



New HW / SW / Docs Updates

Revision 041231

This document logs the last 12 months updates to Softcon Hardware (HW), PC Software (SW) and to documents and are listed by month (simplifying “where to read from”). Updates to previous years are store in that years document (SCS_Updates_YYYY.rtf). The document SCS_Updates.rtf contains the updates of the last 12 months.

These documents server as general information to existing Softcon users, installers and consultants. Changes to SW keywords are highlighted in **yellow**, HW in **green** and documents in **red**. The documents SCS_BMS_SPEC and SCS_BMS_REQUIRE contain all the functions of the Softcon systems and the additions listed in this document are includes in these documents.

These documents contains short snippets of the changes, details of the changes listed here and the versions containing the changes are contained in the relevant version sections of the HW specification documents and in the SW version documents - please contact Softcon if more information is required. The latest versions of the firmware (FW, programs running on the HW), SW and documents contain all the changes listed here and are available from Softcon or on www.softconserv.com. Whilst most changes are available at no charge, certain new functions are charged for.

Non-critical bug fixes and non-significant improvements are not listed in these documents, and generally only major changes to documents or new documents are listed.

JAN-2004

1. **CR355** controller **comms** selectable from LAN, modem, PC (directly to PC COM port) or test - via selectable baud rates (2k4, 4k8, 9k6 or 19k2).
2. CR355 **card debug** options displays card read – number of bits and bits read (on LCD or serial test port).
3. New program SCS_Asset. **Assets** are issued and returned by card holders, logging rental/loan fares. Holders and assets can be read via serial readers connected to the PC. Future additions: pre-booking, alarm on late return.
4. Simplification of setting of data fields to be stored in **Log files** (e.g. holder’s name, employee number).
5. **Combo boxes** can be set to be viewed only or selected according to password.
6. **Card masks** can contain ignored characters, enabling the use of cards with differing facility codes, irrelevant pre- or post data, stuffing characters, etc.
7. User **calendar** control to set date/time data (e.g. expiry, holidays), simplifying set-up.
8. **PC Time** synchronization. PCs in the system are synchronized to a specific PC (e.g. to the server).
9. **Audio** (voice) recording Visitor program, capturing a .wav file linked to the visitor.
10. Transferred SW from Microsoft Visual C++ 6.0 to Microsoft **.Net** (Visual C++ 7.0) – containing numerous enhancements in speed, reliability, future expansion capabilities, etc.

MAR-2004

1. **Hand programmer** on CR355 selectable to serial or reader 1 port, freeing reader 1 serial port for serial readers. Also provides more options in stand-alone applications and for debugging and testing.
2. CR355 interface to serial **Barcode** readers. Locations of facility and card number configurable.
3. CR355 allows (ignores) **ISO MAG** characters : < >. These characters are typically used for formatting / separation.
4. **Cash loader** sends 12 character card numbers.
5. CR355 reads **HID 36 bit** corporate 1000 cards (Chubb).
6. **Video capture** size can be set per PC. Typically certain visitor capture cameras are zoomed out, requiring a smaller capture block.
7. Events that **start external programs** (e.g. SMS program) set on which PC to execute. Data from events can be passed as parameters to the program. For example a card number and/or holder's name that is out of area or armed the alarm system can be inserted in the SMS message.
8. Link to **external CCTV** programs, passing data to and receiving data from (e.g. card holders name when swiping at reader, CCTV alarms reported are inputs to the Softcon system).
9. Link to **external Vend** and **Cash** Loaded programs, typically linking to systems with integrated back-office management functions.
10. **Database Distribution** Server settings all moved to database (from registry), enabling the changing and updating of PCs.

APR-2004

1. Parking point of sale (**PPOS**). **Pay On Exit** (PC per exit, entry on same or other PC or none).
 - **Cards** are issued on entry and retrieved on exit with **fares** fixed or calculated per period according to vehicle type.
 - **Readers** are connected to PC or to access system.
 - Optional recording of **vehicle details**, number of passengers.
 - **Slips** on entry / exit. Rates can vary on time / day of week entered, exited.
 - Dedicated **keyboard**, or on-screen keyboard (mouse or touch).
 - Operator **management** (take-on, cash-up, passwords).
2. **Events** generated on triggers, set to which PC to be sent to for execution.
3. **Shared directories** not required by database distribution server, enhancing PC security.

MAY-2004

1. Softcon hosting of own on-line **www.softconserv.com** site with all documents, pamphlets, FW, SW and slide shows.
2. Control of 3 outputs on **COM364** serial interface via the serial port. New parallel interface **COM365** with 8 relay outputs. Used by PPOS to open barriers, turnstiles, doors.
3. CR355 individual setting of anti-timeback (**ATB**) per reader (0 to 9 minutes) and clear or not other readers ATB. Hence, additional possible settings, per access point:
 - ATB on entry, not on exit.
 - ATB can/cannot be cleared by other reader (enter – ATB starts, exit – ATB on entry reader is/not cleared). If not cleared, a card cannot be passed back.
4. CR355 error **LED control** changed: Red on access denied (out-area, ATB, card not found), simultaneous red and yellow on wrong format or wrong facility code.
5. CR355 not report same **out area** card if swiped within 5 seconds, different card reported immediately. This prevents unnecessary data flowing in the system, speeding up of loading new data to controllers (in systems that have more than 15 000 cards that use the same readers).
6. CR355 direct interface to two **ControlSoft** readers via multi-drop RS485 comms.
7. CR355 **interlock** option – preventing both doors opening at the same time, via reader or egress (push-button). Booth/mantrap is also an interlock. Doors monitored and optionally also **latches monitored** (typically used for MAG locks).
8. Enhanced **databases locking**, speeding up data access and database synchronization.
9. Card data mask for a **keyboard reader**, facilitating the use of an integrated reader, with any variety of card formats.

10. **PPOS slip** printing configurable, printing any of the captured data, PC and operator information, fares, period, date/time, etc.
11. **PPOS** link to Softcon **serial** (COM) interface (3 outputs) and to Softcon **parallel** (LPT) interface (8 outputs) for Barrier, turnstile, door Entry/Exit.

JUN-2004

1. **PPOS** slide show.
2. **Visitor** program has a "**Door open**" button, generating event(s) to open door(s).
3. **Print** option in **list editors** (including activity), printing viewed columns (in set sizes and order) for selected records.
4. Clock-in and out to external file for **Eco Time Technology** time and attendance systems.

JULY-2004

1. **Parking products** document.
2. Enhanced comms between **CR355** and front modules. **Cash loader** uses same front uP firmware.
3. CR355 code **32 bit Aritech** cards.
4. Visitor, Client and CardMaker programs scan / capture **photo**, **signature** and **document** per card / visitor. Included on card/label designs. Typical documents scanned are ID books/cards.
5. **Drawings** can display photo, signature and document, linked to reader (reader provides card reference).
6. CardMaker and Visitor programs can be **translated** to other languages.
7. Lists and property sheets display **help pop-up** when mouse pointer pauses on column heading and data respectively.

AUG-2004

1. CR355 and MF350 (vending) use universal **card decoding** FW modules – auto-detect most common Wiegand card types from number of bits (correct settings required where different types for same number for bits).
2. **Universal MF350** EPROM with all card types, on-line and stand-alone in one EPROM.
3. All SoftWin3 programs can be **translated** to other languages – SCS_Server started with language parameter (e.g. /language:FRA for French).
4. Client programs can be started with parameter **selecting the server** to connect to (e.g. /start:admin) – facilitating redundancy by using a local server when network is down.
5. New event type to **set card parameters** Status, Area Group and Time Group. Typically used to disable, change time group, etc. of card(s) on timed or specific events.
6. New SoftWin3 program **SCS_Report** (replaces Softwin SoftRep), functioning in server / client structure. Clients send report request to server (running where databases located) – server generates and sends zipped HTM reports to client (automatically unzipped when viewed). Reports can be (automatically / manually) "saved-as" to be reopened when required.
7. **Auto log-off** after set time-out.

SEP-2004

1. **Tokens** set per item, allocated to card holders.
2. **Modem link** to access controllers (CR351-5) and LAN controller (CR357).

NOV-2004

1. **Fingerprint reader integration**.
2. **Windows XP SP2**.

DEC-2004

1. Universal reader interface – **parameters settable in ROM**.
2. **Asset management** with pre-booking, alarm on late return, charges per period – time of day.