

HARDWARE CONTROL UNIT



System Overview

A typical configuration of the IMPACT cashless system consists of a Control Unit, wall-mounted Revaluation Units and intelligent Touchscreen Point of Sale terminals (either Touchpad or Touchscreen), all networked together for real-time transactions.

IMPACT is driven by the Control Unit, consisting of a dedicated PC, modem, backup drive, printer and UPS. Account details, transactions and balances are administered and recorded here. A UPS protects the database from loss of external power, and a backup drive ensures that data can be retrieved in the event of serious damage arising from an emergency such as a fire or flood. The modem is used for online diagnostics and software upgrades.

The Control Unit is typically located in an administration office near the restaurant or kitchen, and is operated by a senior member of the catering staff. Additional PC's can also be networked to the Control Unit, either by dedicated cabling or via an existing network. Access can be controlled by the use of passwords.

While value can be added to users' accounts manually (in the administration office), by direct debit, or even over the Internet (i.e. using the pay portal, council or any third party payment portal), wall-mounted Revaluation Units provide the user with a secure, accurate and efficient means of checking balances and adding value to their account.

At POS the Touchscreen terminal has the additional features of 'flick-through' multiple menus, on-screen photos (for added security) and 'look-up' filters for opening accounts without using a card or biometric reader.

Vending machines can also be networked onto the IMPACT system.

IMPACT can be operated by swipecards, smartcards, PIN numbers, 'look-up' filters or fingerprint recognition.

Networking can be achieved either by dedicated network cabling, or by sitting the system on an existing ICT network. Wireless links can help in situations where cabling to a certain point is impossible, or some mobility at POS is required.

