



Surveytrac

An application using e-pen technology for surveyors completing survey reports

Outline

Surveytrac allows surveyors to record a survey electronically, from the written word.

This will then allow the document to be stored, sorted and reported automatically.

Photographs taken whilst completing the survey may be embedded in the report.

The Process

The surveyor uses the digital pen to complete pre-printed survey forms. The image of the report is transferred automatically into a computer as the pen is docked making the survey available for e-mailing

The Result - A Survey Report

The observations may be sorted for a summary schedule of actions to be reported and comments are converted using handwriting recognition techniques. The format and order of the report are a matter of choice including photographs being embedded in the text.



Features and Benefits

- Saves administration and typing time shortening the time between completion of a survey and availability of the report.
- Increases speed of reporting.
- Allows for standardising of survey forms.
- Simplifies filing and document retrieval.

Users will Include:

**Classification Societies, Insurance Underwriters,
Technical Managers, Port State, Oil Majors,
Shipowners**

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The Technology

Digital Pen and Smart Paper

Pen and Paper relationship

The digital pen used by Datatrac in their Pen solutions has a video camera under the nib and contains a battery, a mother board and a timer. The pen is used as an ordinary hand writing tool to write information onto "smart paper" which has been pre-printed with a unique pattern of dots and the camera in the pen locates the exact location of a pen stroke on the paper by a navigational fix in relation to the dots.

Storage Capacity of the Pen

Any information written on the pre-printed paper is stored on the pen, which is capable of storing up to 40 different documents. Once the data has been collected the pen is placed into its docking station that is attached to a computer and all the information is downloaded. The pen can remain in use for 6 hours.



Digital Pen & Cradle

Flexibility of the Paper

The paper is to be used as a 'data collecting tool' to be discarded. Where images only are required then there is no need to change any current documents. For digital data a form will be designed; there is no limit to what can be achieved.

Data storage

Data is captured in three different ways, as an image (JPG) format, as Boolean entries which enable multiple choice questions to be answered and sorted or as character recognition which allows for data to be manipulated.

Operational Use:

First Level

The first level of the Datatrac "digital pen" solution captures only an image as a JPG. This image may be stored at the point of data capture such as on board a vessel or if required it may also be sent ashore; pen strokes only are transmitted in very small files: only 2Kbytes instead of 50Kbytes for an equivalent JPG document.



Digital Pen

Second Level

The second level of the Datatrac solution uses Boolean programming to sort a series of check boxes and analyse responses. These responses may be filed and sorted in the Datatrac management database. The reporting forms and summary analysis may be transmitted to head office in much the same way as the image capture.

Third Level

The third level of pen technology adds character recognition to the application. Data is captured into the Datatrac management database and may then be exported into excel spreadsheets for analysis. The speed with which accurate data is captured into the computer, without the need for extra data entry, facilitates the flow of information from an operational unit to head office or a central server which in ordinary circumstances would have to wait until the operating personnel were free to key the data collected into the computer.

If you think you have an activity which could benefit from our data capture technologies we would like to discuss it with you.

Contact: jtobin@datatrac.co.uk

**Get to know more about Datatrac Solutions by ordering a Starter Pack now.
e-mail: [:sales@datatrac.co.uk](mailto:sales@datatrac.co.uk) or phone 020 7377 5773**