



RFID Issues (Radio Frequency IDentification)

Productivity

RFID technology has long held out the expectation that it offered a way for firms to reduce both inventory investment and work stoppages due to inventory shortages. Less interest has been directed to productivity gains achieved by eliminating the need for redundant data entry and the errors it produces throughout the supply chain. Even less interest has been shown in expanding the roll of RFID Tags to include information about the State of the object associated with the Tag and limited Control of it. Policies directed at encouraging the industry to take risks aimed at expanded Productivity models should be considered by congress.

Implementation

RFID and related technologies have failed to achieve expected levels of market acceptance. This failure can, in part, be attributed to Bar Code replacement ROI models and inflated replacement costs used by those models. User decision makers should be encouraged to accelerate the implementation of RFID products when a case for improved productivity and/or other National interests can be made.

Frequency Harmonization/Allocation

Use of available Spectrum by RFID design engineers has seen little leadership stemming from regulators' understanding or interest in the technology's emergence as a subject worthy of policy promulgation based on National security and economic interests.

Privacy

The potential impact on individual Privacy has attracted the attention of Regulators and the press. Yet, shouldn't the importance of RFID to the US as a competitor in the global economy be considered, as congress debates the privacy implications of this technology?

Interoperability/Industry Standards

Leaders both in RFID design and its users need incentives to come together on standards that are promulgated in the wider context of applications that include all forms of product identification, tracking, location and state determination and control of associated objects.

Security

The use of RFID in applications that focus on Homeland Security should be encouraged with policies that recognize the potential of combining RFID with other security related technologies such as CCTV, GPS, and biometric sensors

Convergence

Policy promoting seamless integration of information applications that utilize wireless technologies such as RFID with established information systems that rely on wire and fiber should be encouraged.

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