

Two Dimensional Bar Codes

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James D. Holmes

PDF417 is a two dimensional bar code that was introduced in 1990 by Symbol Technologies. The secure, low cost, high capacity bar code can store up to 100 times the informational capacity of a traditional linear bar code of the same size.

In 1994, the American Association of Motor Vehicle Administrations (AAMVA) selected PDF417, the two dimensional bar code symbology (developed by Symbol Technologies) as its 2-D symbology standard. Approximately 16 states and Canadian provinces are utilizing the PDF417 system for drivers' licenses, emission & inspection stickers, titles and registration documents. Several automobile manufacturers have also affixed PDF417 2-D bar coded labels to their vehicles. Worldwide, Symbol is participating in 45 PDF417 - based identification programs, including passports, national identity cards and security documents used by millions of people.

For the past several months, I have had the opportunity to test two Symbol Bar Code Scanners. The LS4004I and LS4006I model scanners have the capability of decoding traditional one dimensional bar codes that have been utilized on vehicles since 1989 and the PDF417 two dimensional bar codes.

The Symbol Bar Code Scanners were provided by Eroen Enterprises of Capitola, California, (888) 724-2597, e-mail address EROEN@AOL.COM. The VINtrack package which included a Unitech Portable Data Collection Unit that is programed to detect, collect and warn users of problem Vehicle Identification Numbers (VINs). The Data Collection Unit automatically performs the mathematical equation to confirm the check digit (9th character of VIN). Furthermore, the Data Collection Unit is programed with the "I" character exceptions and will notify the user of a suspect VIN when the "I" Character is not present. Eroen Enterprises has also developed a VINtrack software package for the desktop or laptop computer that utilizes the NICB VINassist program to verify all VINs that were downloaded from the Data Collection Unit. The VINtrack software program will also allow input from any ASCII TXT file to do bulk checking of VINs.

Since PDF417 two dimensional bar codes can contain large amounts of data, the Symbol Bar Code Scanners must be connected to a desktop or laptop computer. This connection is made through a keyboard wedge or a serial/com port of the computer.



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PDF417 2D BAR CODE

