

## Replacing Magnetic Swipe Reader (MSR) with Swipe and Park.

The majority of EPOS applications expect magnetic swipe cards to be read by MSRs that are part of the keyboard input and therefore card data will appear in the keyboard buffer.

Swipe and Park units are designed to simplify the capture of both magnetic swipe and chip card details in one simple action, but these units are physically connected to a serial port of the EPOS system and the message data is proprietary.

Established EPOS applications are therefore unable to gain access to magnetic swipe data output by the swipe and park unit without significant modification. This fact is likely to frustrate the roll-out of new EPOS hardware where swipe and park units have been fitted in place MSR units.

Until now, the only options have been to:

- a) ship new hardware with MSRs and perform field upgrades to swipe and park once the EPOS application has been modified, or
- b) rush through modification of the existing EPOS application to support swipe and park protocol, or
- c) rush through the introduction of a new EPOS application that does support swipe and park

The first option will incur the additional expense of an on-site engineer visit.

The second option is likely to require the introduction of a later version of the EPOS application (with attendant problems) and will require significant regression testing effort.

The last option may force the premature introduction of software that is not fully developed.

In all cases, roll-out will be delayed and additional costs will be incurred which might exceed agreed budgets.

ACK have recognised these problems and have produced a software utility program called **softMSR** that allows new hardware to be deployed with park and swipe units, yet allows the existing EPOS application to continue to be used WITHOUT MODIFICATION.

### Summary of Features:

- ? Requires no modification to EPOS system
- ? Supports Dione swipe and park units
- ? Runs under Windows 95, 98, NT, Win2000 and WinXP
- ? Compliant with both 16 and 32 bit applications
- ? Can be configured to read tracks 1, 2 and 3
- ? Supports credit, debit and loyalty cards

Call ACK for further information and licence fee details.