ITRON MOBILE DRIVE-BY PLUS AND ACTIVE READ MODE

Introduction

Itron Mobile for FCS can be used by any employee to collect out-of-route reads in a continuous read process called the Active Read mode. This is similar to the FC300 Unattended Reader mode. Utilities can increase the number of endpoints read each day and use these readings to fulfill special read requests, reduce estimations, and reduce the cost incurred from special trips to the field by utilizing Itron Mobile Active Read mode.

How it Works

Itron Mobile for FCS can be installed on any of the three major operating systems: Windows 10, iOS and iPadOS, and Android via their public app stores. Active Read mode is available to customers who purchase an Itron Mobile Drive-by Plus subscription or Itron Mobile TOU Optical Probing subscription. Active Read mode works with any Itron mobile radio: IMR, IMR2, IMR-FT, MC3, MC3Lite, MC4Pro, MC4Max, and MC4Core. Of course, the Itron mobile radio and mobile device must be plugged into external power to allow for the device and radio to run continuously without draining the batteries.

This mode can be used by meter readers on their way to or from their assigned route. Active Read mode can even be used with no routes loaded so field service technicians, or any employee with a compatible mobile device and Itron mobile radio, can also use Itron Mobile Active Read mode as they travel across your territory to collect valuable ERT readings when their mobile devices and radios were previously sitting idle. This is even more convenient when you consider that field service technicians can use those same Android and iOS devices and Itron Mobile Radios with Itron Field Tools for ERT installations and investigations. Imagine how many out-of-route readings could be collected by dozens or hundreds of devices canvassing your territory every day.

At the end of the day, during user-initiated sync, the readings are unloaded to the Field Collection System server and combined with out-of-route readings from other mobile devices and readings imported from networks. If traditional meter reading routes were processed on the device, the additional readings collected in Active Read mode are automatically unloaded at the same time the routes are unloaded.

Whenever a special reading is needed the utility looks to FCS for a reading within the desired date range. FCS includes a report that allows the user to lookup multiple ERT IDs simultaneously. FCS can also export the readings to a utility database if desired.

FCS can also apply out-of-route readings directly to unprocessed meters in normal on-cycle routes or routes with off-cycle meter reads. This process would be done prior to fielding routes to reduce the amount of work fielded and at the end of the day to reduce missed reads that are typically estimated.

The Bottom Line

In addition to reducing on-cycle route work, out-of-route readings fulfill special read requests such as Move-In/Move-Out reads and Customer Billing Disputes. Eliminating the majority of these special read trips resulted in millions of dollars of annual savings for the utilities using these tools. Eliminating the special read work also frees up those employees to perform profitable work such as credit and collections resulting in increased revenue for the company. The Itron Mobile for FCS Active Read mode is one more tool from Itron that allows you to extract even more value and savings from your investment in Itron ERTs. Please contact your Sales Representative to upgrade your Itron Mobile subscription or place an order to implement Itron Mobile for FCS.