ZEBRA
CAPTURE
YOUR EDGE

Virtual Tether

Keep your Zebra cordless scanners in range and ready for work

Cordless scanners bring greater convenience, flexibility and maneuverability to data capture workflows. But when a scanner isn't tethered to a computer or other host, it can be misplaced. For example, a self-checkout customer can accidentally exit with a cordless scanner in their cart. A store associate might leave a cordless scanner in the backroom during a hectic shift. Or a warehouse worker inadvertently includes a scanner in an outgoing customer shipment. A misplaced scanner comes at a high price to your business — from lost productivity to a lost asset.

Now, you can easily keep track of your cordless scanners with Zebra's Virtual Tether. This complimentary and flexible DataCapture DNA tool alerts users when a scanner is moved too far from its base or is left off the charger for a predefined length of time. As a result, your cordless scanners are always where they should be, fully charged and ready for the next task. There's no more downtime caused by a misplaced or lost scanner. And when it's easy to keep track of your scanners, you can decrease the size of your spares pool, lowering hardware costs. Maximize the availability of your cordless scanners with Virtual Tether.

Benefits

Maximize device availability

Avoid workflow interruptions caused by a lost scanner

Keep scanners charged and ready for use

Minimize downtime from broken Bluetooth connections

Lower device replacement costs

Reduce the size of your spare device pool

Virtual Tether — Maximize device availability and prevent workflow disruptions. For more information, please visit www.zebra.com/virtual-tether

No more missing scanners

When Virtual Tether is enabled, the scanner and cradle will alert users when the scanner is taken beyond its Bluetooth range. The alarm stops once the scanner connects back to the cradle, the duration of the alarm expires or a worker overrides the alarm. With a can't-miss combination of alarms, users will know right away if they're about to leave a cordless scanner behind.

Ensure scanners are fully powered and ready for work

In combination with a scanner's Battery Preservation mode, Virtual Tether helps avoid work stoppages caused by a low battery or PowerCap capacitor. The cradle's LEDs will flash when a scanner has been out of the cradle and not in use for a predefined amount of time — a helpful reminder to return the scanner to its charger. The result? Scanners are always charged and ready for the next task. And by minimizing unnecessary wear and tear on the battery, Virtual Tether can extend your scanner's battery life.

Prevent downtime from dropped connections

When a scanner is not operating in batch mode, Virtual Tether can alert workers before they roam out of range from the cradle or host device — eliminating the productivity loss and frustration that result from dropped connections and the need to reconnect. For example, a cordless scanner can vibrate and blink when a forklift driver walks too far from the forklift and the scanner is about to lose the connection with its host.

The right configuration for every workflow

Everyone's workspaces, applications and environments are different. That's why Virtual Tether can be easily customized to meet your unique needs. By configuring the device's radio output power, you define the Virtual Tether range — whether it's 25 or 250 ft.[1] You can set your preferred combination of scanner and cradle notifications, including: scanner LED, scanner illumination, scanner haptics, scanner audible tone, cradle audible tone and cradle LED.[2] And you can customize the alarm duration, how a worker can override the alarm and more.

Easy to integrate

The Zebra Scanner SDK gives you the opportunity to extend Virtual Tether's capabilities to support your business' specific workflow and application needs. For example, you can send an alert to your POS system or manager's tablet when the connection to a self-checkout scanner has been broken. And Virtual Tether is fully integrated with other Zebra software tools, including Remote Diagnostics' logging agent for advanced reporting and alerting, as well as the Scanner Control App and Scan-to-Connect for seamless configuration and deployment.

Go beyond the barcode

It takes more than hardware to resolve today's toughest enterprise challenges. It requires intelligent software to address the needs of every stakeholder. That's why our data capture devices contain DataCapture DNA, the genetic code that simplifies the entire Zebra scanning experience with unrivaled device manageability, innovative-driven performance that maximizes productivity, and faster and easier application development.

Applications

Virtual Tether helps minimize the impact of a misplaced scanner in a wide variety of settings and use cases, including:
- Point of sale
- Self-checkout
- Inventory
- Shipping
- Warehousing/forklift

Settings

Virtual Tether is fully customizable to meet your needs.

Available notifications[2]
- Scanner audio
- Scanner LED
- Scanner illumination
- Scanner haptics
- Cradle audio and LED

Alarm settings
- Alarm duration
- Delay before alarm activates
- Alarm override: press scan trigger, press cradle paging button
- Night Mode: audio alerts are disabled when scanner is in Night Mode (device dependent)

Radio output settings
- High
- Medium
- Low

1. Bluetooth range is dependent on environmental factors
2. Available notifications vary by scanner model

ZEBRA