

CLAIMS

What is Claimed Is:

1. An inventory control system comprising:
an object storage device including a plurality of compartments, each compartment including a plurality of storage locations for storing objects;
one or more processors configured to:
establish a database containing information regarding the object storage device,
retrieve the information regarding the object storage device from the database, and
generate an optical symbol based on the information regarding the object storage device and data that does not change over time;
a display device associated with the object storage device and configured to display the optical symbol; and
a mobile device configured to:
capture an image of the optical symbol,
obtain the information regarding the object storage device based on the image of the optical symbol, and
display, on a display screen of the mobile device, the information regarding the object storage device.
2. The inventory control system of claim 1, wherein the optical symbol is one of: a two-dimensional (2D) bar code, a Quick Response (QR) code, a portable data file 417 (PDF417), a Data Matrix, an Aztec Code, or a Maxi Code.
3. The inventory control system of claim 1, wherein the database includes one or more of: instructions, procedures, images, messages, links, or data related to the function of a graphical user interface of the object storage device.
4. The inventory control system of claim 1, wherein the optical symbol is displayed on the display device in response to a user input.

5. The inventory control system of claim 4, wherein the display device is further configured to receive input from a user, and the user input is received by the display device.

6. The inventory control system of claim 1, wherein the one or more processors are further configured to:

generate a graphical user interface that includes a user-selectable element, and
when the user-selectable element is selected by a user of the object storage device, cause the display device to display the optical symbol.

7. The inventory control system of claim 6, wherein the one or more processors are further configured to:

generate the optical symbol prior to the user selection of the user-selectable element and based on system information, and
store the optical symbol during an initial system set up and configuration of the object storage device.

8. The inventory control system of claim 6, wherein the one or more processors are further configured to:

generate the optical symbol after the user selection of the user-selectable element and based on information obtained by a search of the database.

9. The inventory control system of claim 1, further comprising:

a second display device remote from the object storage device and corresponding to an administrative application; and

a network configured to transmit communications between the object storage device and the administrative application;

wherein the one or more processors are configured to cause the optical symbol to be transmitted over the network to the administrative application for display on the second display, and

wherein the mobile device is configured to capture the image of the optical symbol at the second display.

10. The inventory control system of claim 1, wherein the mobile device is further configured to:

generate a service request based on the information regarding the object storage device displayed on the display screen of the mobile device, and
transmit the service request via a web-based application.

11. A method comprising:

establishing a database containing information regarding an object storage device;
retrieving the information regarding the object storage device from the database;
generating an optical symbol based on the information regarding the object storage device and data that does not change over time;

displaying the optical symbol on a display device associated with the object storage device;

capturing an image of the optical symbol using a mobile device;

obtaining the information regarding the object storage device based on the image of the optical symbol; and

displaying, on a display screen of the mobile device, the information regarding the object storage device.

12. The method of claim 11, wherein the optical symbol is one of: a two-dimensional (2D) bar code, a Quick Response (QR) code, a portable data file 417 (PDF417), a Data Matrix, an Aztec Code, or a Maxi Code.

13. The method of claim 11, wherein the database includes one or more of: instructions, procedures, images, messages, links, or data related to the function of a graphical user interface of the object storage device.

14. The method of claim 11, further comprising the step of:

receiving a user input,

wherein the optical symbol is displayed on the display device in response to the user input.

15. The method of claim 14, wherein the display device is further configured to receive input from a user, and the user input is received by the display device.

16. The method of claim 11, further comprising the step of:
generating a graphical user interface that includes a user-selectable element,
wherein the display device displays the optical symbol after the user-selectable element is selected by a user of the object storage device.

17. The method of claim 16, wherein:
the step of generating the optical symbol is carried out prior to the user selection of the user-selectable element and is based on system information,
the method further comprising the step of:
storing the optical symbol during an initial system set up and configuration of the object storage device.

18. The method of claim 16, wherein:
the step of generating the optical symbol is carried out after the user selection of the user-selectable element and is based on information obtained by a search of the database.

19. The method of claim 11, further comprising the step of:
a second display device remote from the object storage device and corresponding to an administrative application; and
a network configured to transmit communications between the object storage device and the administrative application;
transmitting the optical symbol over a network to an administrative application;
and
displaying the optical symbol on a second display device remote from the object storage device,
wherein the mobile device captures the image of the optical symbol at the second display.

20. The method of claim 11, further comprising the steps of:
generating a service request based on the information regarding the object storage
device displayed on the display screen of the mobile device, and
transmitting the service request via a web-based application.