novax

World Leaders in Taximeters

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Internal Cardlog

Increased memory capacity has enabled us to provide two internal data logs:

1/ **All transactions**, cash and non-cash payments. The last fifty job records are stored in a revolving buffer. As a new record is stored, the oldest record is overwritten, thus the latest fifty jobs can be recovered at any one time.

2/ **Non-cash payments only**. The last ninety six records are stored in a second revolving buffer. As a new record is stored, the oldest record is overwritten, thus the last ninety six jobs **which have been recorded as a non-cash transaction** (credit card, subsidy card or charge card payment) can be recovered at any one time.

Every transaction recorded contains the following:

Job number
Date/Time stamp at start-fare
Total Km. recording at start-fare
Tariff selected at start-fare
Time stamp at end-of-fare
Total Km. recording at end-of-fare
Fare displayed at end-of-fare
Extras displayed at end-of-fare
Waiting time recorded during fare

If the fare recorded was a payment-card transaction then card details (as read by an attached swipe reader) will also be stored with the transaction.

Data Transfer

The records can be transferred as they accrue, on-line via a suitable radio network using the appropriate protocol (Auriga, Cabcharge or via public text messaging SMS service*).

Or the contents of either buffer can be dumped in total, either via a direct PC connection to the meter's serial port, or via a cellular phone or modem.

Meter Dial-up

A "dial-up" facility has been included in the meter. Simply connect a suitable digital cell phone (or a cellular modem) to the meter via a data cable and hit a couple of buttons on the meter. The meter will dial the appropriate number for the taxi office, or base, and establish communications with the office computer. The meter will then respond to the computer's commands, thus the required records stored in the internal log can be requested and sent.
The meter can be pre programmed with the appropriate dial-up information via its serial port. Data cables for connecting phones to PC's are available from phone shops.

A successful transfer of either data log takes less than a minute, making this a cost effective solution for weekly, fortnightly or monthly data transfer. (note this is a machine to machine transfer and requires a dedicated phone line during the data transfers)

Office Support Software.

This utility has been written specifically for supporting the Novax taximeter equipment It will read the internal log either directly or via a modem. Valid transactions are identified and saved to appropriate folders; Subsidy Card Records, Credit Card Records, Charge Card Records and (optionally) Cash Records.

The program's primary function is to periodically upload the stored records from the meters' logs, and append them to data files. When all cabs have had their logs for the period read, the data files are then used to generate appropriate batch files in the format required by the various card issuers or service providers. The batch file(s) can then be sent to the appropriate organisation for payment. In addition to the batch file, a summary file is stored, with a sub total for each card log read and the total value for the batch. Third party software could access these files for invoicing purposes etc. A detailed printout for each log-upload is available for drivers' records, and an archive file with full details of every transaction recorded.

Who Would Use Dial-up?

Multi owners and fleet operators may prefer to setup their meters' logs to record every job (including cash) and have daily updates of every job electronically uploaded direct to their own computer. This would provide an accurate and detailed check on drivers' log books, as well as an automated data entry facility into their accounting system. Owner/drivers may like to replace their log books with the electronic log book.
The system provides a means of processing non-eftpos payment cards with the convenience of on-line transactions but at a fraction of the cost. The Novax Leda has built-in payment card handling firmware which provides for subsidy, discount and service fee calculations.

Companies supporting government subsidised travel schemes such as the "Total Mobility" may find the fortnightly or monthly dial up transfer of the subsidy-transactions (plus others as required) the most cost effective solution.

Who would use on-line transfer

Companies with existing dispatch networks may wish to utilise the network to transfer live meter data. Records are still stored within the meter's logs, the network has the control to access this data and transfer it as network traffic allows.

Small companies with minimal automation requirements but handling significant payment cards can* utilise the cellular text messaging service network to transfer job transactions. In operation the base will poll each cab for new transactions, request transfer of such records, then issue a delete command for that record. The SMS service could provide a cost effective alternative to dialup data transfer particularly with a $10 per month maximum charge on message texting.

What Does it Cost

Internal log: New meters are supplied with the larger memory chip and the latest firmware fitted, the only additional cost is the data cable, available from phone suppliers, or cellular modem. Additional hardware costs are involved for payment card handling (refer Novax TP/MSR40 printer/swipe reader).
Dial-up support: This involves the programming of the dial-up sequence (performed via the serial port at a nominal fee).
Support Software; starts at $300, additional programming costs could be involved for support of payment cards. A suitable computer, modem and phone connection is assumed.