



Epson: Committed to the development of retail standards

Epson is a member of the ARTS Board of Directors and has been a core member on OPOS, JavaPOS, UnifiedPOS and ARTS XML committees and work teams. Epson also serves on the NRF-ARTS Technical Committee.

Epson's commitment to standards goes beyond a commitment to open architecture products. Epson's goal is to help drive positive changes in the industry that enable both retailers and vendors to prosper.

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In addition, Epson also serves on NRF-ARTS Technical Committee. The on-going work on these standards results in reduced technology risk, more technology options, faster development and lower cost of integration for retailers.

UPOS provides ease of integration of peripheral devices



As a founding member of UPOS, Epson helped develop the UPOS standard, a retailer-driven initiative to provide the detailed hardware connectivity definitions for thirty-six different POS peripheral devices that can be used across multiple hardware and software platforms. The UPOS goal is to make the connection of peripheral devices (including printers,

scanners, pin pads, check readers, display terminals, cash drawers and magnetic card readers) to PCs or POS terminals with little or no changes to the POS application software.

A UnifiedPOS-compliant application allows retailers to change either of the three principal POS components—application, hardware or operating systems—in phases, reducing capital investment and the cost of customer disruption and associated re-training. The UnifiedPOS standard includes specific OPOS, POS for .NET and JavaPOS implementation appendices providing detailed information on how to implement the UPOS standard. Most recently, the UnifiedPOS implementation for XML POS has been added to the specification. This can be used with the recent ARTS WSPOS (Web Services) standard to create new web-enabled POS applications.

POS system developers worldwide adopt OPOS standard



In 1993, Epson, along with Microsoft, NCR and Fujitsu, teamed up to develop the first version of OPOS—a widely-adopted POS

device standard to help developers integrate POS hardware into applications for the Windows™ family of operating systems. Epson helped design the foundation OPOS control objects and service objects from which it developed the tools to support the Epson-specific POS peripherals in their Application Developer Kit (ADK). These highly regarded tools have directly contributed to the widespread adoption of OPOS by POS system developers worldwide. Since its release in 1994, the OPOS initiative has resulted in the creation of interface standards for more than 90% of all POS peripheral devices in the world. Epson coordinates direction with OPOS Japan to ensure one global OPOS standard.

JavaPOS opened the door for Java-based applications

JAVAPOS™ Epson, with Sun, IBM, NCR, and other Java-centric vendors teamed up to develop JavaPOS, the first standard developed to help integrate POS hardware into applications for the Java language. Building on the concepts used in OPOS, JavaPOS is the standard which defines a set of Application Interfaces (APIs) providing access to the UPOS-defined POS devices for applications that are built on the Java language. JavaPOS opens the door for Java-based applications to work on multiple OS based terminals such as Red Hat Linux, Susie Linux, Caldera Linux, Solaris as well as Windows.

ARTS XML simplifies A2A integration within retail enterprise



Epson has been a member of the International XML Retail Cooperative (ARTS XML) since its founding in 1999. The group has made great progress since then, developing 11 schemas available for download from the ARTS website (nrf-arts.org). ARTS XML builds on the ARTS Data Model to develop standard XML schemas and message sets to ease Application-to-Application (A2A) integration within a retail enterprise.

ARTS RFP offers retailers significant time and cost savings



One of ARTS highly successful initiatives has been the Standard Request for Proposal (RFP) program, which includes detailed documents for retailers to use when selecting IT vendors for specific business applications. As a member of the ARTS Technical Committee, Epson reviews and provides technical input for ARTS RFP standards. By defining over 80% of basic retail functionality, ARTS RFPs allow retailers to focus on their unique needs, minimize functionality gaps and identify gaps in existing business processes.

When a retailer uses an ARTS RFP, they can achieve significant time and cost savings and increase RFP effectiveness through improved contract terms, fewer omissions, guidelines for selecting appropriate standards in their quest for the best and most cost effective POS solution. To date, more than 300 companies have downloaded ARTS RFPs.

Retail Industry Standards

The Association for Retail Technology Standards (ARTS), a division of the National Retail Federation (NRF), is an international membership organization dedicated to reducing the costs of implementing new technology solutions through the use of industry standards. Since 1993, ARTS has been delivering software application and hardware connectivity standards exclusively for the retail industry.

ARTS currently has four retail standards: The Standard Retail Data Model, UnifiedPOS, ARTS XML and a collection of Standard RFPs. The mission of ARTS is to enable the low cost, rapid deployment of retail technology by reducing integration efforts through platform independent, vendor-neutral standards.