

Quartix

Real-Time Vehicle Tracking

Vehicle Tracking for the Trades Industry

quartix.net



Introduction

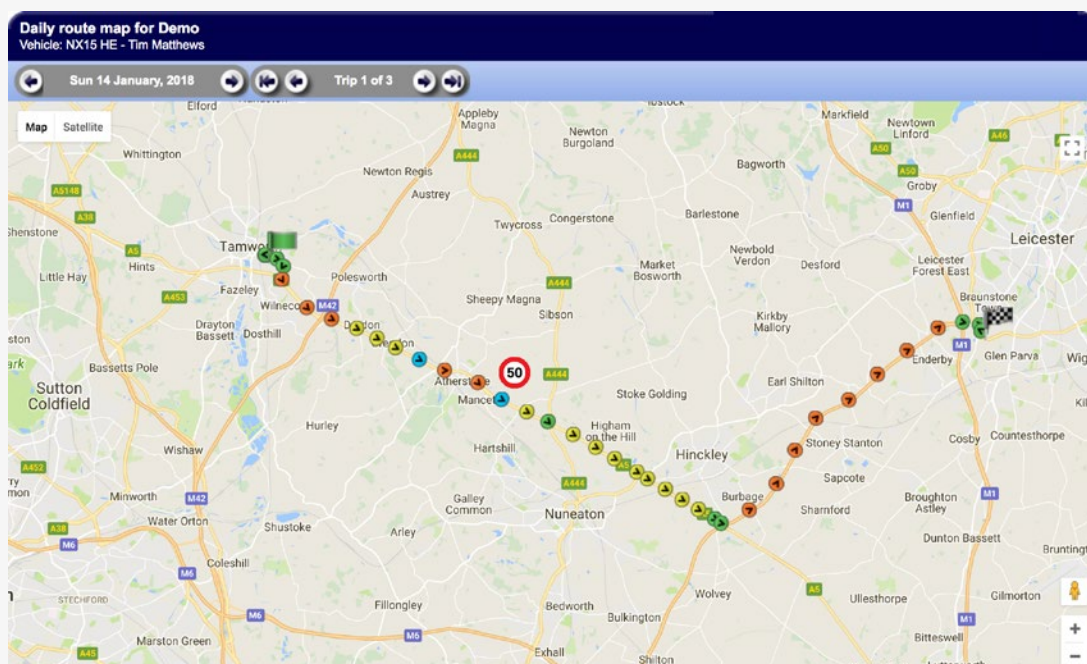
The challenges of running a company in the trades industry come at you from every angle. You need to juggle jobs across distant locations, properly allocate your staff and equipment, and keep your sites and employees safe. To stay competitive, you must do it all on time and within budget.

Luckily, technologies such as real-time vehicle tracking can help. At its core, vehicle tracking pinpoints vehicles on online maps in real-time or over a defined period, freeing employees to focus on their work without distraction from office staff inquiring where they are and how long they've been there. Some solutions also offer functionality such as online timesheets, route reports, driving-safety analysis, and maintenance-tracking tools, leading to a safer and more efficient work environment. In this guide, you will learn how vehicle tracking can be a powerful tool to cut costs and increase productivity.

Increased Productivity

Your team, vehicles and equipment are your livelihood. By knowing where they are, at any given moment, you can keep your business running smoothly. Vehicle tracking can help with:

- **Route optimisation** - tackle more jobs per day and minimise fuel costs by optimising driving routes between locations, thereby decreasing time on the road and increasing time on the job
- **Staff allocation** - when employees call in sick or when extra help is needed, see exactly where your staff are and reallocate as needed
- **Maintenance reminders** - avoid unexpected downtime by tracking vehicle usage and ensuring maintenance and certification checks are performed as needed
- **Vehicle recovery** - quickly locate lost or stolen vehicles using GPS-tracking
- **Customer satisfaction** - provide better arrival time estimates by tracking your vehicles' progress throughout the day
- **Unauthorised vehicle use** - reduce personal use of company vehicles by defining approved work zones and operation times, outside which company vehicles may not be used without triggering an alert
- **Tracking time offsite** - gain a better understanding on time spent offsite, such as time spent before or during a shift at merchants, or travel time occurring during breaks



More Accurate Accounting

With several jobs running at the same time, accounting can be a challenge. You want to ensure your employees are paid fairly and your customers are billed accurately. Some vehicle tracking solutions can help you do this by automatically collecting data such as shift time, driving time, time at a work site, mileage, and fuel usage. (See Figure 1)

Automatic data collection frees your employees to focus on the job, not on filling out paperwork; it helps you ensure:

- **Fair fuel and overtime pay** - data can confirm whether claims align with miles travelled and time at job sites, reducing false claims while also reassuring employees that they will receive the pay due to them without having to fight for it
- **More accurate billing** - data on how long your employees have been at various job sites can help ensure accurate billing and help resolve billing disputes
- **Improved cost forecasting** - over time, data can show how long certain jobs typically take, making it easier to optimise staff allocation, accurately quote, and determine whether to accept new work, or refer it elsewhere, based on available resources and potential profit


				
Daily Group Report for ABC Company: Sophie				
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31/01/18				
	Daily Total	DS66 AYV	AP16 VZY	OV64 GHT
Number of Trips	23	3	7	13
Total Travel Time	5:43	1:13	2:08	2:22
Total Idling Time	0:06	0:02	0:03	.
Total Distance (miles)	137.6	34.1	44.6	58.9
Average Speed (mph)	24.0	28.0	20.8	24.9
Maximum Speed (mph)	58.4	58.4	57.8	57.8
Fuel consumption (mpg)	.	30.0	25.0	25.0
Expected fuel used (gals)	5.3	1.1	1.8	2.4
(litres)	24.1	5.0	8.2	10.9
CO2 emissions (kg)	64.6	13.4	22.0	29.2
Start of first trip	.	07:41	07:38	08:06
End of last trip	.	18:24	20:32	16:08
Total shift duration	31:38	10:42	12:54	8:01
Arrival at first location	.	07:53	07:55	08:22
Departure from last location	.	18:14	19:52	15:57
On-site shift duration	29:52	10:20	11:57	7:34

Figure 1

Safer Job Sites and Travel

Many vehicle tracking solutions offer tools for digging down into the details of a vehicle's routes travelled and driving metrics (speed, acceleration, braking, idling)—key factors influencing both safety and costs. Using vehicle data, driving can be scored and training programs can be established to track, or even incentivise, better driving. By helping to improve driving and overall safety, vehicle tracking may help your business:

- **Reduce costs** - with improved driving, insurance costs may be reduced due to fewer violations and accidents, while fuel and maintenance costs may be lowered through improved driving habits, such as less speeding, reduced heavy braking, and elimination of unnecessary idling
- **Build a trusted brand** - safer driving will keep your team and those on the roads around them safer, helping your business gain a positive reputation within the community
- **Avoid false claims** - route and speed data can help exonerate those who may be subject to false claims, for which business vehicles are often an easy target; imagine an employee is accused of speeding down a narrow lane or clipping a parked car's mirror, when in fact the vehicle wasn't even on the road at that time
- **Protect employees** - location pinpointing can also provide peace of mind to employees as they venture into new, and sometimes dangerous, locations. For example, if an employee doesn't turn up when expected, the vehicle can be located and assistance sent in case of accident or illness

What our customers are saying

“Through the system we discovered some staff were reaching a site and leaving their vehicle’s engine running, often for very long periods. Changing this behaviour has brought considerable benefits in fuel reduction”

Mick Bowman

Director
Toilets +

“It’s great for us, because we’ve done away with timesheets. Our employees don’t need to do the paperwork; we use the daily email reports to log their hours on site and calculate wages from that. The system definitely saves us money.”

Pauline Brett

Office Manager
Ellenby Construction

“The Quartix system is far more user-friendly than other tracking systems we used in the past.”

Ian Gledhill

Director
Gledhill Response

How Quartix can help your trade business

Quartix, for over 17 years, has worked closely with companies in the trades industry to understand their needs and provide flexible vehicle tracking and telematics solutions.

Over 10,000 businesses have chosen Quartix because it offers:

- Actionable insight on vehicle movements, engine usage, driver behaviour, and fuel consumption
- Tiered pricing options that let them select the level of functionality they need
- Shorter contracts that don't require multi-year commitment
- Contracts that do not auto-renew
- Customer service by experts invested in their success