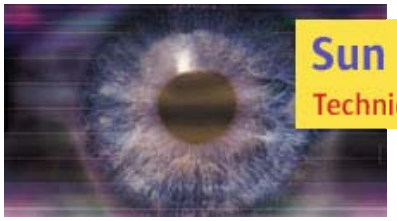

Sun Expert Exchange

Technical Knowledge Base for Sun Inner Circle Members

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» Sun RFID Overview
» EPCglobal
» RFID Introductory Demo
» View the RFID Net Talk

The Road to RFID Compliance: Issues & Solutions

Industry and General Information

Please click on a question below or download a pdf version.

1. What are the best places on the Web to keep oneself informed about RFID evolution?
2. Will Sun continue to chair the EPC Global group? Who are some of the other major participants?
3. Could you explain how Sun's SJS RFID products are positioned vs. Oracle and SAP's solutions in this area?
4. What is unique about Sun's RFID Software?
5. In your white paper you say RFID can help reduce product counterfeiting. Can you explain?

Q: What are the best places on the Web to keep oneself informed about RFID evolution?

A: You can always start with sun.com/rfid. We link to other interesting sites from there. You should also definitely take a look at The EPCglobal Inc. site at epcglobalinc.com. One other place I personally find interesting is rfidjournal.com, where you can find plenty of interesting news, case studies and reports.

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Q: Will Sun continue to chair the EPC Global group? Who are some of the other major participants?

A: Sun will continue to be active in the EPCglobal organization, which includes chairing subgroups where appropriate and elected to do so by the EPCglobal members. Learn more about the companies participating in the organization.

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Q: Could you explain how Sun's SJS RFID products are positioned vs. Oracle and SAP's solutions in this area?

A: Sun offers a complete end-to-end solution by combining Sun components with best-of-breed partner components. In an RFID deployment, customers require tags, readers, tag and test analysis, middleware software for managing the EPC data, integration with backend systems (e.g., ERP, Warehouse Management, etc.), and the ability to share information with trusted trading partners. Sun offers all of the pieces for a complete RFID deployment and is reader and application agnostic. Oracle and SAP are providing solutions tuned to work best with their applications.

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Q: What is unique about Sun's RFID Software?

A: Today the Sun Java System RFID Software has two components:
- Sun Java System RFID Event Manager, and
- Sun Java System RFID Information Server

Sun's RFID Event Manager is unique in its architecture. No other event manager in the industry is based on a distributed system. This means that the system can be deployed such that there is no single point of failure in the system. The system can provide for fail-over by dynamically re-allocating tasks that were being performed on one compute resource (e.g. server) to another compute resource. This ensures that the RFID system can continue to process data and deliver results in demanding environments in real-world RFID deployments where RFID readers or servers may be physically damaged.

The design and the distributed nature of Sun's software also enables high levels of vertical and horizontal scalability. In addition to enabling high levels of scalability and reliability, Sun's software is designed to work in a heterogeneous environment by providing standard interfaces that make it possible to seamlessly integrate RFID data with legacy or best-of-breed solutions and applications.

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Q: In your white paper you say RFID can help reduce product counterfeiting. Can you explain?

A: RFID allows you to track and trace a product throughout the supply chain. A tagged product is assigned a unique ID at the manufacturer and traced through the various steps in the chain. The pedigree of the product can then be tracked to its source by parties in the distribution chain. This is one of the main reasons why the pharmaceutical industry is looking at RFID.

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