

# RPM

Retail Polling Module



AJB's Retail Polling Module (RPM) is a high performance file transfer system for automated information delivery to address polling and software distribution needs.

Recognized as an industry leader in polling and file transfer, AJB's RPM helps merchants move large volumes of critical data between head office, Point-Of-Sale (POS), and the Retail Transaction Switch (RTS).

RPM gives merchants flexibility in their application of polling. Data transfers can be scheduled for specific intervals or trickle-based to transmit data throughout the day. Merchants can also initiate polling sessions at their operations center or at the store outlet at any time.



## Key Features of RPM

RPM is engineered for fast, secure and efficient transfer of transaction files between the RTS and the POS, and, provides high performance file transfer delivery across multiple platforms. This module includes a software agent, called WANSupp, that resides on the store system to provide the messaging and file transfer capabilities on the store side.

Trusted by many of North America's first rate merchants, RPM moves critical data quickly, securely and according to the settings specified. Several of AJB's customers have taken the standard RPM product and customized it to meet their unique needs. Some of AJB's customers use RPM as a stand-alone application without the corresponding transaction switch for payment authorization.

**CHECKPOINT/RESTART** A Communication session can be resumed where it left off after a loss of connection.

**REMOTE EXECUTION AND SCHEDULING** Using RTS Pathfinder polling schedules can be established and executed remotely, which is useful when the polling server is located at a different location from head office employees.

**SCHEDULE OR SLEEP CAPABILITY** Interrupted file transfers stay queued until stores come back online to prevent the loss of data in the event of downtime.

**DATA SEQUENCING** This function guarantees that the first file scheduled is the first file delivered.

**PACING** RPM allows services, such as credit and debit transactions a guaranteed share of the network bandwidth to ensure rapid customer service while still supporting business data exchanges. This feature allows merchants to prioritize file transfers. Vendors can shift the bandwidth allocation to prioritize financial transactions during peak hours, and business data during off hours.

**BI-DIRECTIONAL COMMUNICATION** RPM supports two way communication using dial-in and dial-out capabilities allowing merchants the ability to push and pull information within their system.

**STORE BASED SCHEDULING** Any file placed in the WANSupp upload directory is transferred from the store to head office.

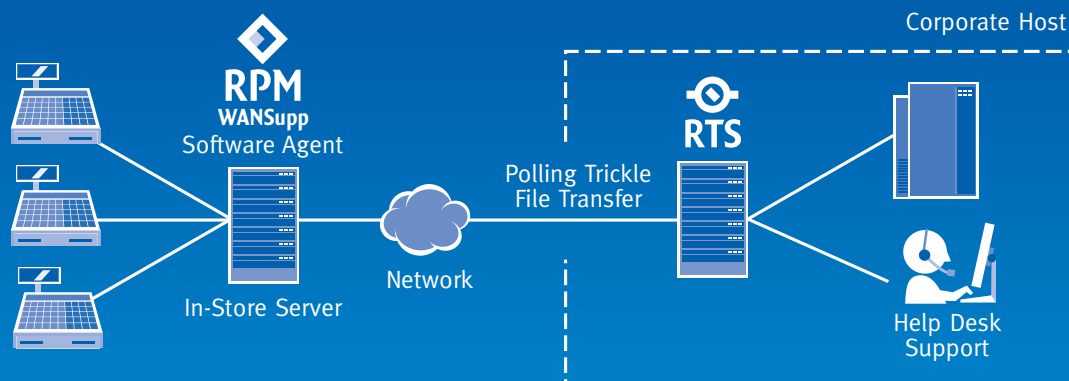
**TRIGGERS** RPM supports triggers including schedule time-of-day, interval, file, size, growth and creation.

**ALERTS** RPM makes automated event alerts available through RTS Pathfinder as well as the NT Event log. Any other error logs desired are retrieved as part of daily or trickle transmission activities.

**INTELLIGENT DELIVERY** Merchants often use RPM as a software delivery vehicle to the store systems.



## Typical Retail Polling Module Installation



### Benefits of RPM

**REPORTING** RPM provides detailed and summary-based file transfer reporting.

**RETRIEVE REAL TIME SALES DATA** Using the trickle component, vendors can retrieve real time sales data from POS units. This time sensitive information allows head office to monitor daily activities and make adjustments where necessary.

**PRIORITIZED FILE TRANSFERS** RPM can be set to initiate high priority messages before lower priority messages.

**SPEED** All AJB products are “Built for Speed”. Over thirteen years of product development has made RPM a fast and reliable polling application. The speed of RPM gets data to the headquarters in time for analysis and distribution.

**INDEPENDENT OF NETWORK INFRASTRUCTURE** RPM operates on any network or network configuration. Merchants can use their existing dial, ISDN, DSL, ADSL, SDSL, Frame Relay, or standard internet connection for RPM. RPM even allows each store to have its network parameters uniquely configured.

**CUSTOMIZATION** Merchants can elect to have a continuous flow of information (trickle) or a standard polling implementation. AJB’s customers can easily set up file transfer based on date specifications or an explicit event.

**LARGE TRANSACTION VOLUMES** RPM accommodates significant file transfer volumes. Files are compressed prior to shipping and decompressed once they are returned. RPM can achieve up to an 80% compression rate.

**SIMPLE FILE TRANSFER CONFIGURATION** Using RTS Pathfinder, RPM can be configured using the GUI interface or automated scheduler. Transfers can be scheduled according to region, language, time zones and midnight store times.

**MAXIMIZES BANDWIDTH** RPM is designed to get the best performance out of communication networks.

**EASY TO INSTALL AND MAINTAIN** RPM is designed with high volume merchants in mind. As a result, all functions and configurations are simplified for easy set up and maintenance.

**WINDOWS BASED** As with all AJB products, RPM is a Microsoft Windows based product supporting Windows NT, 2000, 2003, XP and Vista.





## RPM WANSupp

For delivery of large volumes of data, RPM's software agent (WANSupp) resides on the store system to provide messaging and file transfer capabilities directly at the store.

WANSupp scans for new files at pre-determined intervals. As new data is added to the files, WANSupp detects the data and routes all outstanding sales data to the RTS central server, greatly reducing data in the nightly polling window. The RTS executes the movement of data to and from the host automatically.

WANSupp supports bi-directional file transfers between the store and the RTS, including polling. It also serves as a communication interface between the POS terminal, the in-store server and the RTS.

WANSupp parameters are set up using RTS Pathfinder allowing merchants to establish file transfer settings according to their data needs.

## RPM Trickle

RPM Trickle is a client/server data collection and file transfer system that enables the exchange of data between POS devices and the central system. The transfer occurs as a continuous "trickle feed" of messages over any available network. The RPM Trickle Module is used in conjunction with WANSupp.

The Benefits of RPM Trickle include:

**ACCESS TO STORE DATA IN NEAR REAL-TIME ALL DAY** This feature allows head office to analyze data and make critical decisions sooner.

**REDUCED NEED TO INVEST IN LARGE HARDWARE SYSTEMS FOR NIGHTLY BATCH TRANSFERS** Moving small amounts of data continuously is less onerous than moving a large amount of data all at once. Smaller file sizes resulting from trickle allow extra CPU capacity to be reallocated to other store systems

**DATA PROTECTION** Trickle data is sent in small increments and backed up in two locations. This added layer of security could prove valuable following a system crash.

**CONFIGURABLE** Trickle Window Merchants can select any trickle interval that is convenient. By default RPM Trickle is set to send data every 15 minutes but can be adjusted to suit unique needs.

**MULTIPLE POS SUPPORT** RPM Trickle can support Windows NT/2000/2003/XP/Vista, IBM OS/2 or Unix platforms.

## RPM Net

RPM Net is the latest addition to AJB's product suite. Built entirely in C#, RPM Net allows merchants to bring the power of distributed computing to their polling process. RPM Net provides for multiple concurrent communication channels between store and corporate office allowing a merchant to take full advantage of dual capabilities in simultaneous collection and distribution of retail data.

RPM Net Features:

**DYNAMIC BANDWIDTH THROTTLING** RPM Net will dynamically split the available bandwidth among the active transmissions. This allows RPM to throttle transfer rate up or down depending on number of active transfers.

**MOVE & GO FILE TRANSFER FEATURE** simplifies the scheduling and transmission of data files bringing the simplicity of cut and paste to polling.

**SEPARATE COMMUNICATION CHANNELS** for scheduled uploads (data from stores), scheduled downloads (data to stores), software distribution, Move & Go uploads, Move & Go downloads.

**FILE TRANSFER THROUGHPUT STANDARDS EQUAL TO FTP** but with the ability to provide management through checkpoint restart and bandwidth throttling.