



Ethernet-to-Serial

Network your banking, retail, automation and control systems using existing RS-232 RS-422/485 peripherals with this reliable Ethernet-to-Serial device from Connect Tech Inc. Adding a Blue Heat/Net to your POS system saves money; decreases customer processing times, and allows head offices to remotely manage their equipment.

Application Example: Blue Heat/Net and Point of Sale

Adding new POS lanes to the traditional retail floor can be a costly and complex undertaking. It often involves investing in a PC for each checkout, then purchasing serial adapters for each computer to connect various peripherals such as barcode scanners, cash drawers and card readers. Each computer also requires software to collect and periodically send data over the network for tracking and to input into inventory and sales software applications.

This process is greatly simplified by connecting those retail peripherals directly to the local area network. This allows centralized processing and removes the expensive requirement of desktop PCs. Software requirements are simplified and allow "real-time" collection of data from the lanes. Unfortunately most peripherals are designed with serial connectivity, and as such cannot be directly networked to the LAN.

This is where an Ethernet-to-Serial device, like Connect Tech's Blue Heat/Net, enters. With it, you can network-enable existing or new serial peripherals, and benefit from the advantages of centralized processing and the flexibility it allows in scalability and location of checkout terminals. There's no need to modify existing software to add a peripheral or an entire lane. There are no expensive PCs to buy and the expansion process is greatly simplified by the existence of off-the-shelf products. Distance issues are not as limiting when adding Ethernet connectivity. Cabling can extend 100 meters, and off-the-shelf switches can ensure everything on the floor is networked.

For Head Offices, the ability to access data from their retailers whenever they need it, remotely update systems and maintain their equipment saves time and money. On-line inventory management systems can grab information in "real time", reducing reliance on manual transmissions from individual stores at various times of the day. Tracking applications can be accurate up to the minute for all stores; feeding inventory applications to ensure orders accurately reflect stock on hand.

Since multiple systems can access and control the Blue Heat/Net, a backup server can be added, ensuring customer service continues uninterrupted if the primary server encounters problems.

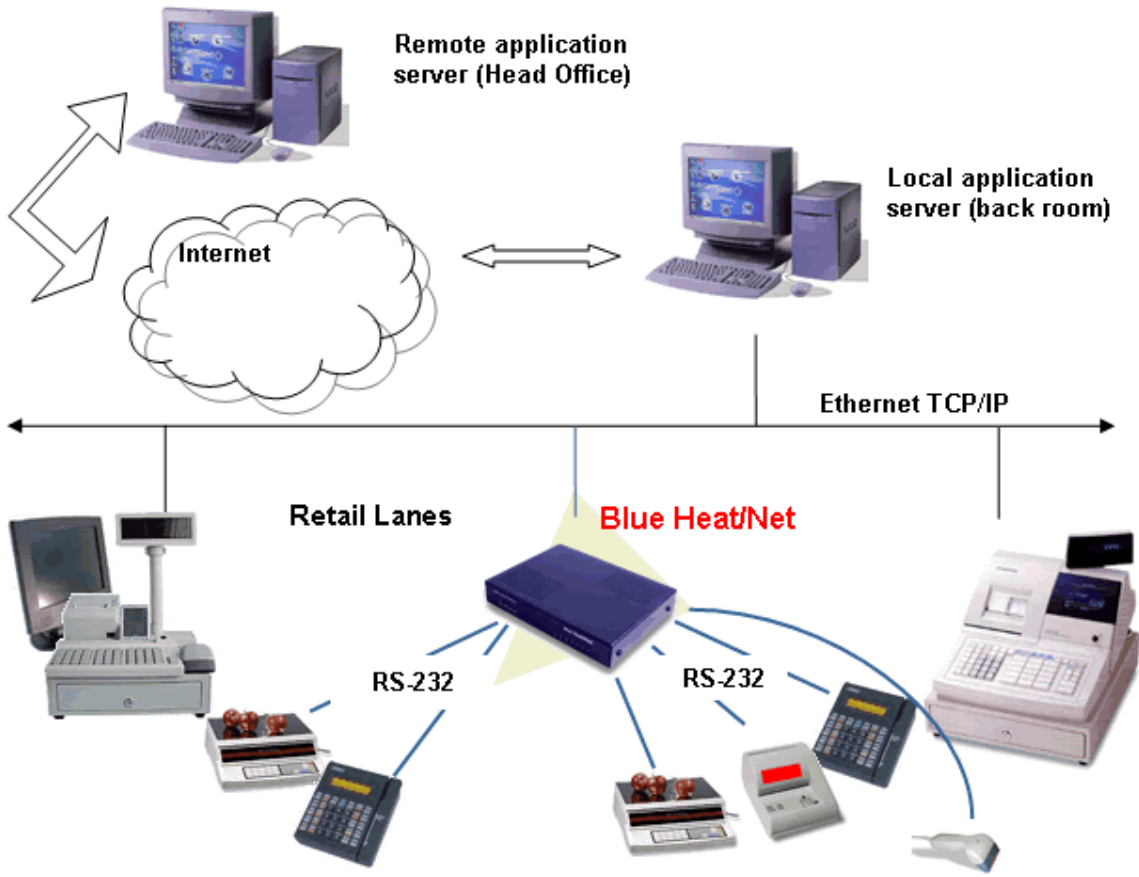
The Blue Heat/Net is also a great way to add new equipment to an existing POS system. If your lanes are already on a network enabled PC/serial adapter system, and you wish to upgrade and add more equipment, there is no need to change a thing. Just add your peripherals (signature pads, scales, etc.) to the network and access existing software and databases via the Blue Heat/Net. The Blue Heat/Net effectively adds virtual COM ports to your existing system that can be accessed anywhere.



Blue Heat/Net offers your POS system:

- 1) *greater scalability***
- 2) *decreased customer processing time***
- 3) *flexibility in floor layout –distance limitations almost eliminated***
- 4) *“real time” data access for accurate backend applications***
- 5) *easy installation and backup capabilities***
- 6) *turns any serial interface product into a networked product***

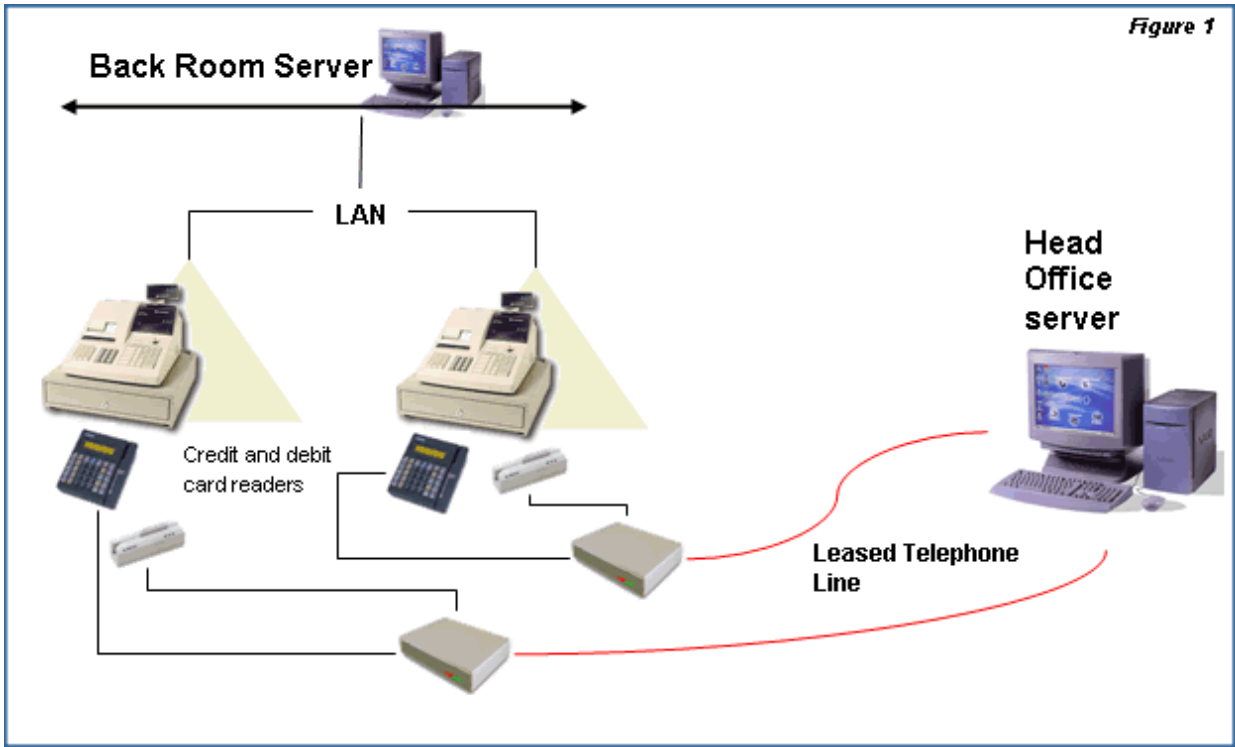
Blue Heat/Net at work in Point of Sale



PC-based cash register with available ports in use

In this POS application, an 8 port **Blue Heat/Net** is added to the LAN to accommodate the addition of new RS-232 peripherals to existing lanes. No need to buy two serial adapters, or add a new PC if the current system is maxed.

Integrated cash register with no extra ports



In **Figure 1**, debit and credit card readers are connected to modems, requiring expensive leased telephone lines. In **Figure 2**, numerous modems are replaced by a single 4 or 8 port **Blue Heat/Net**, which connects the magnetic readers to the existing LAN. Information is transmitted via WAN, saving money on leased lines and equipment while greatly decreasing connection time. That means customers can be processed faster and more efficiently.

