Lister
unified communications

Whitepaper

How could M2M communication help grow your business?

M2M Communication

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M2M technology is a rapidly growing market due to it's huge impact on business efficiency. Particularly for small and medium sized businesses, M2M can automate large swathes of processes like restocking, production, manufacture and telemetry.

What is M2M?

M2M is being used across a range of industries to help businesses grow. At it's core it's about ensuring businesses have the information they need, when they need it. From solar-powered smart bins for councils that text rubbish collectors when they need emptying, to sensors in chicken feeders on farms that let the farmer know when the silo is low on feed, to water companies monitoring remote pipes and exchanges, to engineers being able to diagnose issues with systems before arriving on site because they have the data they need, M2M is revolutionising many industries to automate processes, create enormous efficiency savings and offer customers new services.

The main benefits include:

- Reducing the amount of stock held
- Reducing time wasted servicing
- Creating more streamlined business processes
- Tracking real data allowing trends to be spotted and adjusted for
- Improving efficiency and offering additional services

Examples of M2M in Commercial Business

M2M is used to great affect in a number of industries.

Transport & Logistics
Knowing the real-time movements of goods allows optimisation of routes, accurate and delivery tracking for the end-consumer and improved visibility throughout supply chains for manufacturers, allowing efficiency improvements for transport & logistics companies, as well as their customers.

Contact Lister Unified Communications today on 01453 829 200 to find out how M2M communicattions could help your business.

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Utilities

M2M sensors and cameras can be located in remote and difficult to access locations, removing the need to send out staff to locations. This doesn't only save time for employees, it automates the process in a far more efficient way, instead of an employee checking, for example, a coolant level, periodically, a sensor notifies when the coolant level is low, eliminating unnecessary checks and driving the process from a more informed position.

Agriculture

Sensors such as those discussed above benefitting the utilities sector can also prove incredibly useful in the agricultural sector, monitoring water and feed levels for animals, or by automating irrigation based on current conditions and the weather forecast for crops. M2M can even be used to RFID tag livestock, storing essential data on the animal itself.

Manufacturing & Engineering

M2M allows a number of factors to influence your production line. By enabling machine to machine devices to monitor levels of everything from raw materials, to finished product, you can increase supply chain visibility and improve production efficiency.

Connecting M2M Devices

For M2M to work effectively, it's essential to have robust connectivity. There are a number of solutions that can be used to connect M2M devices, depending on location, mobility, and proximity to other M2M devices.

A standalone M2M device can be connected with a wired connection, or can use a SIM card to connect to a mobile network. Wired connections only work if there's wired infrastructure nearby, and cannot work for mobile devices, so SIMs are the more popular choice.

If however, you have a number of M2M devices clustered at a remote location, it's possible to connect all of these together, or to a central computer on the remote site, and then have the entire cluster transmit it's data through a single wired or wireless connection. A popular solution is to connect a number of devices using a local WiFi network, having obvious cost savings over putting a SIM card into each device.

Even if you have a smaller number of independent devices which need SIM cards, there are specialised options, like dedicated data-only M2M SIMs, or multi-network SIMs that keep the device connected to the strongest network in their area at all times.

It's essential to bring in experts to create and implement an M2M connection solution that provides you with useful data that can inform and action improvements in efficiency and allow you to offer additional services.

How to get started...

It's important to think about connectivity from the first stage of installing M2M devices. Whether converting existing hardware to make it 'smart' or installing new M2M devices, understanding your options and making informed decisions about connectivity is key to getting the most out of your devices.

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Why Choose Lister Unified Communications?

For M2M to be truly effective, it's essential to partner with a communications provider who knows your business, your specific requirements and can be trusted to provide support and appropriately provisioned data plans that give your M2M devices the connectivity they need.

We can look at your M2M devices and design effective networking and data solutions, across WiFi, bluetooth, mobile networks, wired networks and even more specialised services like satellite internet, to provide a cost effective way to connect your devices.

At Lister's, we offer a range of data plans specifically designed for M2M devices. We work with you to understand your requirements and can offer specialised multi-network SIMs to allow your M2M devices to automatically join the strongest network in an area of coverage and never lose signal.