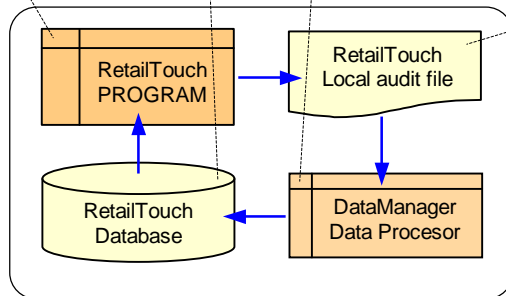


RetailTouch Data Flow

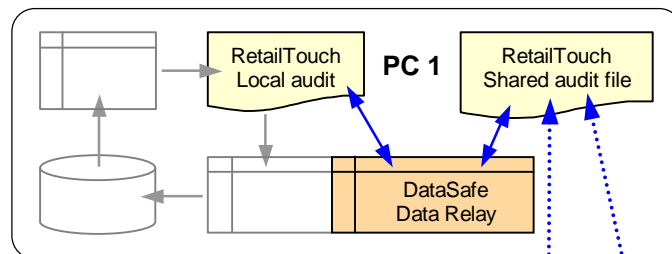
RetailTouch is specifically designed to take maximum advantage of its unique method of processing data, which provides superior reliability and speed while saving significant costs, making it ideal for POS:

Each PC has its own program and database, which it runs fully independently of all other PCs or networks. RetailTouch reads its local database, eg. to sell or modify an item, and records that action to a local audit file. Then a separate local program, DataManager, reads the new transaction from the audit file and processes the data into the database. (DataManager runs in background, so RetailTouch always runs at full speed)



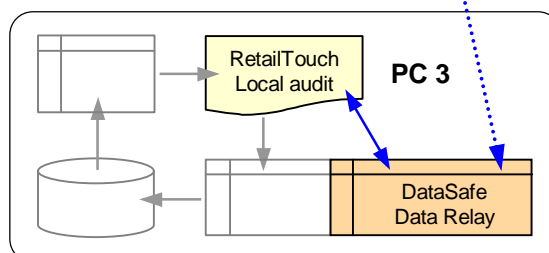
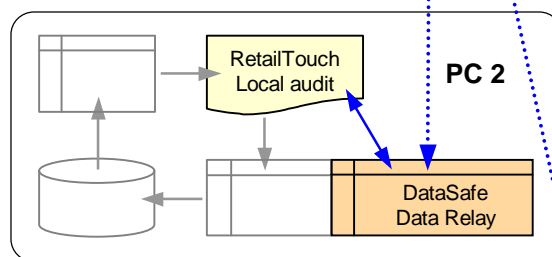
RetailTouch
Data flow on
a single PC

When extra PCs are connected via a network or modem, DataSafe (an extension of DataManager) shares all transactions between all PCs. On each PC, DataSafe copies new transactions from the local audit file to a common Shared audit file. It also copies new transactions from all other PCs from that Shared audit file to its local audit file (and from there, DataManager updates the local database as normal).



RetailTouch
Data flow in a
3-PC Network

LAN or Modem links



Audit file transactions are extremely compact, so they move between PCs very quickly, even over a 56k modem.

RetailTouch Data Flow

Cost Saving and Efficiency Benefits

Robust and reliable

RetailTouch is specifically designed to run “stand-alone” on every PC at all times, by using programs and data stored on each PC’s own hard disk. PCs are therefore unaffected by problems with the network or other PCs, ensuring maximum robustness and continuity of operations. A completely separate, non-critical program (DataSafe) shares transactions with other PCs whenever they are available, to automatically merge and synchronise data.

Fast and economical

This stand-alone style of operation also allows every PC to run very fast, even with basic, economical PCs and networks, by avoiding the typical network and “central data” congestion problems of other systems. (More expensive hardware and networks can only partially overcome those congestion problems, but they add substantial extra initial and on-going maintenance costs)

RetailTouch only needs to send very small, efficient packets of data between PCs, whether on-site over a basic LAN, or off-site via a basic dial-up modem, so its network and multi-site operations are also exceptionally fast. Again, RetailTouch achieves this superior performance without any need for expensive, complex network systems, special phone connections, or extra equipment.

Data safety

RetailTouch provides exceptional data safety and redundancy, by constantly and automatically replicating all data on all PCs. There is therefore absolutely minimal risk of any data loss, and no need for special backup equipment, systems or procedures, at least for RetailTouch data.

Smart design

RetailTouch provides built-in industry-leading speed, reliability and data safety, as a direct result of its very smart design. Performance on any PC is not affected by the size or complexity of databases, or by the number of networked PCs or how busy they are, or by the number of live multi-store sites. Its design is also modular: the same efficient data flow and connection methods (with the same cost benefits) are used whether adding an extra in-store PC, or a dial-in home PC, or many PCs in many extra stores, all with live communications and central control. This consistent use of one standardised solution makes implementing, maintaining and extending RetailTouch systems simple, with only one process to learn, and minimal elements to troubleshoot.

Compatible and durable

RetailTouch also uses industry-standard Microsoft tools, drivers, interfaces and databases, for maximum compatibility with hardware and peripherals, and to allow open communications with other systems and databases (eg. with SQL queries, or Visual Basic calls to a generic supplied interface, or via intermediate Ascii files as commonly used for 2-way supplier “host support”).

Combined with constant and progressive software development, RetailTouch provides an exceptionally flexible, cost-effective and long-term POS and Business Management solution.

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