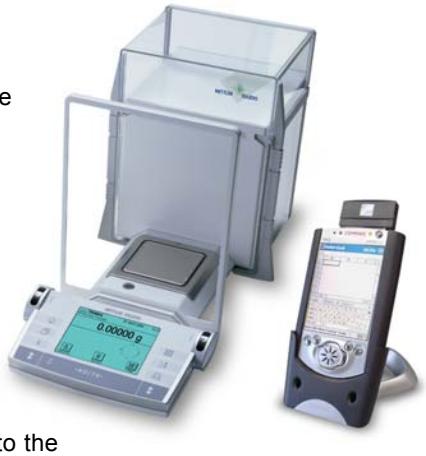
BalanceTalk CE

Portable Interfacing for Your Weighing Applications



BalanceTalk CE is a portable solution that uses a Pocket PC to efficiently and accurately capture readings from any balance or scale equipped with an RS232 port.

Rather than dedicating a desktop PC to each balance, you can place an RS232 cradle beside the instrument. To interface to the balance, simply slide the Pocket PC into the cradle, select the test you want to perform and begin collecting data. When all of the samples are analyzed, move on to the next workstation and collect more data.

At convenient intervals, return the Pocket PC to a central PC and place the Pocket PC in its' cradle. New files from the Pocket PC are instantly uploaded (synchronized) with the desktop PC. If the PC has LIMS interfacing software, such as LimsLink from Labtronics Inc., data from the Pocket PC can be automatically synchronized directly to the LIMS.

- Microsoft® Pocket PC 2002 compatibility eliminates the need to dedicate a PC to each balance
- Pre-configured to work with most balances
- Collect data directly from your balance into Pocket Excel® or any other Microsoft® Pocket PC 2002 application
- Includes Pocket Excel® spreadsheet templates that are formatted for many common weighing applications such as sieving, moisture analysis, Total Suspended Solids, etc.
- Transfer worklists or other sample information from a central PC
- Control cursor movement within applications
- Store multiple instrument setups for use at different workstations
- Support for multiple COM ports
- Sophisticated interface for setup and RS232 communications troubleshooting

Cost Analysis

The combination of Pocket PC technology with BalanceTalk CE software provides a cost-effective solution that brings significant increases in efficiency to any lab. Eliminating the need to have a desktop PC beside each balance dramatically reduces the cost of interfacing each instrument.

Consider a laboratory that has 10 balances, operated by 3 technicians. Each balance requires an RS232 cradle for the Pocket PC. Each technician is issued a Pocket PC outfitted with BalanceTalk CE software. If we assume that the laboratory already has a central desktop PC to receive the collected data, the total cost for automating 10 instruments is around US$/€3,300 or US$/€330 per instrument.

Cost to Interface 10 Balances Used by 3 Technicians

Item	Unit Cost (US$/€)	Quantity	Total (US$/€)
1 RS232 cradle for each balance	35	10	350
1 Pocket PC for each technician	600	3	1,800
1 copy of BalanceTalk CE for each technician	395	3	1,185
	Total cost		US$/€3,335
	Cost per instrument		US$/€333.50

The relative cost of interfacing the balance is now in line with the cost of the instrument. Additionally the interfacing solution requires very little space on the lab bench, further reducing the interfacing cost. The benefits of increased efficiency, and decreased transcription errors are easily cost-justified.

System Requirements

BalanceTalk CE runs on the Microsoft® Pocket PC 2002 operating system and has been fully tested using the IPAQ 3950 Pocket PC.

Installation requires approximately 1.5 MB of storage space, and the Pocket PC must have an RS232 connection.

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