

NEW!! "Getting Started" software tools for Price checker:
An 'Easy-To-Use' Ethernet driver plus Application Software
(template) including example DataBase, for both Windows and
Linux!

INTRODUCTION

First of all a general remark regarding the integration of the Price Checker Light Information Terminal into a stores' IT infrastructure:

The Price checker/Ethernet are -in fact- simple IP devices in the local network, which output a bar code data string. The only answer it needs back from the Back-Office server is the article name and the article price, plus some simple display-control commands. Definitely not rocket science. So, a small application software is needed, connecting the Price checker with the store's database. Chapter 4 of both the Price checker User's Manual describe what this software should do.

DRIVER

Now, in order to give every Price checker project a flying start, Our R&D recently developed a new driver for the Price checker Ethernet. With this driver it becomes extremely easy for our system-integrators to develop the Application Software which controls and manages the Price checker in the store's IT structure.

APPLICATION

We also took the next step and added a complete example of the Application Software including an example database (text file). All quite flexible configurable. This example can function as a template to develop the complete price checker package within a days work. Just Copy and Paste. You will find this demo application, the database and all source code information in directory: C: \Program Files\PriceChecker\PC_net_demo (i.e. after installation, default path).
Tip of the day: Some of our integrators export their article database in the same format as the demo database of the PC tools (see file Program Files\PriceChecker\PC_net_demo\pc_db.txt). By doing this the coupling between the Price Checker and your article database is completely taken care of! Easy as that!

DETAILS

This has been a parallel development for both Windows and Linux.

With these tools it is also possible to develop ONE application, which controls both the Price checker simultaneously!

All items are distributed through the regular Product Support CD's.

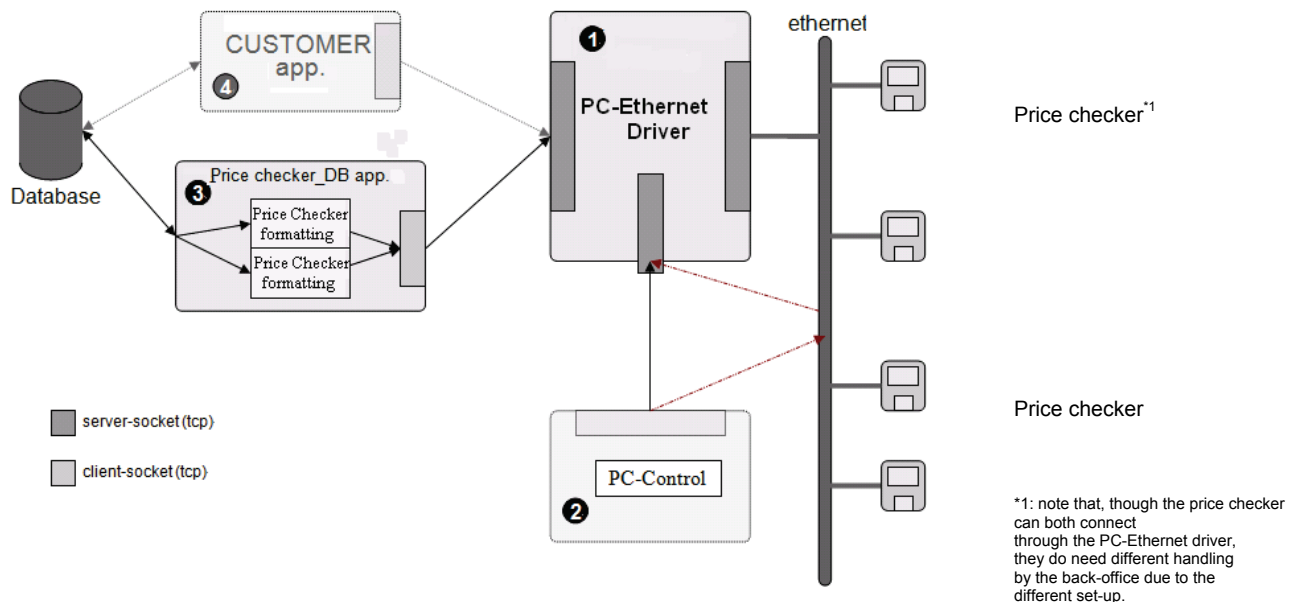
Please consider these software objects as 'freeware' or 'shareware'.
We have released these items for public use and for the benefit of our customers including a Disclaimer describing limited liability.

We are convinced that this new driver plus application example together, form the perfect tools to get your price checker project started in no time at all.

General outline for the Ethernet Driver for Price checker

Scope

This document describes the general outline of the price checker Ethernet Network Driver (PC_Eth_driver), and its subsidiaries PC-control and PC-DB. The purpose of this driver is to manage all connections of Price checker devices in the network, and provide an easy interface to the back office application.



Description of the components:

1. **PC-Ethernet** : Driver that all price checker devices can connect to. Manages and monitors all connections. All interfaces use TCP-sockets for flexibility and ease of use (see the paragraph about TCP sockets). For details see PC-Ethernet detail view.
2. **PC-control**: User Interface for controlling and monitoring PC-Ethernet. Is included with the PC-Ethernet driver.
3. **PC-DB**: Demo application that provides an interface to the database and some basic user-functionality (controlling the display and button-actions). This program will come in two variants:
 - a) **BASIC** : Included with the PC-Ethernet driver (including source code). Meant as a sample application and/or a framework for developing a more extensive back-office application, it can also be used as a very simple price-checking database. It uses a plain-text file as "database", which makes it easy to adapt it for customer (end-user) demo's.
 - b) **ADVANCED**: Available on request. Provides interfaces to many databases and adds several features compared to the BASIC version. The source code will be available, although this will require more programming knowledge to use.
4. **Customer application** [by the System Integrator] : Alternatively to the PC-DB, the customer can use his own application; to interface with the PC-Ethernet driver, all that needs to be done is to establish a TCP connection with it. The format of the data that is send over this connection will be well documented.