LABEL ME: Label Formatting Made Easy

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The Client…

Wedderburn is a leading supplier of weighing technology, label printing, and technical services. They focus on efficient and customisable weighing and labelling solutions for supermarkets, butcheries and freezing works.

The Problem…

Labels printed from scales in the workplace are notoriously difficult and time-consuming to change. Usually a Wedderburn technician had to be sent out to the clients to change a label for them, costing both the client and Wedderburn time and money.

The Solution…

The group created an easy to use drag-and-drop program so that a new label design can be created very quickly and transferred easily to the scales by the clients themselves.

Discussion

The previous method of editing label formats involved navigating menus directly on the scales using the combination of a touch screen interface and small keypad. Finding the editable properties of a label involved searching through multiple pages, which was very time-consuming and confusing for most clients.

The limitations of the scales were small screen size, low resolution, limited colour, and complex menu navigation, not to mention the annoying beeping! These limitations made what should be simple tasks such as moving the position of a barcode, or changing the text displayed on a label out of reach for most clients.

The project group were asked to create an alternative approach to editing label formats in the form of an application that would run on any standard PC connected to the scales. This would allow anyone with limited computer skills the ability to edit labels by using a simple drag-n-drop application. This increased the value of investing in Wedderburn scales as it gave the clients freedom to create their own labels.

A simple process for the user, the system is surprisingly complicated with 20,000 lines of code divided into four main modules, which when coupled together produce an elegant solution to the business problem.

The majority of the development time was spent on programming and implementing the project. This was a result of a clearly defined set of functional requirements and minimal changes needed to the overall design of the application.

The end result is a very happy client (Wedderburn) who have been provided with an industry standard application. This was facilitated by implementing well defined functional requirements and extensive prototyping throughout.

Client letter quote:
"If this is the quality of graduates being produced then I believe the IT sector of NZ business is in very good hands."

Brent Taylor, Wedderburn