

# Glossary

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## **A**

### **Antenna**

A device used to transmit and receive RF communication between a CBS and ESLs. One transmit and up to four receive antennas may be attached to each CBS. Antennas are usually installed on the ceiling.

### **API (Application Program Interface)**

A set of functions that can be used by the application software to access the functionality of the DecisioNet Software.

### **Attachments**

Mounting devices used to attach ESLs to shelf rails.

## **B**

### **Base Runtime Software**

A software application for the DecisioNet System that runs on the DecisioNet Software Controller and is not dependent on the type of POS system used. The Base Runtime Software controls the core DecisioNet functionality such as initialization of a ESL, display of price on an ESL, and diagnostics.

This software also provides a set of standard API functions that can be used to interface with the ESL Application Software and other software controlling the POS system.

### **Bedcheck**

A background function that verifies ESLs are working properly. If an ESL does not respond to a bedcheck message, an error is recorded.

## **C**

### **CBS (Communication Base Station)**

CBSs receive and transmit data and control functions to the ESLs. Up to 40 CBSs can be installed in a store. One CBS is defined as the primary CBS and the others as secondary CBSs. CBSs are usually installed in the ceiling.

### **CBS Power Supply**

This external AC/DC converter supplies DC power to a maximum of five CBSs. An additional CBS Power Supply is required for each additional group of 5 CBSs. Power requirements in the EU/EC countries limit the number of CBSs connected to a power supply to three (3).

### **Coverage Area**

An area within a store where there is reliable RF communication between CBSs and ESLs. More than one CBS is required in a large store to attain adequate transmission reliability.

## **D**

### **Descriptor Symbols**

One symbol on the ESL's LCD indicates when the ESL and CBS are out of synchronization, and another symbol indicates when the ESL's battery is low. The other symbols on the display are available for the retailer's use.

### **DecisioNet Database**

A MySQL database used to store information relative to all ESL management.

### **DecisioNet Software Controller**

This refers to the In-Store Processor (ISP) or a Dedicated PC (DPC). This is the computer physically connected to the primary CBS that sends price information from the PLU file to the DecisioNet System for display on ESLs.

**Downlink**

A CBS sends data to an ESL in a downlink message. Examples of downlink messages are Bedcheck, Price Update, Load Memory, and Change Display Register.

**DPC (Dedicated Personal Computer)**

This PC, acting as the ESL controller, reads the customer's PLU file from the In-Store Processor/POS system via a LAN connection and communicates the information to DecisioNet System.

**E****Error Log**

This module of the DecisioNet Software records and displays communication errors between the ISP or DPC and an ESL.

**ESL (Electronic Shelf Label)**

An ESL is the device attached to the store shelf that displays information for the customer.

**ESL Removal Tool**

Also called an ESL puller, this tool is used to remove ESLs from shelf rails and clips.

**ESL Serial Number**

During manufacture, a distinct 8-digit (32-bit binary code) number is assigned to each ESL and stored in the ESL's RAM. The serial number and its barcode equivalent (Code 39) are printed on the right side of the ESL. The serial number and the bar code are blue on a freezer ESL and black on all other ESLs.

**ESL Standalone System**

A system that runs the DecisioNet Software on a dedicated PC separate from the ISP. In this situation the DPC has a copy of the store data base and communicates with the ISP to receive maintenance (price update) data.

**ESL Table**

An area in the DecisioNet Database created during the initial DecisioNet System installation that links ESLs to PLU items. This table also contains other data used to define the attributes of each ESL.

**I**

**Initialization**

The process by which an ESL is registered in the DecisioNet data base, associated with a particular product, and synchronized.

IP (Internet Protocol)

**IP Address**

An address format (xxx.xxx.xxx.x) used to communicate with devices or components in an network. The format includes network IDs, subnetwork IDs, and host IDs.

ISP (In-Store Processor)

The computer in the store that contains the price database used by the POS system. The ISP integrates PLU information into the DecisioNet System.

**L**

LCD (Liquid Crystal Display)

The type of display in an ESL.

**M**

MAC (Media Access Control)

A communications protocol. The MAC protocol is used to provide the data link layer of an Ethernet LAN system.

**P**

PC (Personal Computer)

Pre-ESL Table

A data file used to create an ESL Table.

**Promotional Message**

Promotional message(s) such as "SAVE," "OFF," and "FOR SALE" can be displayed on the ESL alternately with the price

**R****Register Data**

These messages, such as stocking information and aisle number, may be used by store personnel. They can be displayed on the ESL by pressing a micromotion button hidden behind the front label or by transmitting an instruction from the processor.

RF (Radio Frequency)

**S****Shelf Rail**

A device which can be attached to the existing shelf/gondola to secure several ESLs to the shelf and protect them from accidental damage and from theft.

**Store ID**

A unique number is assigned to each store and used by the DecisioNet System to prevent unintentional transmission of signals between stores.

**T****Tag**

A tag, also referred to as an Electronic Shelf Label (ESL), is the device attached to the store shelf that displays information for the customer.

**Time Slot**

A unit of time assigned to each ESL during which a CBS transmits either a downlink message to an ESL, or receives acknowledgements (ACKs) back from an ESL. Each CBS is assigned 2 time slots.

**TOD** (Time Of Day)

A clock used by the DecisioNet System to trigger display changes.

**U**

**Uplink**

An uplink is an acknowledgment message (ACK) sent from an ESL to a CBS in response to a downlink burst.