

PC-FREE

Kahala Corp removes back-office PC in POS test-drive

Kahala Corporation (Scottsdale, Ariz.), franchisor of a dozen quick service restaurant chains, including Cold Stone Creamery, and Blimpie, is testing the Panasonic (www.panasonic.com) Stingray JS-950WS workstation. Kahala is imple-

menting a new strategy with the system, which involves removing the back office PC.

Richard Vale, in-store technology architect for Kahala, commends the JS-950WS for its "flat out power" in being able to handle this new strategy. "The



previous one had a smaller processor, and it could not run back office software," he notes.

Kahala has been a Panasonic user for quite some time and just installed its second 950WS unit. "One reason we selected them again is because they handle both the hardware and software," Vale reports. "We had quite a few stores that already had older Panasonic equipment, and it had always proven to be convenient and reliable."

In the future, Kahala will be looking at new hardware applications for scanning and line busting — using a wireless or handheld terminal to take orders from customers while they are still in line. "We are also looking at changing the technology on the gift card to use less software, making it more of an on-line solution, going through the Panasonic POS," Vale adds.

Panasonic's JS-950WS workstation offers open architecture that allows it to run on almost any operating system and software. Its modular design allows for easy hardware customization and upgrades. A high-speed processor (up to 2 gigs of on-board RAM) provides enough power to run robust applications. The unit also offers a built-in full-screen LCD display for promotions and improved order confirmation and accuracy, and user-replaceable components, such as the LCD display and hard drive. **HT**



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