

CASE STUDY

Barcoding Develops Custom Active Tracking for National Disabled Veterans Winter Sports Clinic in Colorado



BLE device tracking provides visibility across a mountain resort.

Background

The [National Disabled Veterans Winter Sports Clinic](#) provides hundreds of disabled veterans with training and rehabilitation each year. At its annual Winter Sports Clinic event, veterans are challenged to overcome perceived limitations through adaptive skiing, sled hockey, and other activities.

The five-day clinic, which was first held in 1987, has become a large-scale event where world-class instructors lead numerous sessions to improve the overall health and outlook of disabled veterans.

Challenges

The sports clinic requires coordination on multiple fronts, from registration, to scheduling, and other administrative tasks, at more than 20 separate stations across a large mountain and ski resort in Colorado. The clinic did not have a way to track where equipment was being used over the duration of the event. Barcoding was brought on board to devise and implement a solution to track the movement and utilization of the hardware inventory.



AT A GLANCE

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Solution

Barcoding suggested pivoting to a Bluetooth Low Energy (BLE) solution, which would enable them to obtain detailed location information whenever needed. We collaborated with our partner Link Labs to devise custom monitoring software.

Results

The Barcoding team coordinated a smooth deployment. We ensured coverage for nearly twenty different sites, starting with the equipment-heavy IT room and conference room areas, and ending with first-aid stations on the mountain.

Challenges (Cont.)

The clinic administrators wanted visibility into where laptops and other key devices were being leveraged so they could optimize the way the equipment was being used. Good device management would also ensure a better understanding of how much equipment needed to be deployed at future events.

The clinic team also wanted a solution to easily ensure they received all assets back after the event came to a close. Passive tracking solutions wouldn't offer the efficiency and accuracy they needed, so an active solution would need to be implemented to give them comprehensive visibility into the devices at all times.

Solutions

The Barcoding team had several conversations with the National Disabled Veterans Winter Sports Clinic in order to fully understand the organization's needs and to ensure the solution would be tailored for all possible use-cases. We explored and pared down the various possibilities until we had something perfectly suited to providing device visibility over the course of the event.

The RFID solution the clinic team had previously employed worked well for inventory purposes but failed to provide real-time intelligence. We suggested pivoting to a [Bluetooth Low Energy](#) (BLE) solution, which would enable them to obtain detailed location information whenever needed. We attached puck tags to the hardware, which allow for high-accuracy tracking with a low footprint, and we collaborated with our partner [Link Labs](#) to devise custom monitoring software.

At Barcoding, we leverage the expertise of our partners whenever possible, collaborating with companies that are at the forefront of their industry to build cutting edge solutions. Engaging the team at Link Labs allowed us to make the most of the BLE deployment, with a custom interface that provides an easy-to-use method for hardware assets across the mountain.



Results

Our team's extensive experience implementing hardware solutions for live events allowed us to anticipate and address potential problems with the roll-out, as well as problem-shoot any issues discovered during deployment.

In only a few days on site, the Barcoding team coordinated a smooth deployment. We ensured coverage for nearly twenty different sites, starting with the equipment-heavy IT room and conference room areas, and ending with first-aid stations on the mountain. Providing coverage for the first-aid sites was crucial and required us to run extensive cabling up the mountain. Our team brought a deep knowledge of infrastructure set-up and ensured efficient and safe use of cabling across the resort.

"Having a definitive, real-time record of the location of their IT assets will allow the Winter Sports Clinic team to save time searching for lost items and provide a higher quality of service to their volunteers and participants," explained Pike Reynolds, SVP of Field Operations at Link Labs. "When I stopped in to check on the implementation on the Sunday before the event began, the IT manager told me that a laptop had been misplaced, and AirFinder helped them find it, just like they expected it would. In the past, they would have had several people searching for it, taking time away from their primary jobs."

With Barcoding's device tracking solution, the Winter Sports Clinic team gained valuable time in the lead-up to the event, which allowed them to concentrate resources on making sure the clinic went off without a hitch. Barcoding has worked with the National Disabled Veterans Winter Sports Clinic for many years, and we look forward to helping fine tune its tracking program as the event continues to grow and evolve.

"The founder of Link Labs, Brian Ray, and many of our founding employees served in the Navy, so it was especially meaningful for us to be able to partner with Barcoding to give a little back to veterans who have given so much."

— **PIKE REYNOLDS**
SVP of Field Operations, Link Labs



About Barcoding, Inc.

Barcoding is a supply chain automation and innovation company that helps organizations be more efficient, accurate and connected. With extensive subject matter expertise in data capture, labeling and printing, and mobile computing, we are trusted to build and manage solutions for some of the best IT and operations teams in the world. Founded in 1998, Barcoding is headquartered in Baltimore, Md., with offices across North America (Chicago, Houston, Seattle, Montreal, Toronto and Vancouver). For more information, visit www.barcoding.com.

About Link Labs and AirFinder

Based in Annapolis, Maryland, Link Labs is a leading innovator in low-power, wide-area network technologies that power the Internet of Things (IoT). Their patented Symphony Link technology platform provides secure connectivity for IoT devices, and their **AirFinder RTLS solution makes tracking anything, anywhere, easy and affordable**. Link Labs powers a range of IoT applications across many industries, including smart cities, agriculture, building controls, automotive, hospitality, healthcare, government, defense, retail, and utilities. Visit www.link-labs.com or www.airfinder.com for more information.