The Challenge

Vagabond launched an Internet of Things network to provide real-time data about operations and sales to operators about each of their vending machines from their office or from the road. To complement its powerful web and mobile ERP tools, the company needed a mapping platform to pin-point the precise locations of each machine and to efficiently route drivers.

The Solution

Vagabond used the Google Maps Javascript API to build a web-based application showing the location of each operator’s vending machine as a pin on a map. Vital information about the machine, such as its stock level and cash collected, is overlaid on the map so that pins can be filtered based on the needs and geographic location of each machine. Operators use this information to determine when machines need to be restocked and to build efficient routing schedules. It’s important that each machine location be precise so drivers know exactly where they are and when they need to be stocked. When a new machine is installed, an operator uses a mobile app that deploys the Google Places API and Google Maps Geocoding API to determine its location within a building. Operators and drivers can see whether a machine is in a loading dock in a back alley or on the southwest wing of a third-floor dormitory.

"Our map-based web app shows vending operators where their machines are located, which need service, and how much cash is waiting. It also helps build super efficient driver routes.”

Michael Lovett
Co-founder and CEO, Vagabond

Benefits

- Helps operators increase profit margin up to 20 percent
- Reduces labor, trucking and operations spending by 15 percent
- Eliminates theft, which leads to 15 percent top-line revenue recovery

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