



BITS O' BOLT

BOLT Insider Tips

Today's TIP: Benefits and Risks of Transportation Related Mobile Devices (aka, the BYOD Mania)

Smart phones and tablets may be the most significant cost/performance transportation breakthroughs in many years. As wonderful as they are; it is important to remember that they also bring significant risks.

A large number of relatively low priced devices with a significantly growing number of transportation-related Applications (APPS) are entering the market every day. Most of these devices have multiple functions and capabilities like phone service, texting, camera, GPS, navigation, etc. Even Electronic Logging is offered as we discussed in the previous article. This trend will continue since there are only 3 major software platforms (Droid, Apple, and Microsoft). These are all referred to as "Open Platforms" and the development specifications are available to all developers.

We believe this will open up a large number of opportunities that will enable us to offer new functionality and operational improvements to our fleet management software. We will list specific examples below, but first want to make you aware of some of the risks.

The major "players" in mobile devices are the cellular phone companies like Verizon, ATT, Sprint, and others. Although the device price is relatively inexpensive, the "air time" can be explosive. This is the same issue as with your cellular phone today. With APPS, this can expand significantly. Unless your device has some type of software control (like SOTI), applications can be added by your drivers without your knowledge. Here are some of the other concerns to be aware of:

- Although Electronic Logging is available, it may not comply with the Federal mandate if there is not a direct connection to the engine.
- Virtually none of the devices prevent driver usage when the vehicle is in motion.
- Navigation, most likely, will not have truck/trailer level navigation.

Now for the positives.

- There are an increasing number of "Hot Spots" – (WIFI-Internet Connections) becoming available. Devices can be programmed to look for WIFI first and then fall back to cellular – thus helping to minimize the air-time cost
- For the current set of devices today, we have focused on "Out of Cab" functionality. Over, Short and Damage issues can quickly be resolved with an immediate transmission of the issue and a picture if necessary. This would enable a driver to save considerable time and avoid the impact of the next load.
- Detention time can be easily documented to take aware the current subjective input from the driver.



- Proof of Delivery can be captured with a signature, triggering a freight invoice before the truck leaves the consignee.
- If an accident should occur, pictures can be immediately transmitted to help with the processing of claims.

There are many more opportunities for efficiency either in a stand-alone mode or coupled with your On Board Computer.

We will be please to take your call and explore the possibilities for your fleet. OR, if you would like to sign up for our Insider emails, please [click here](#).

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