is provided that prints a ticket showing transaction history selectable by date, weighment type, and payment type.

Remote Monitoring & Support

Because the kiosk has access to the internet, remote monitoring and report generation are provided. This allows sales and operational information to be retrieved remotely. Also, remote support is provided by TSWA software engineers install program updates, or troubleshoot any equipment issues.

The distributor continues to be available for periodic on-site scale calibration and maintenance. The system provides the owner with a virtually un-attended source of revenue 24 hours a day, seven days a week, 365 days per year. John only needs to go by on occasion and pick up the money.

