

IoT Tags are no longer about just indicating location. Many vendors now have capabilities that expand an organizations ability to monitor the activity of tools on a second-by-second basis. With this technology, IOT is helping to optimize security, maintenance, billing, inventory, estimates, progress reports, supply chain, carbon footprint requirements and more. Some track all this data automatically once a tag is deployed, and others require user interaction to gather the data.

	Bosch Bluehound	DeWalt Tool Connect	Hilti ONTrack	Milwaukee OneKey	Recon Dynamics	ShareMy ToolBox	Tenna	ToolWatch
Tag Capabilities								
Location	X	X	X	X	X		X	
Trigger Pulls				X				
Accelerometer					X			
Temperature		X			X			
Battery Monitoring		X		X	X			
Remote Power Disable		X		X				
Penetrates Job Box					X			
Remotely Re-programmable					X			
Two-way Radio					X			
60-Day Utilization Memory					X			
Tag Hardware Cost	\$35	\$32	\$20	\$16.50	\$20	N/A	\$25	N/A
Battery Life (yrs)	2	2-3	2	1-2	7+	N/A	1-3	BC
Proprietary Hardware	X	X	X	X	X		X	X

BC - Barcode IP - In Process

There are technically 3 co-dependant factors that drive measurable signal & communication metrics: range, ability to move around and through obstructions, and whether signal capture is automatic, or requires user time/energy. However, there is only one metric that matters at the end of the day: Time or money saved or created. We must ask ourselves if the the trilogy of technology saved workers and/or managers enough time or hassle or created enough revenue to show that the system pays for itself. If you need to be so close to the tool that you can see it, it likely hasn't saved enough time and the range is too small. If you think you should be able to see a tool it but a metal job box is blocking the signal, then the system is not saving you any time at all. Finally, if your phone GPS needs to be running all day long then it's not a viable system for most jobsites.

	Bosch Bluehound	DeWalt Tool Connect	Hilti ON!Track	Milwaukee OneKey	Recon Dynamics	ShareMy ToolBox	Tenna	ToolWatch
Signal/Comms								
Maximum Range (1 mile)	75ft	75 ft	75ft	75 ft	up to 1 mile	N/A	75 ft	BC
Bluetooth								
ZigBee physical Layer					X			
Bluetooth (low energy)	X	X	X	X	in process to read		X	
Passive RFID					X			
Active RFID								
Automatic Data Capture (no scanning or phone required)					X			
Penetrates Job Box					X			
Phone-based GPS	X	X	X	X			X	
Hub-based GPS					X			

BC - Barcode IP - In Process

Data overload is a modern day time suck. If it takes longer to read the spreadsheets or reports than the indicated time saved then the system isn't worth it. The best systems have customizable interfaces and reports that tell workers and managers ONLY what they need to know when they need to know it. No more. No Less. In addition, reports should be smart like humans and be able to correlate co-dependant data with the potential to reveal exceptions that might be costly or harmful.

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Interface / Reporting								
Dynamic Mobile Interface	X	X	X	X	X		X	
Semi-Custom Interface and Reports				X	X	X		
Automatic SMS / TXT alerts					X			
Assignable to Users			X	X	X			
Directions to asset					X			
Vehicle Track and trace - telematics					X			
Geo-Fence		X		IP - Beta	X		X	
Utilization - job specific analysis					IP			

BC - Barcode IP - In Process

Options should be about further reducing the time it takes to get the data you need when you need it. For this group of companies it means avoiding downtime and time spent switching between multiple systems. Time is money.

	Bosch Bluehound	DeWalt Tool Connect	Hilti ONTrack	Milwaukee OneKey	Recon Dynamics	ShareMy ToolBox	Tenna	ToolWatch
System Options								
In-Person Support			X	X	X	X	X	X
Solar Powered Tag & Backhaul					X			
Vehicle Telematics					X			
Globalstar Satellite Backhaul					X			