

traffic light REPORT

Magazine for traffic engineering



CHERRY ON THE CAKE











Dear readers,

Humanity has always searched for new and simpler solutions for complex processes. An internationally recognized example is the abacus, which was invented between 2700 and 2300 BC. But the ongoing search for simplification has continued here too, and has brought forth calculating machines, pocket calculators, and more recently computers.

It is true today that digitalization is the cherry on the cake. The urge for digitalization in all areas has to be met, and tackling this challenge with gusto is a requirement for future success. We at RTB are tackling this issue and continuously developing new solutions that keep pace with modern networking in a digital world. One particular focus is simple access to existing solutions for those with disabilities, such as people who are blind or have visual impairments. It is very important for us at RTB to offer simple guidelines for a complex world of "apps".

We have completely revised our trusted LOC.id system for this, removed known weaknesses, and created a concept for basic standardization. Discover the cherry of the cake.

Sincerely,

hunt Jungo Christian Baumgart

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The term "digital revolution" refers to the transformation caused by digital technology and computers. It has since the start of the 20th century completely changed virtually all areas of life in many countries and led us into the digital world – in a similar way to the industrial revolution which brought about industrialization 200 years ago. There is also talk about a third industrial revolution, or in technical terms a microelectronic revolution.

The changes to how we go about business and work, public and private life associated with the digital revolution are occurring at massive speed wherever the material requirements exist for application and usage options that lead to progressive digitalization. New media are increasingly affecting communication behavior, socialization processes, and language culture. Application areas and development potential for artificial intelligence are among the trends and unresolved issues for the digital revolution. (Wikipedia)

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Mobile apps now enable the digitalization of increasingly more day-to-day processes. These include purchase, booking, payment, reservation and assessment processes, gaming, and aids to spatial orientation and navigation. And this is precisely the space in which the RTB LOC.id system comes into play, because it places those who are blind and have visual impairment at the heart of the development.



NEW LOC.ID

Public life could barely exist without smartphones anymore. They have become a useful and frequently helpful companion for daily life. Over 80% of people with visual impairments are now using smartphones to provide information and orientation. But what exactly does that look like in daily life?

LOC.id

There are a range of apps for different aspects, such as public transport, indoor navigation, elevators, and traffic light systems. They all aim to significantly remove barriers and simplify access to information for people with visual impairment. But how do the relevant people know which app to use for which task? Posters in public areas direct people to these apps. But blind people and those with visual impairment do not read these posters. Where can they get the important information or notification of the relevant app? RTB tackled this question at a conference in Halle (Saale, Germany) alongside numerous representatives from a range of backgrounds. These included representatives from public transport, elevator manufacturers, local authority organizations, and navigation app developers. The new approach of the LOC.id system focuses on this

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very issue. As a "search app", LOC.id acts as an electronic guide dog to guide people through the "app jungle". The active LOC.id on the user's smartphone "looks around" in the background to find relevant apps for the affected user and situation, and opens these on the smartphone or recommends installing them. This requires as many app operators as possible to get involved and use the open LOC.id system. It is important to state that it is not one app that can do it all, but rather links apps to each other to enable the way to a new standard.

The benefit for users is obvious. No "app jungle" any more, but rather a clear assignment. But the

participating companies also enjoy advantages. For example, a service center set up with the involvement of the German Federation of the Blind and Partially Sighted (DBSV) should ensure quick, simple technical support for users. To be specific, this means: Collecting service expertise in one place. The technical development and updating of the apps is still undertaken by each individual participant.

This completely new LOC.id was presented and discussed for the first time in Halle. The interest and willingness of participants to get involved is very high and aims to remove barriers completely for those with visual impairment.





RTB is characterized as a supplier in this area, by its many years of experience relating to the additional acoustic features for traffic light systems. Here too, the use of the LOC.id system makes a significant contribution to removing barriers and ensuring the mobility of people with visual impairment.

The new development gives rise to varied opportunities. For example, devices on the traffic lights that are equipped with LOC.id can communicate with each other. If a person, for example, approaches a complicated junction with the active LOC.id app, they can be guided in a significantly more targeted and safe manner by modifying the volume of the orientation and walk guide signals individually depending on their location. A subsidiary effect is that resident protection is increased further.

Local authorities also benefit, because if it is allowed by the user of the LOC.id app as well as by the local authority requirements, the anchor software for the additional acoustic features can



be supplied with updates directly via the LOC.id system. Up until now, they had to be uploaded directly onto the device. So now the user virtually brings the software with them to the junction. The functional security of the emitter in line with SIL3 and the absence of feedback to the control device has been checked by TÜV Rhineland.

The digital progression in this regard has significantly simplified the maintenance and servicing of the traffic light systems once again. If the emitters communicate between each other and also with the control device digitally, information on operational statuses and usage statistics is transferred directly to the relevant organization, so that intervention can be given quickly and in a targeted manner.

RTB wishes to thank again in particular the local authorities that have already gained and shared their experiences with LOC.id. It goes without saying that the systems already in use will be updated to the latest version.

ENTHUSIASTIC



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VISIT

RTB GmbH & Co. KG welcomed state transport minister Hendrik Wüst in summer 2020. Managing director Rudolf Broer took this opportunity to present the prototype for the newly developed push-button on traffic light systems that can be operated touch-free.

At this time there is huge interest in this new development. Hygiene concepts are in demand as never before. When it comes to traffic light systems, many people do not want to touch the operating buttons. So a touch-free sensor is perfect for public spaces. It detects whether somebody is close by, and therefore automatically requests the light to turn green. As with all RTB push-buttons, this model also has a modular structure, and can even be equipped for example with additional side LED strips. The first reaction from the industry indicates massive interest in this new development. Our visitor also showed enthusiasm and sees this as a further step towards the Smart City.

PERFECT ACOUSTICS

As a leading manufacturer of additional devices for traffic light systems, RTB has focused on the important issue of continuous development and ongoing digitalization. In particular when it comes to acoustics, development over recent years has focused on achieving the best possible sound focus, without neglecting resident protection.

What makes the acoustics perfect? Three points characterize the BLX acoustics from RTB in particular:

Beamforming – this is the term for bundling the sound or controlling the directional characteristics. The BLX acoustics bundle the sound using three parallel speakers to the front, towards the user and away from residents.

LOC.id compatibility – all RTB acoustics have a slot to add the recipient module for the LOC.id system. So nothing will come in the way of barrier-free traffic light equipment.

All voltage variants – the acoustics cover all of the usual voltage variants, and it goes without saying that they comply with the high security integrity level SIL3.

Another feature that rounds off the complete package for perfect acoustics: All devices can control the RTB push-button, including the new touch-free sensor. 000



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When it comes to parking, there are many people searching for the cherry on the cake. It is all about finding the best possible space as quickly as possible. In the age of electric mobility, it is essential to include current information on free charging spaces for those with electric cars into the traffic guidance system. RTB is now presenting for the first time the innovative displays that are integrated into the tried-andtested LOBO parking guidance system. At a glance, vehicle drivers receive clear information on free charging spaces, charging capacity, and the costs per kilowatt hour. This way they can immediately see whether their needs are met by the available space in the parking garage.

There is another innovation for parking as a result of cooperation with Bosch, whose floor sensors can be integrated into the LOBO parking guidance system. RTB thus now offers the opportunity of capturing individual spaces that are free. From next year, we expect floor sensors to be available that disappear "invisibly" into the floor surface. Digitalization will play a seminal role in terms of smart guidance for parking, which will become increasingly important in the future. Let's tackle it together!









DELAYED CENSUS YEAR HHHHHHHH





Every five years the Federal Highway Research Institute (BASt) undertakes a traffic census across Germany for the Federal Ministry of Transport and Digital Infrastructure. The federal

It goes without saying that RTB is also well-prepared with the TOPO guidance pillar systems. These are currently being re-certified by the Federal Highway Research Institute (BASt). So nothing will come in the way of their use as automatic monitoring points next year.





Authentic people. Reliable products.

Company news

It is also very important for the company itself to look to the future, in order to maintain its position in the marketplace in the long term. RTB has therefore decided to expand its senior management team. We are delighted to introduce Mr. Matthias Rieger today, who took over the management of finance and HR at RTB on October 1, 2020. As a result of his Bachelor of Science degree specializing in finance, and his Master's in Business Administration, he will bring "fresh blood" and new experience to the company, which is an important step due to corporate growth in recent years. We wish Mr. Rieger an excellent start!

Merry Christmas and a healthy 2021

This year's Christmas celebrations will be extraordinary. We will have to keep our family groups small in order not to endanger those at particular risk. But there is light on the horizon: Science is very close to a medical solution in the form of a vaccine.

We wish you and your families resilience, a peaceful and reflective Advent period, a joyous Christmas, and a happy, healthy, and successful 2021.









Production

Machradt Graphischer Betrieb KG, Bad Lippspringe Edition

HACK PR- und Werbeagentur GmbH, Paderborn Tanja Lauenstein, RTB GmbH & Co. KG,

Publisher

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