Editor's Introduction

RFID Technology and Automated Data Collection

Data is the foundation of all information systems and data collection is a crucial and costly activity. Recent development in automated data collection technology, including the radio frequency identification (RFID) and global positioning system (GPS), has significantly revolutionized many existing applications. Because of its ability to individually identify and track product items, RFID is particularly useful in business domains. Many successful applications have been reported in retailing (e.g., Wal-Mart) and logistics (e.g., UPS). The use of RFID can transform existing business model, increase the efficiency of operation and management, and improve decision-making processes. Therefore, it's interesting for information systems researchers to explore the value and potential of this new technology.

This issue of the journal is devoted to innovative applications and potentials of the RFID technology. Four papers included in this special issue are representatives of many possible research topics related to RFID applications. The paper by Zhang, et al. surveys a variety of RFID applications and examines the organizational impact of RFID. The paper by Kürschner, et al. presents a case study on the research and development of an RFID-based work-in-progress container tracking system at a confectionery manufacturer. The paper by Soon and Gutiérrez reports the findings from a study on the adoption of RFID in New Zealand's supply chains. The paper by Yuhashi and Iijima show a creative application of RFID that uses the technology to study social networking. I appreciate the guest editors, Joseph Barjis and Samuel Fosso Wamba, for their effort in putting together such an interesting issue.

Ting-Peng Liang

Editor-in-Chief

Visiting Professor, City University of Hong Kong

National Chair Professor, National Sun Yat-Sen University