RFID in RentalPoint

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RFID in RentalPoint

1.What is RFID

Radio Frequency Identification is a method if tracking equipment leaving and returning to the warehouse, without the need to physically scan in and out each item. RentalPoint offers both direct (for in house software) and cloud connect (for cloud hosted RentalPoint) options for RFID scanning.

2.How does it work

Each item of equipment is barcode scanned and fixed with an RFID tag. When equipment is wheeled through the scanners (upon leaving or returning to the warehouse), all the tags are scanned and registered in RentalPoint.

The quality of tags, where and how they are placed is vitally important in order to achieve a 100% read rate. The right equipment, the right tags, the right software and the right expertise to put it all together is vital!

RFID tags can be hidden and painted over to remain discreet. For musical instruments, tags can be attached inside and/or under a small black patch.

RFID is an additional module to RentalPoint and is priced as such. You still need to bar code all assets, barcoding and RFID go hand in hand. We are also working on a mobile RFID solution, so that gear can be tracked before leaving the job site. If you're interested in further information on RFID then please email sales@rentp.com

3.RFID Connecting to Cloud Hosted Database (Speedway Connect)

Installing the Speedway connect software on the reader allows the reader to be configured to send tags over the internet to a web server. Use this set up for fixed readers where the RentalPoint database is not on the same network/VPN as the reader.

A local computer running RentalPoint is not required in this case. RentalPoint can reside on a cloud or other server not local to the reader's network.

Once Speedway Connect is installed on the reader you will no longer be able to directly connect to it using the RentalPoint RFID window as it overrides all direct connections. Uninstall Speedway Connect if you wish to connect to it directly again

To use Speedway Connect you'll need:

1. Web server with connection to SQL server database and port open to the internet that the reader can send requests to.
2. Install speedway connect on the reader (note this will prevent RFID scan window from connecting to it directly).
3. Get a speedway connect license from a dealer (dealer should also have advice on which settings to use for the situation as these are then set in speedway connect instead of RP)
4. Point speedway connect to the PHP file on the web server
5. Set up RentalPoint reader list to have readers get results from speedway connect

Speedway Connect License

For testing purposes, Speedway Connect will allow a maximum of 500 tags per session. A license key can be obtained from a licenced vendor. http://go.impinj.com/contact-sales

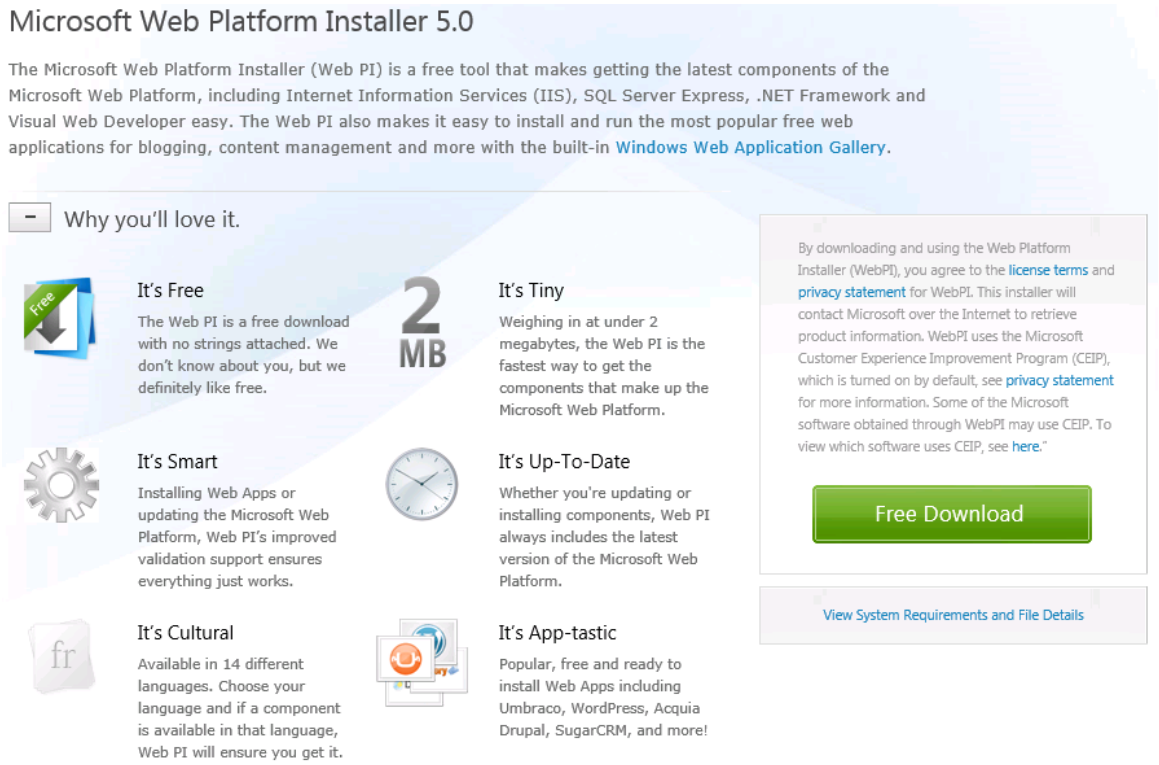
https://support.impinj.com/hc/en-us/articles/202755278-Speedway-Connect

How to Configure Your Server for Speedway Connect

First you'll need to do some work on your server. This involves downloading and installing some required files, then configuring the server roles and IIS.

Download and Install Required Files

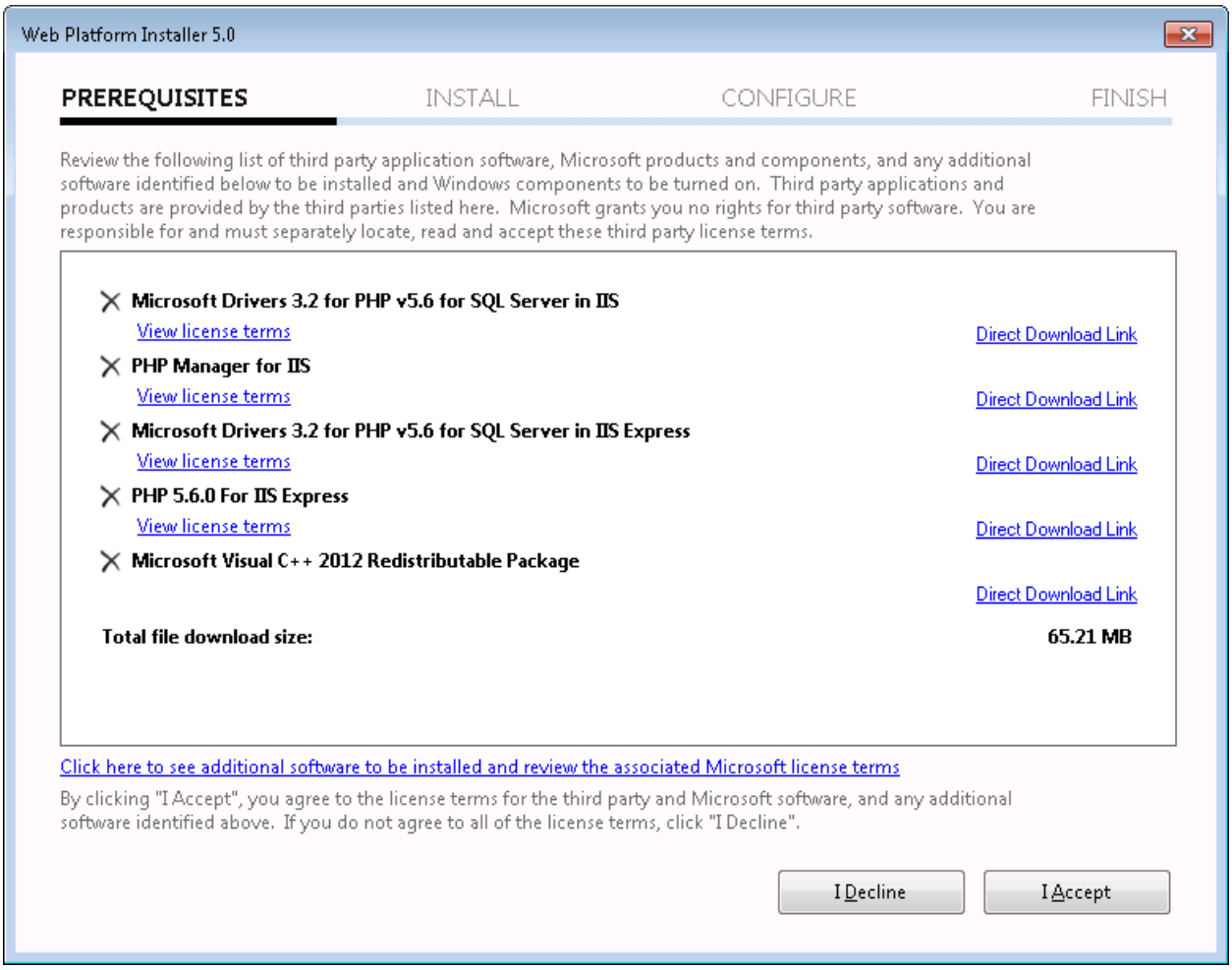
Navigate to http://www.microsoft.com/web/downloads/platform.aspx. Click **Free Download** and follow the on screen instructions to launch the MS Web Platform. Microsoft provides this free tool to help you find the files you need and install them easily.



Using the MS Web Platform, search for the following files. Click **Add** to put them in your cart.

- Microsoft Drivers 3.2 for PHP v5.6
- PHP 5.6.0 For IIS Express
- Microsoft Visual C++ 2012 Redistributable Package
- PHP Manager for IIS

Once you've added all the required files click **Install**. You should see a screen similar to the one below. Click **I Accept** to install the selected items. After all items have successfully installed, reboot your server.



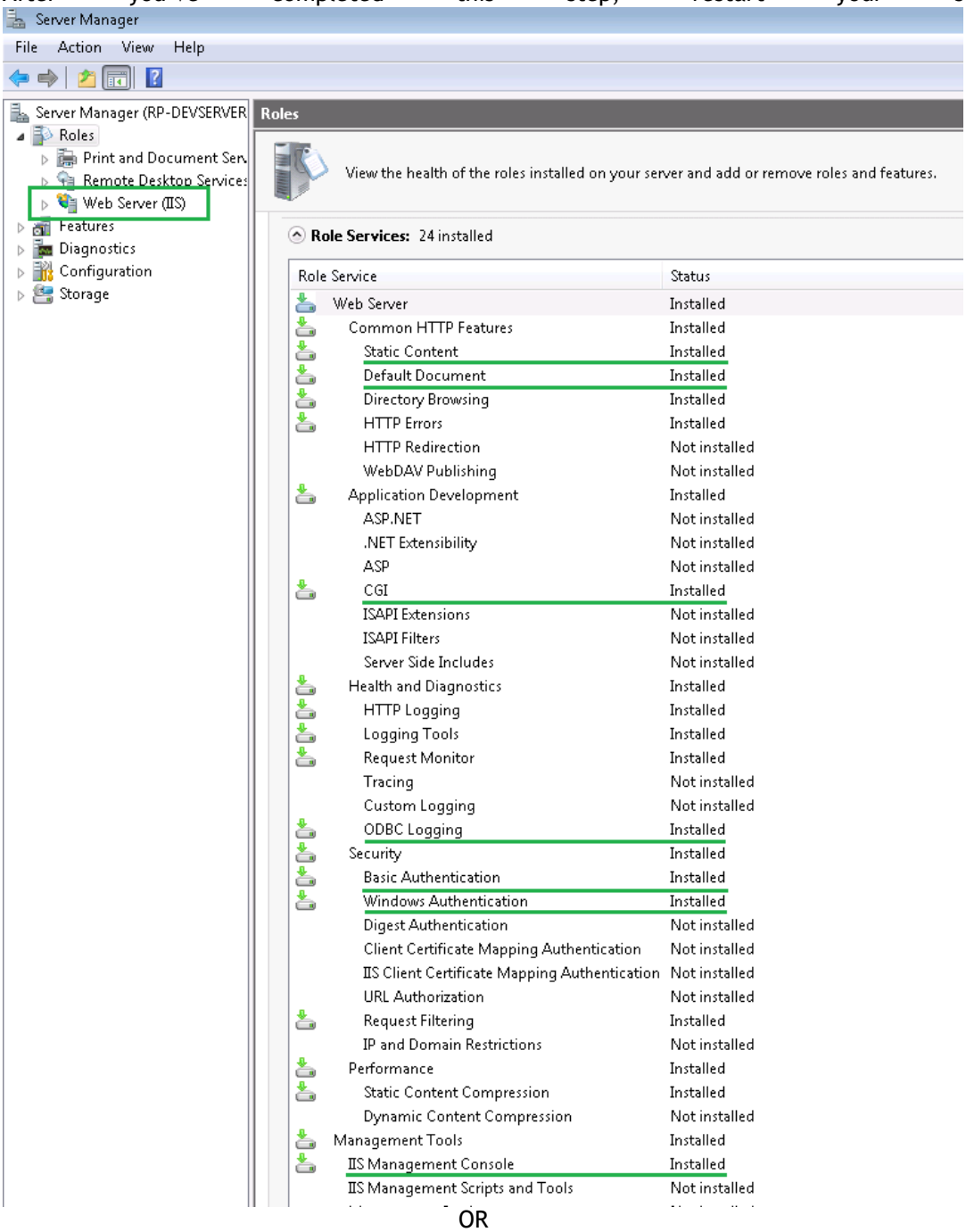
*NOTE: if you **PHP Manager for IIS** fails to install, see trouble shooting at the end of the document.*

Configure Web Server IIS Roles

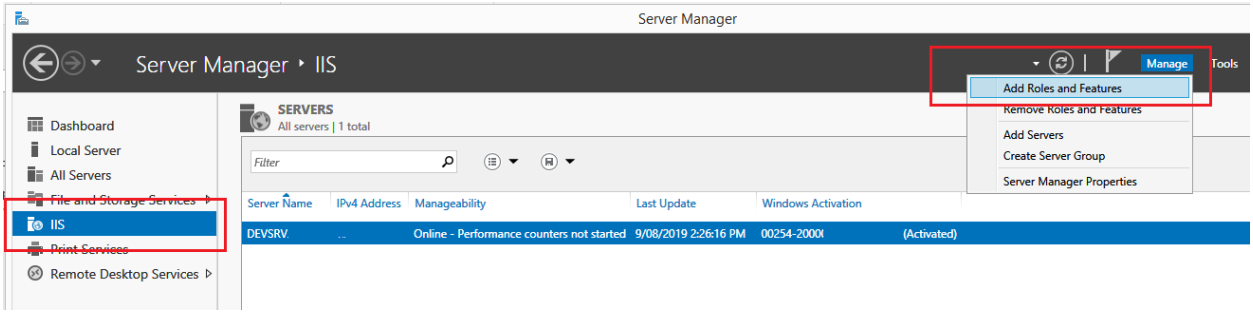
- Open **Server Manager**, expand **Roles** (you may need to wait a few moments while the list populates) and click on **Web Server (IIS)**.
- Scroll down to the **Role Services** area and ensure that the following services are installed.
    - Static Content
    - Default Document
    - CGI
    - ODBC Logging
    - Basic Authentication
    - Windows Authentication
    - IIS Management Console

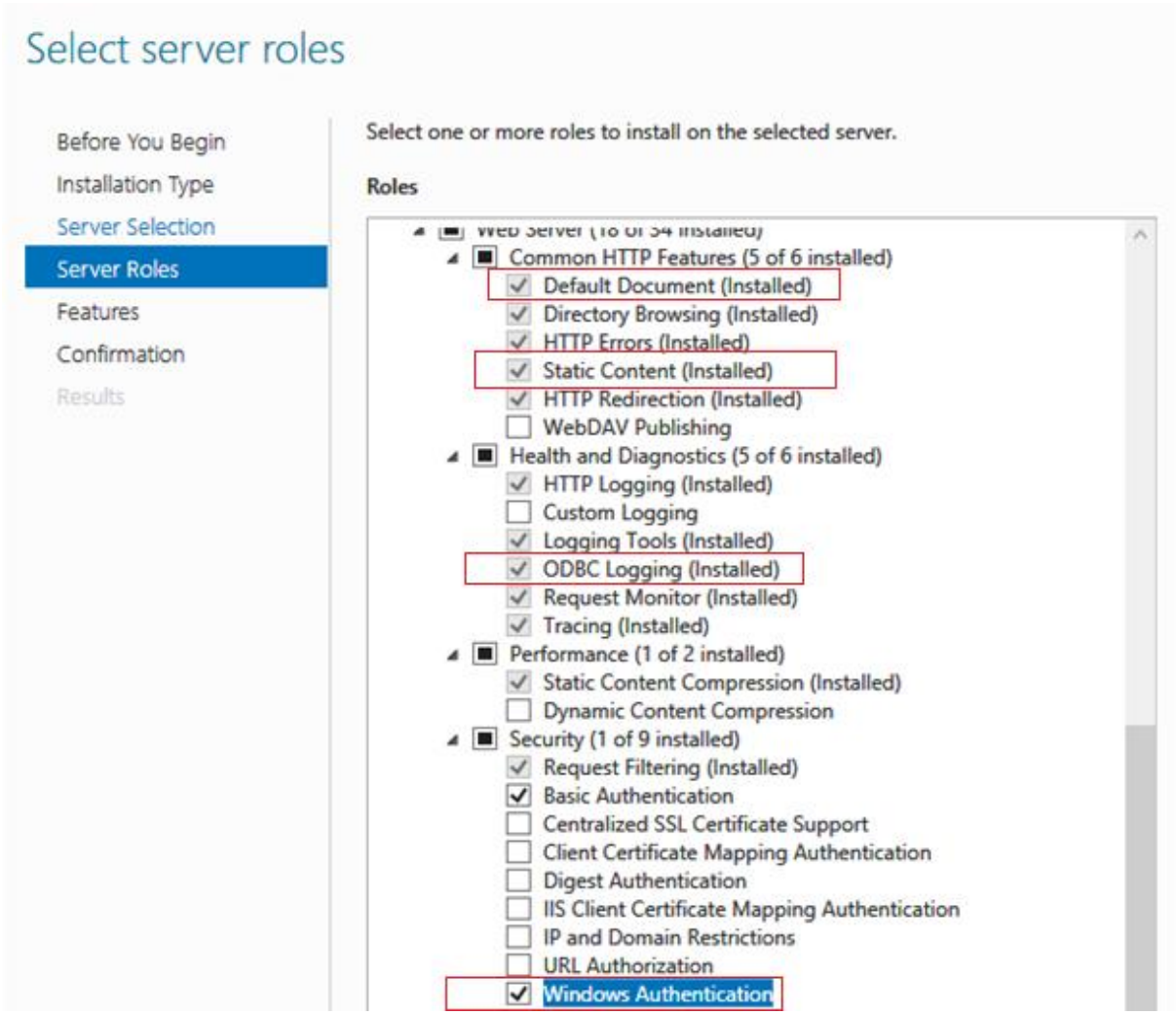
If a service is *Not Installed*, simply click **Add Role Services**, tick the boxes on the items you want to install and click **Next**. Follow the on screen instructions.

After you've completed this step, restart your server.

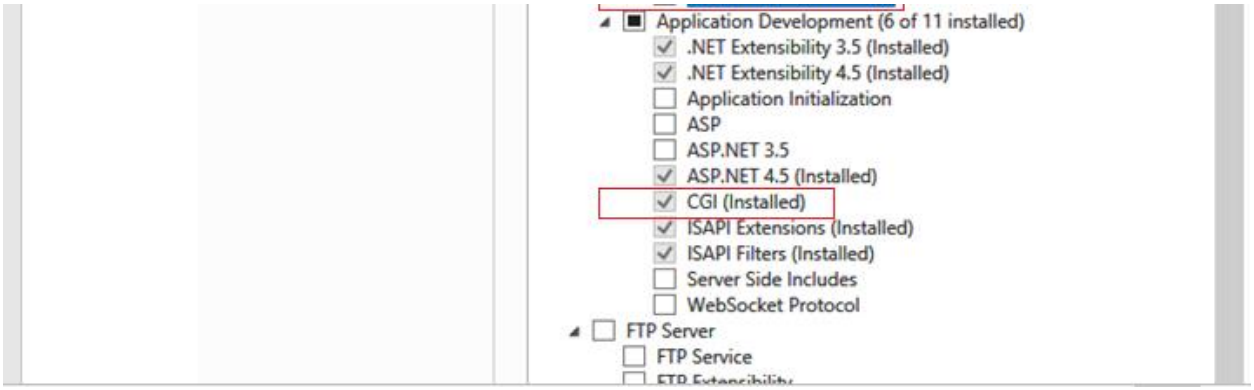


OR


Server Manager
Server Manager • IIS
Manage
Tools
Add Roles and Features
Remove Roles and Features
Add Servers
Create Server Group
Server Manager Properties
Dashboard
Local Server
All Servers
File and Storage Services
IIS
Print Services
Remote Desktop Services
SERVERS
All servers | 1 total
Filter
Server Name
IPv4 Address
Manageability
Last Update
Windows Activation
DEVSRV
Online - Performance counters not started
9/08/2019 2:26:16 PM
00254-2000
(Activated)

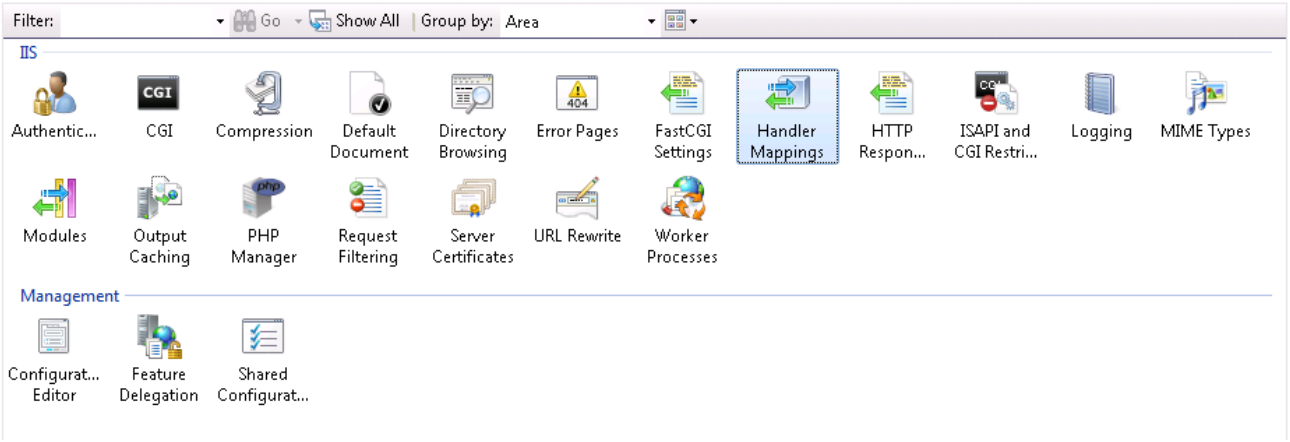

Select server roles
Before You Begin
Installation Type
Server Selection
Server Roles
Features
Confirmation
Results
Select one or more roles to install on the selected server.
Roles
Common HTTP Features (5 of 6 installed)
Default Document (Installed)
Directory Browsing (Installed)
HTTP Errors (Installed)
Static Content (Installed)
HTTP Redirection (Installed)
WebDAV Publishing
Health and Diagnostics (5 of 6 installed)
HTTP Logging (Installed)
Custom Logging
Logging Tools (Installed)
ODBC Logging (Installed)
Request Monitor (Installed)
Tracing (Installed)
Performance (1 of 2 installed)
Static Content Compression (Installed)
Dynamic Content Compression
Security (1 of 9 installed)
Request Filtering (Installed)
Basic Authentication
Centralized SSL Certificate Support
Client Certificate Mapping Authentication
Digest Authentication
IIS Client Certificate Mapping Authentication
IP and Domain Restrictions
URL Authorization
Windows Authentication

Server Roles Continued:

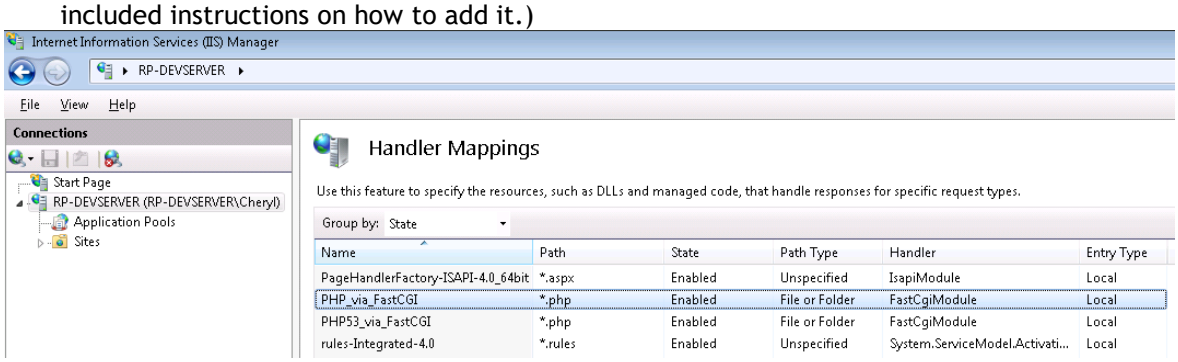


Configure IIS CGI Handler Mappings

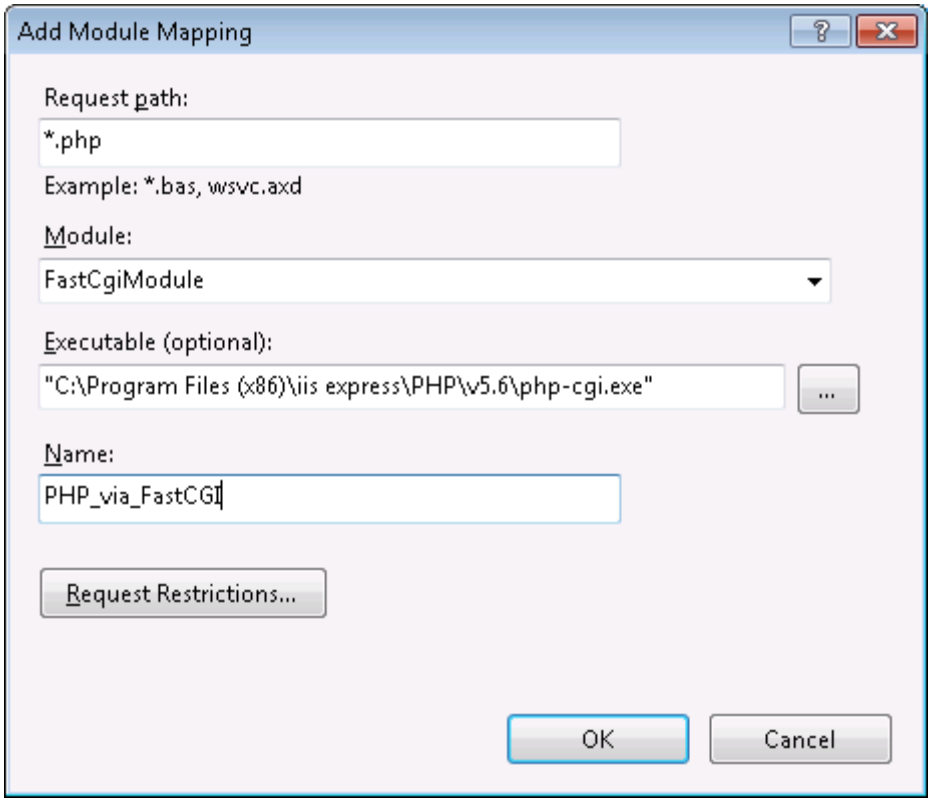
- In the Windows Start Menu type **run** and hit enter.
- Then type **inetmgr** and hit enter. This will launch the **Internet Information Services (IIS) Manager**.
- In the IIS Manager locate your server name in the left hand **Connections** pane and click it.
- The right pane will refresh with the available features for your sever. Locate the **Handler Mappings** feature and double click to launch it.



- In the **Handler Mapping** list, search for **PHP_via_FastCGI**. (Don't worry if it doesn't exist, we've included instructions on how to add it.)

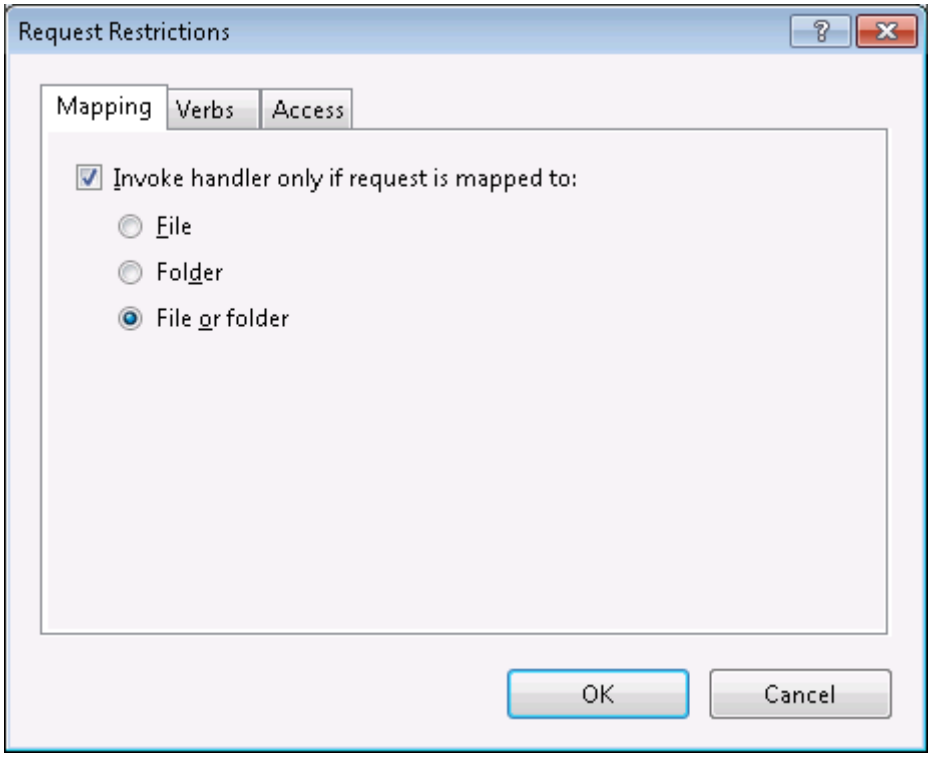


- If the **PHP_via_FastCGI** module mapping doesn't exist, navigate to the **Actions** pane on the right hand side
- click **Add Module Mapping...** and enter the following information.
    - The default PHP folder is located in C:\Program Files (x86)\iis express\PHP\v5.6, however this may differ from your installation.
    - You can use any version of PHP – provided that you select the appropriate path and executable.
    - Click **OK** to save your changes.



There's **one final step** that you need to complete (regardless if you added the mapping yourself, or the mapping was already in the list).

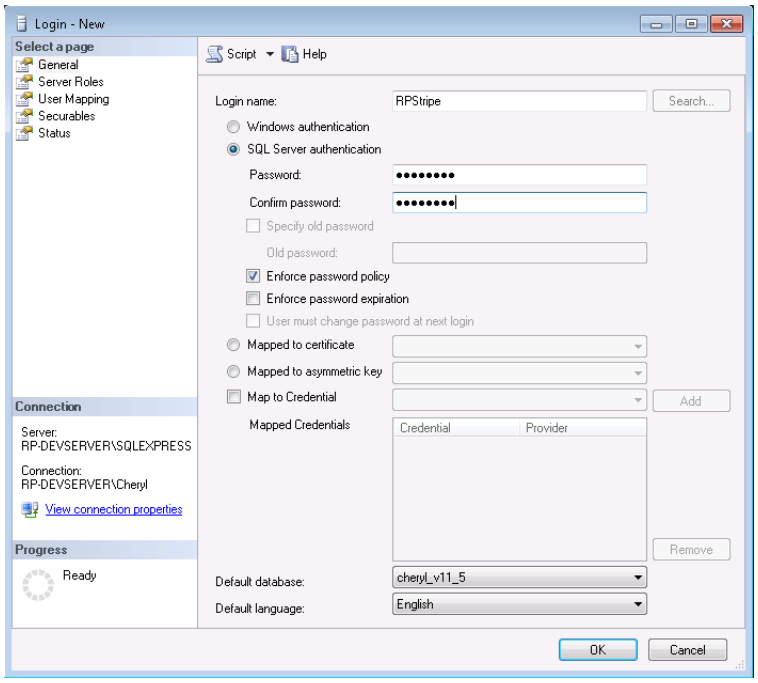
- Double click to open the **PHP_via_FastCGI** mapping.
- Click **Request Restrictions** and configure the Mapping as follows:



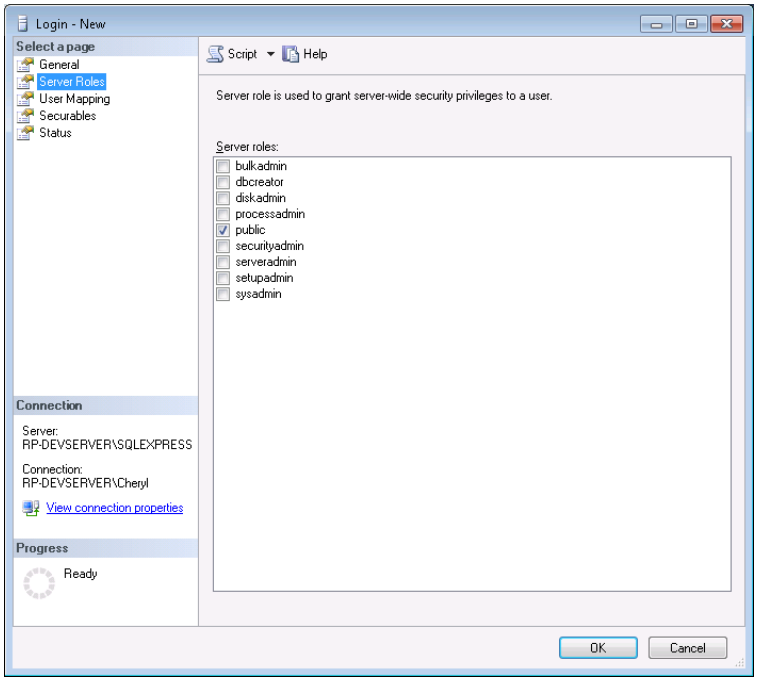
Click **OK** on all dialogs to save the configuration.

Create a Secure Database User

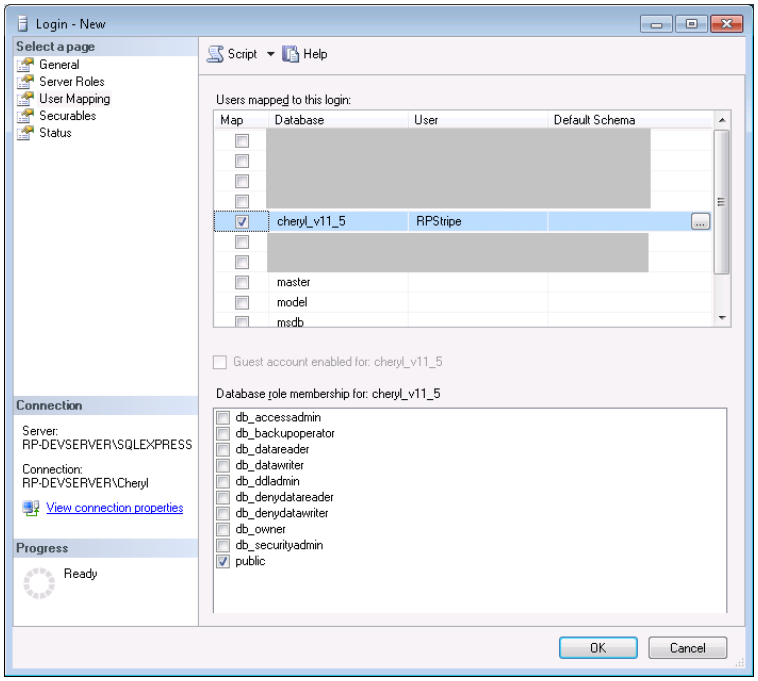
- In SQL Management Studio create a special database user for RFID (ie. RPRFID).
- Configure the user with SQL Server authentication, give the user a password and select **Enforce Password Policy**.
- Ensure that you set your Default Database and Default Language accordingly.



This user only has the **public** role assigned.



This user is only mapped to your RP database. Click OK to save your new user.



- Use the following SQL script to grant the required permissions to this user.
- Ensure that you enter the appropriate USERNAME and DATABASE values (highlighted).

```
DECLARE @USERNAME VARCHAR(50);
DECLARE @DATABASE VARCHAR(50);
SET @USERNAME = 'UserName';
SET @DATABASE = 'DatabaseName';
DECLARE @SQLText nvarchar(MAX);
SET @SQLText = '
USE {DATABASE}
GRANT CONNECT TO {USERNAME}


GRANT SELECT ON [dbo].[tblRFIDEvents] TO {USERNAME}
GRANT INSERT ON [dbo].[tblRFIDEvents] TO {USERNAME}
GRANT UPDATE ON [dbo].[tblRFIDEvents] TO {USERNAME}
GRANT DELETE ON [dbo].[tblRFIDEvents] TO {USERNAME}
';
SET @SQLText = REPLACE (@SQLText , '{USERNAME}' , @USERNAME)
SET @SQLText = REPLACE (@SQLText , '{DATABASE}' , @DATABASE)
EXECUTE (@SQLText)
```

- The RFID server files can be found in the rentalpoint **..\ sys\RFIDScan\RFIDServer** folder after installing RFID Setup from http://www.rentp.com/updates/login.php.
- Save the files in RFIDServer to a folder on your web server. (i.e. C:\inetpub\wwwroot)

- The path to the **RFID.php** file will need to be added to the **URL** box in the Speedway connect settings as below.
    - Ex. http://159.999.333.111:928/RFIDWeb/RFID.php

Outside Connection

After completing the steps above to allow the reader to connect from outside your local network, you may have to allow IIS through a port in the firewall and forward it to the internal IP address of the Server machine. Once configured you should be able to connect to **http://[Your server IP or Web site address]/RFIDWeb/test.php** and see the message below

Server Name: DEVSRV\SQLEXPRESS
Database Name: devdb

Test Connection: Connection established.

Test Access rights: passed

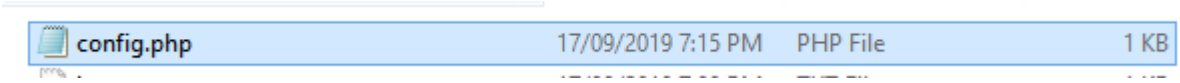
Test INSERT right: passed

Test SELECT right: passed.

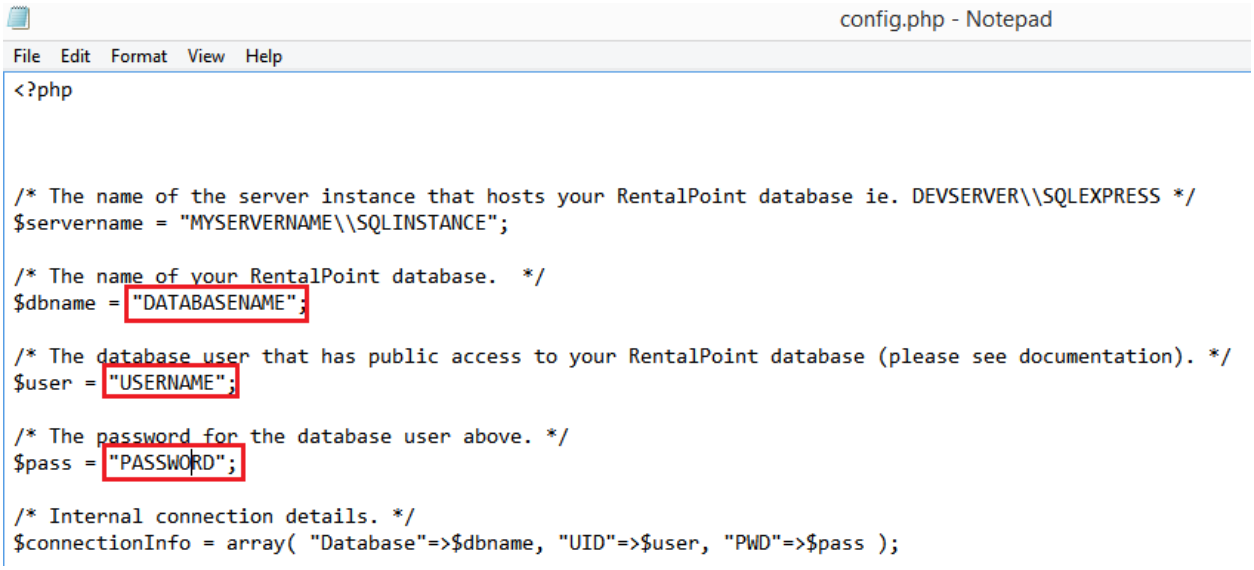
Test Delete right: passed

Connect to the database

Find and edit the **config.php** file in the **RFIDWeb** folder.



Change the Server, Database, user name and password to the SQL Server and a user set up on the server with SQL Authentication and save.

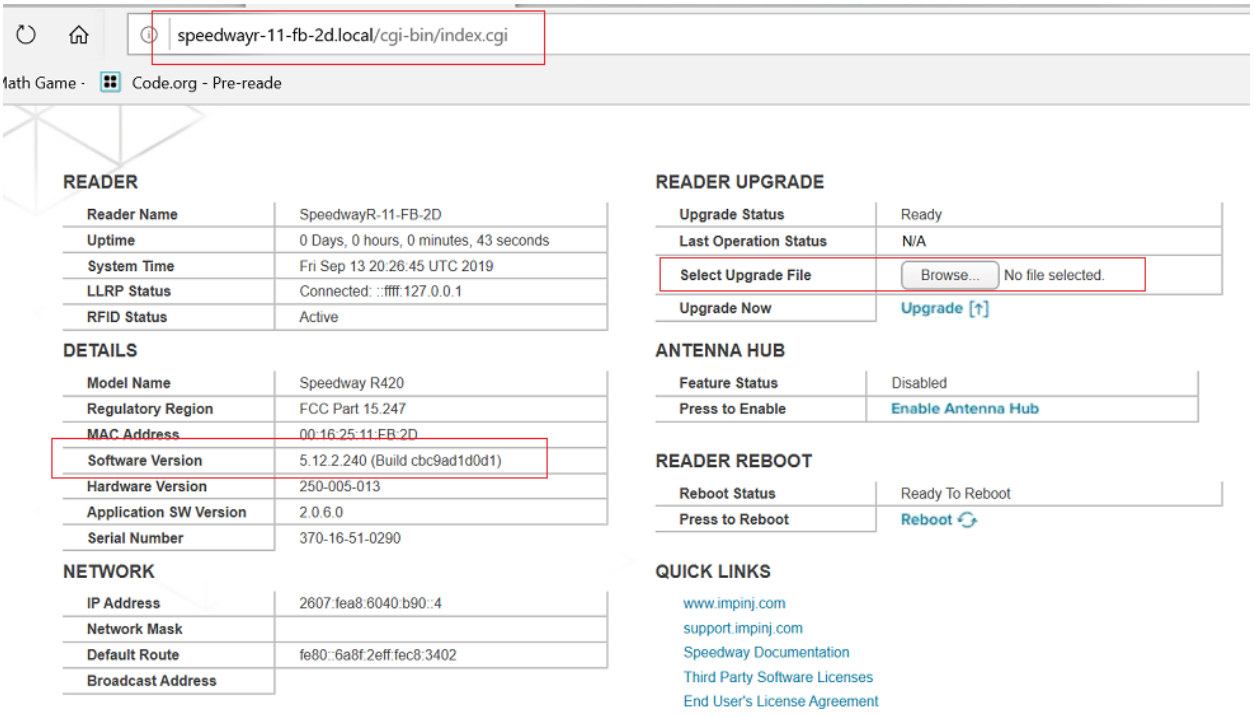


Installing Speedway Connect

Note: Once Speedway Connect is installed on the reader you will no longer be able to directly connect to it using the RentalPoint RFID window as it overrides all direct connections. Uninstall Speedway Connect if you wish to connect to it directly again

Follow the directions in the link below to install Speedway connect to the reader and update the **Octane firmware.**

https://support.impinj.com/hc/en-us/articles/360004070340-Installing-Upgrading-Speedway-Connect



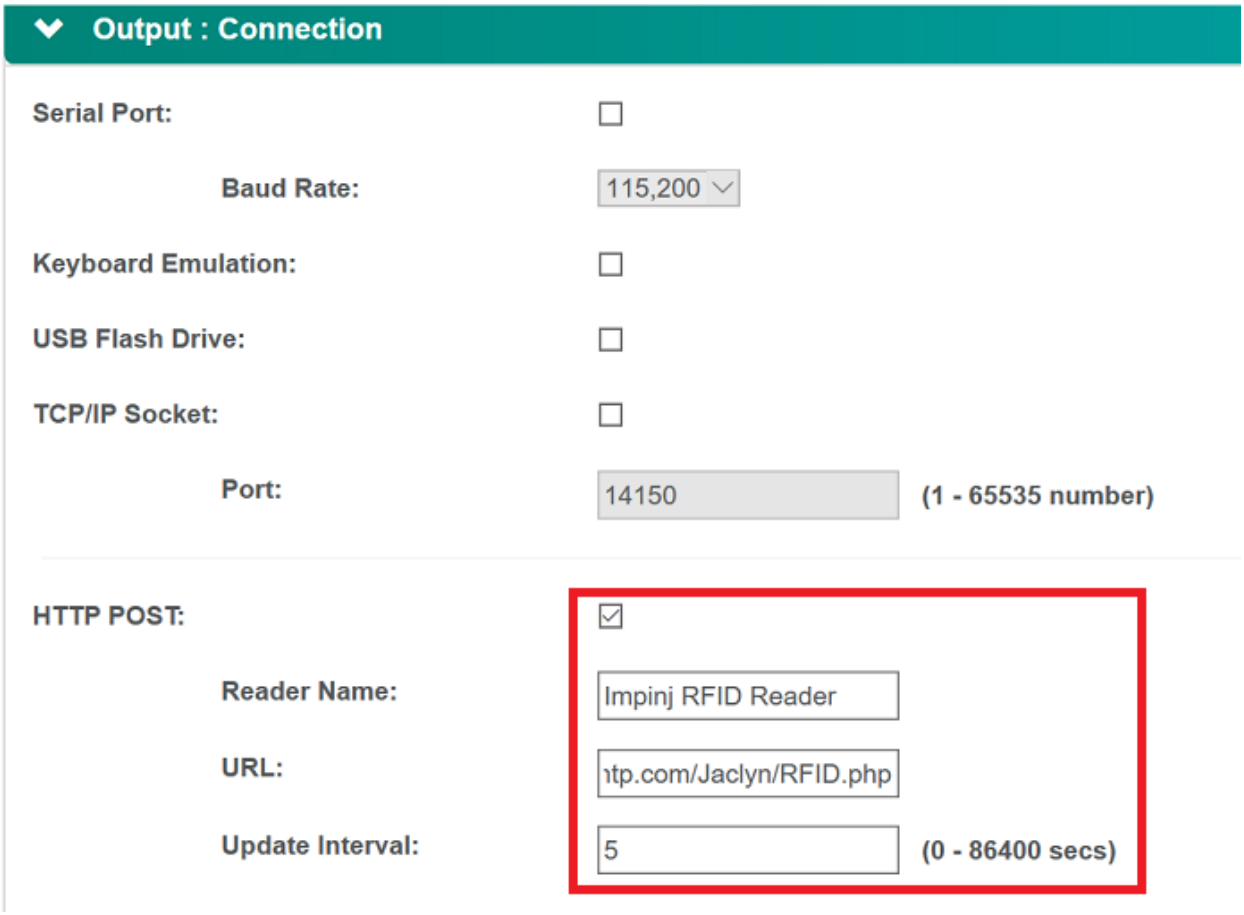
Setting Speedway Connect to send tags as HTTP Post requests.

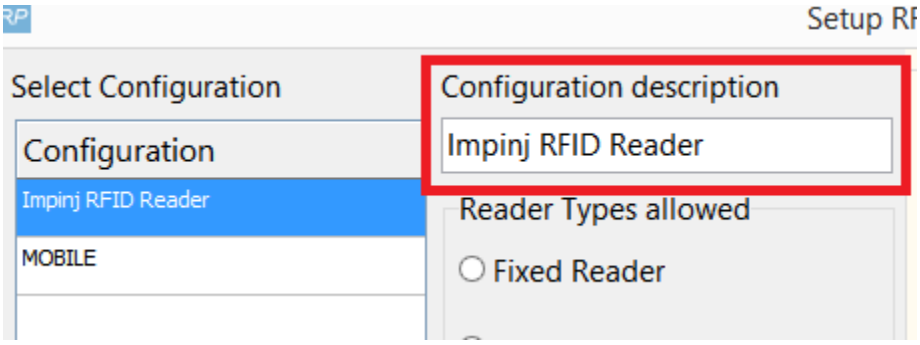
Open the Speedway connect interface by entering the following in a browser, where AA-AA-AA is the last 6 characters of the reader's MAC address (this can be found on a sticker on the reader).

https://speedwayr-**AA-AA-AA**.local

ex.

Under the output connection check the 'HTTP POST' option. Enter the same reader name as the 'Configuration description' in Rentalpoint set up (barcoding #2). This value can be anything unique to the reader.

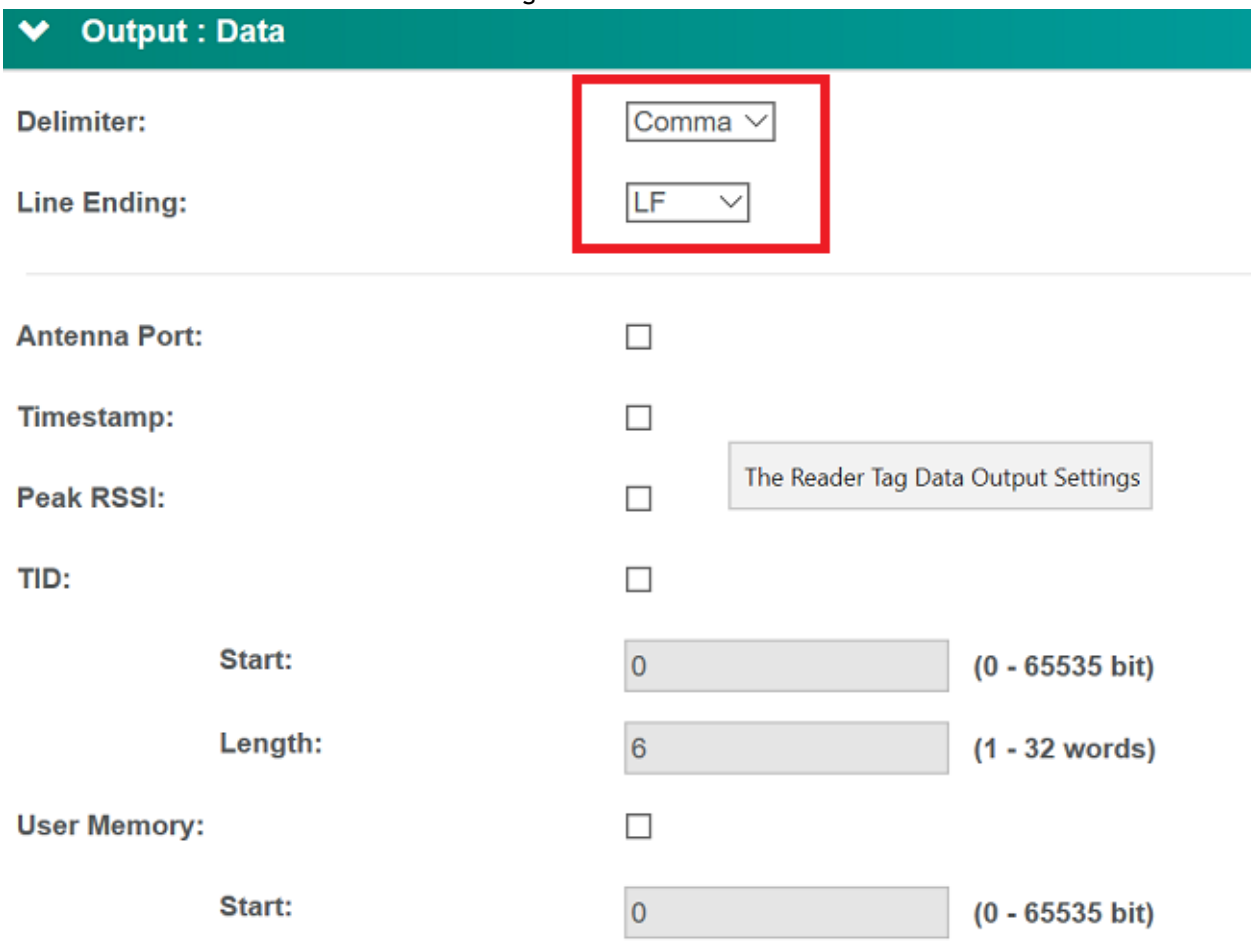




Under **Output : Data**

If the Speedway connect version has the **Format** option set this to **Key-Values Pairs**

Set the delimiter to **Comma** and Line Ending to LF

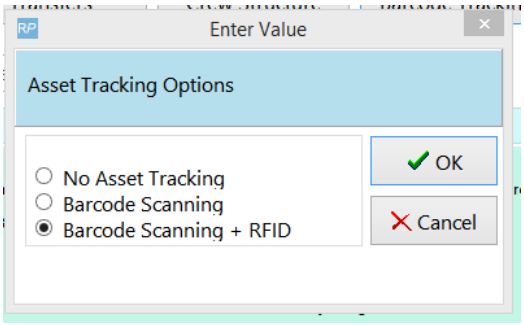


Click **Apply** to add the settings. Ensure the Status at the top shows a green tag before clicking apply to start the reader.

See 'Configure RFID in RentalPoint' below for Speedway settings.

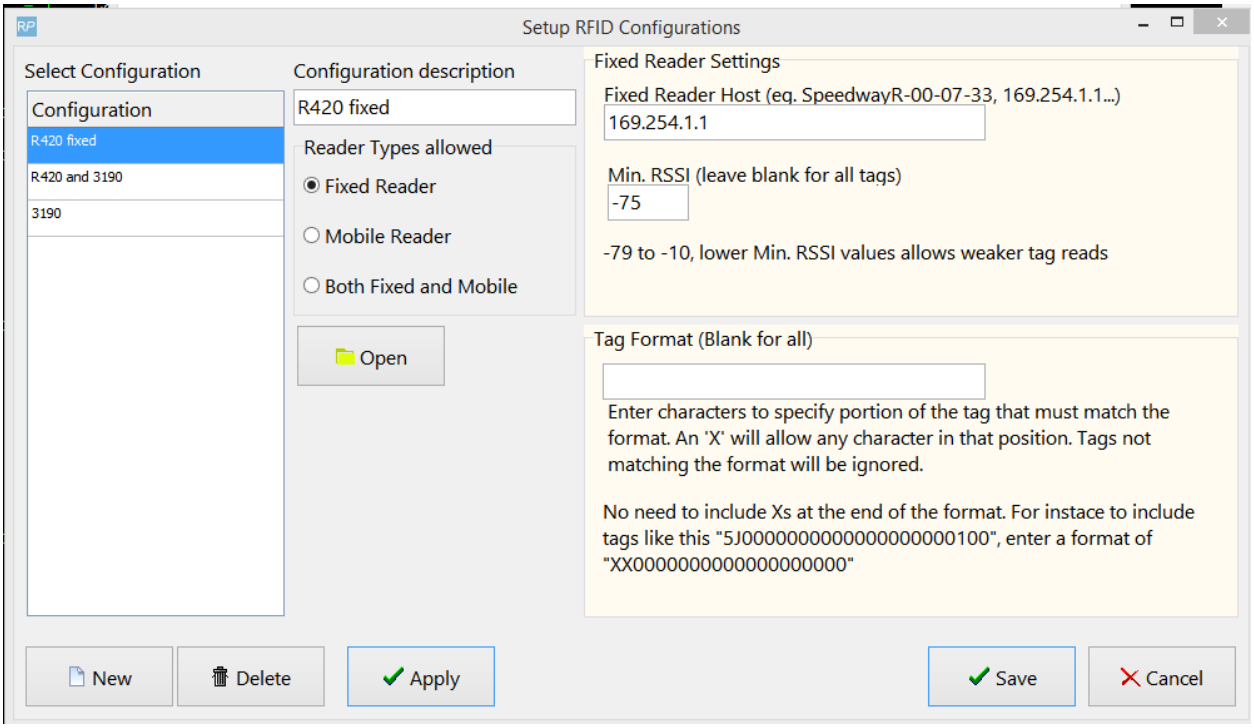
4.Configuring RFID in RentalPoint

RFID mode is enabled in parameter setup, barcoding parameter #2 (Barcode Scanning + RFID).



Setup IMPINJ Fixed Reader

To set-up a fixed IMPINJ Reader go to setup parameter #2, select Barcode Scanning + RFID after which the setup window will appear.



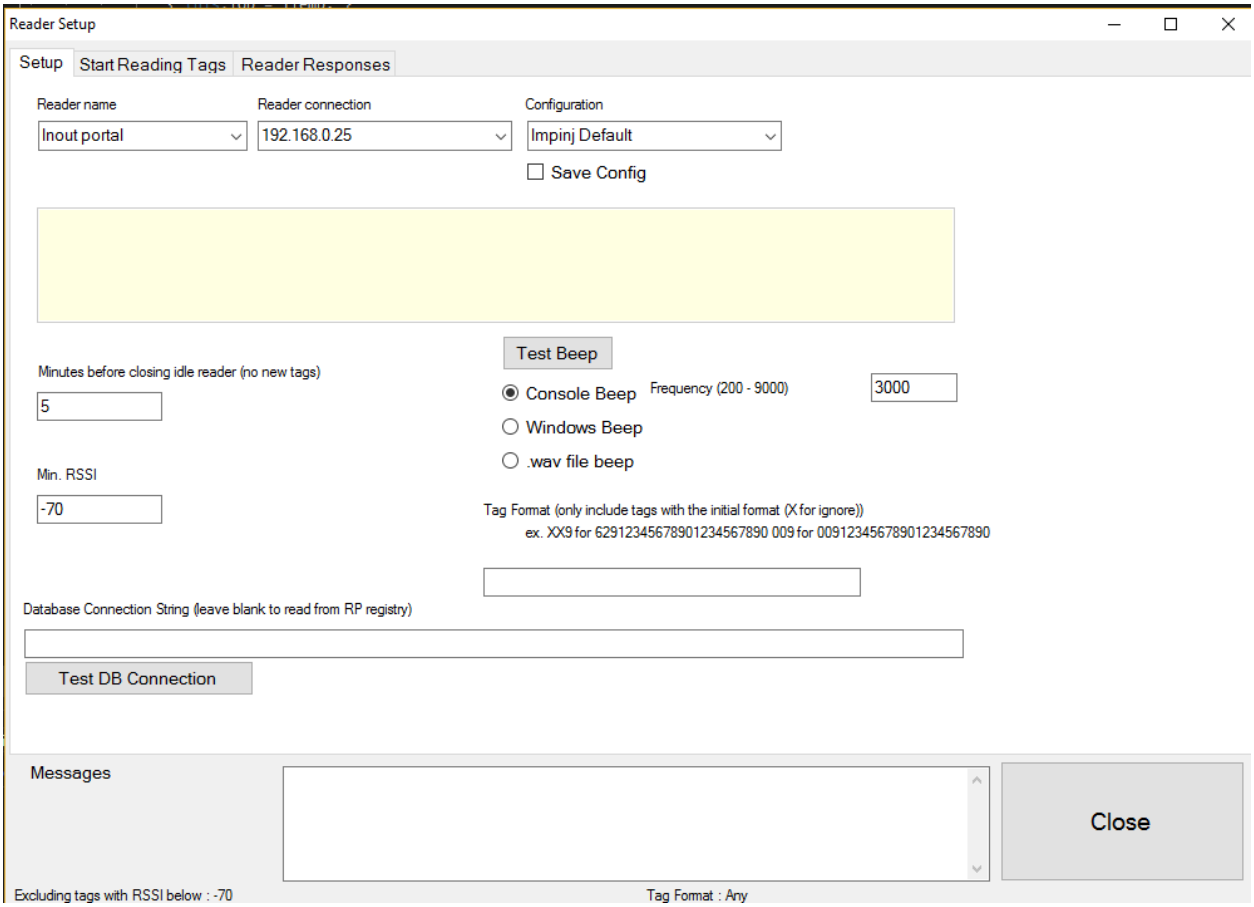
Click **New** then enter a unique name for the **Configuration description**. For the fixed reader select **Fixed Reader** for the type, then enter the IP or host name for the **Fixed Reader Host.**

The **Min. RSSI** setting can be used to exclude low signal tags from the reader so that for instance tags sitting on a shelf to one side of the portal are excluded.

Tag Format can be defined if all your tags follow a certain format so that any non matching tags will be excluded from the read. For instance tags with 18 leading zeros and 6 digits ("000000000000000000888776") would get a tag format of "000000000000000000". X in a position will allow any character.

To test the reader select a row and click 'Open' to launch the setup version of the reader app.

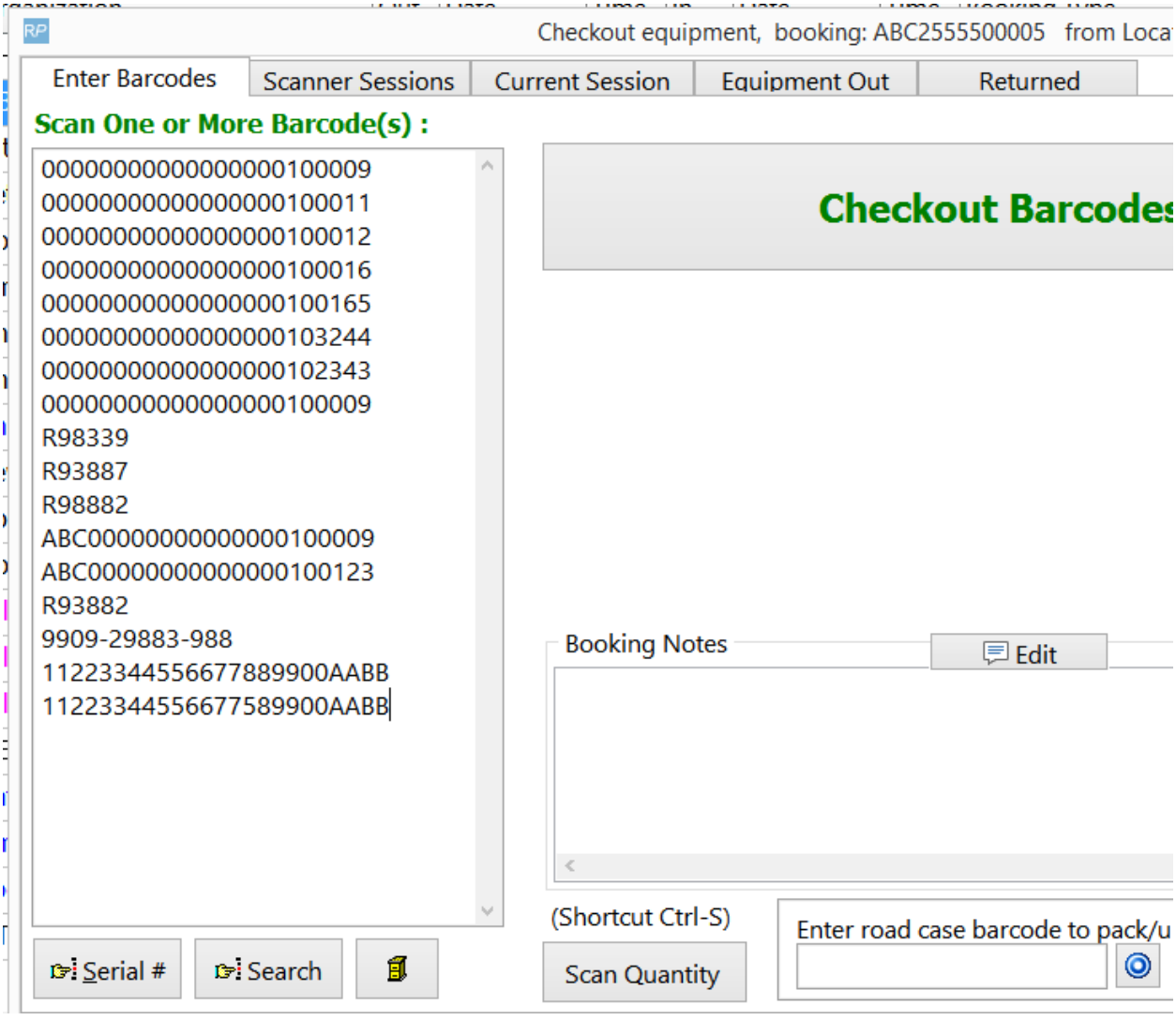
Here the settings entered can be tested against the reader.



Mobile RFID scanner input

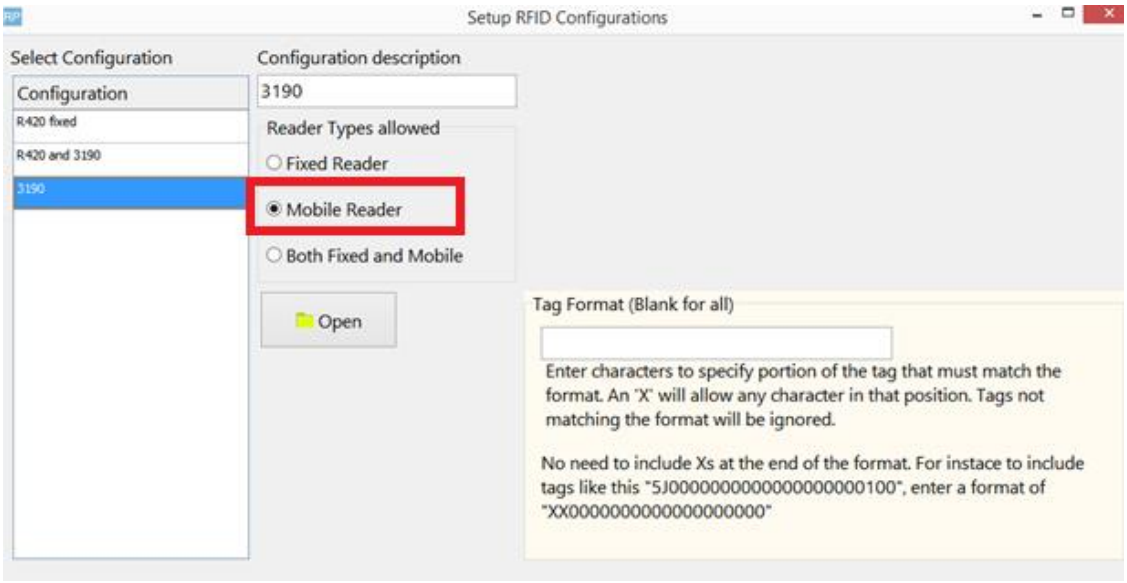
Mobile RFID scanners can be used to read RFID tags directly into the checkout/return windows in the same way barcodes can. Some scanners are dual readers and can handle both tags and barcodes; these can be read in in the same list (either from a file or by setting the reader up as a keyboard wedge).

Below is an example of what input from a dual reader might look like. In RentalPoint, barcodes are restricted to 15 characters, anything longer than that will be identified as an RFID Tag.

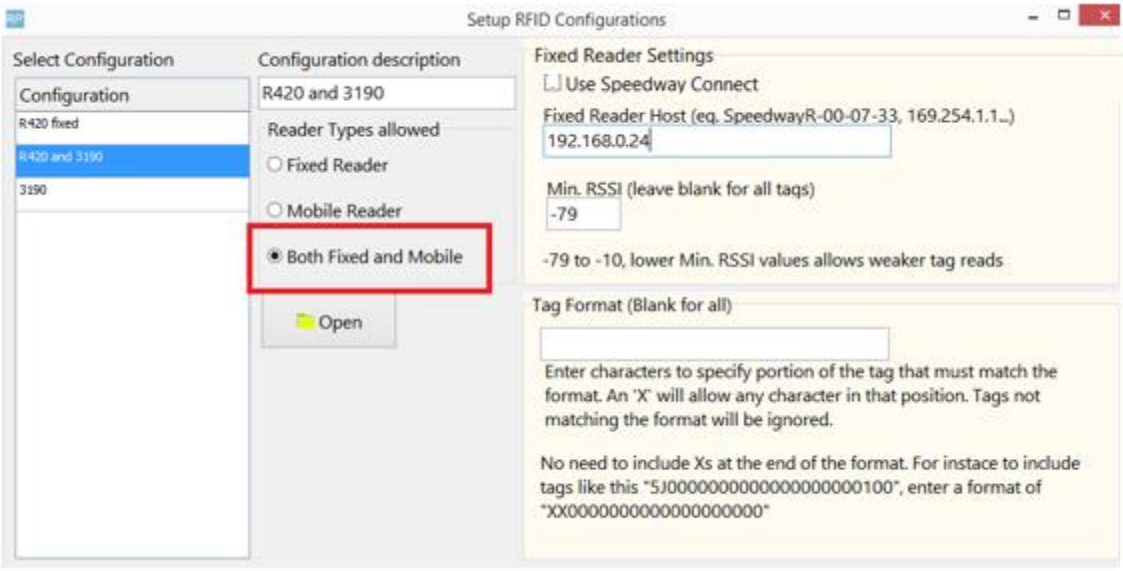


They can also be configured to scan RFID tags into the reader window at the same time as a fixed reader or as the exclusive RFID input method when set up to work as a **Keyboard Wedge** on a workstation.

In the reader configuration setup, enter a new configuration item and select **Mobile Reader.** No IP information is needed in this case, but a tag format can be defined.

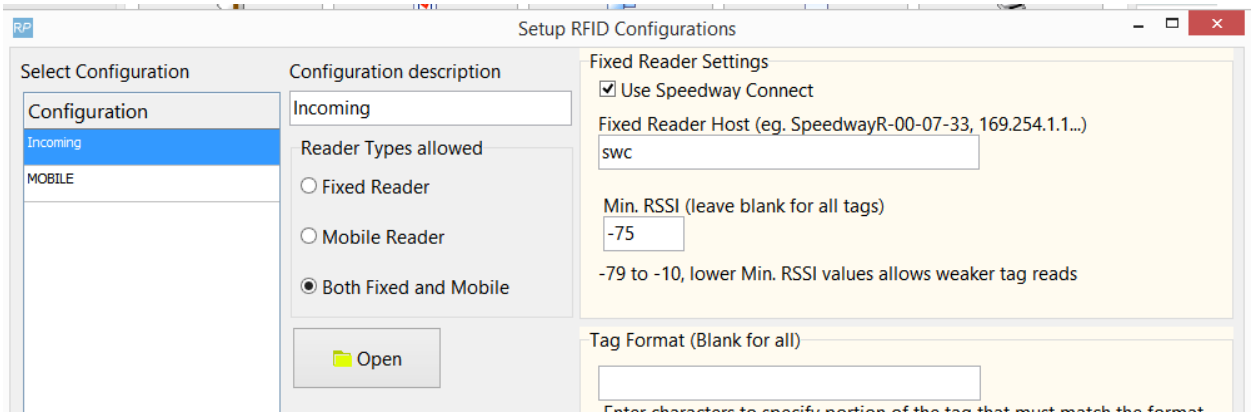


If the mobile and fixed reader will be used together, in some cases a separate configuration can be defined and **Both Fixed and Mobile** selected.



Speedway Settings

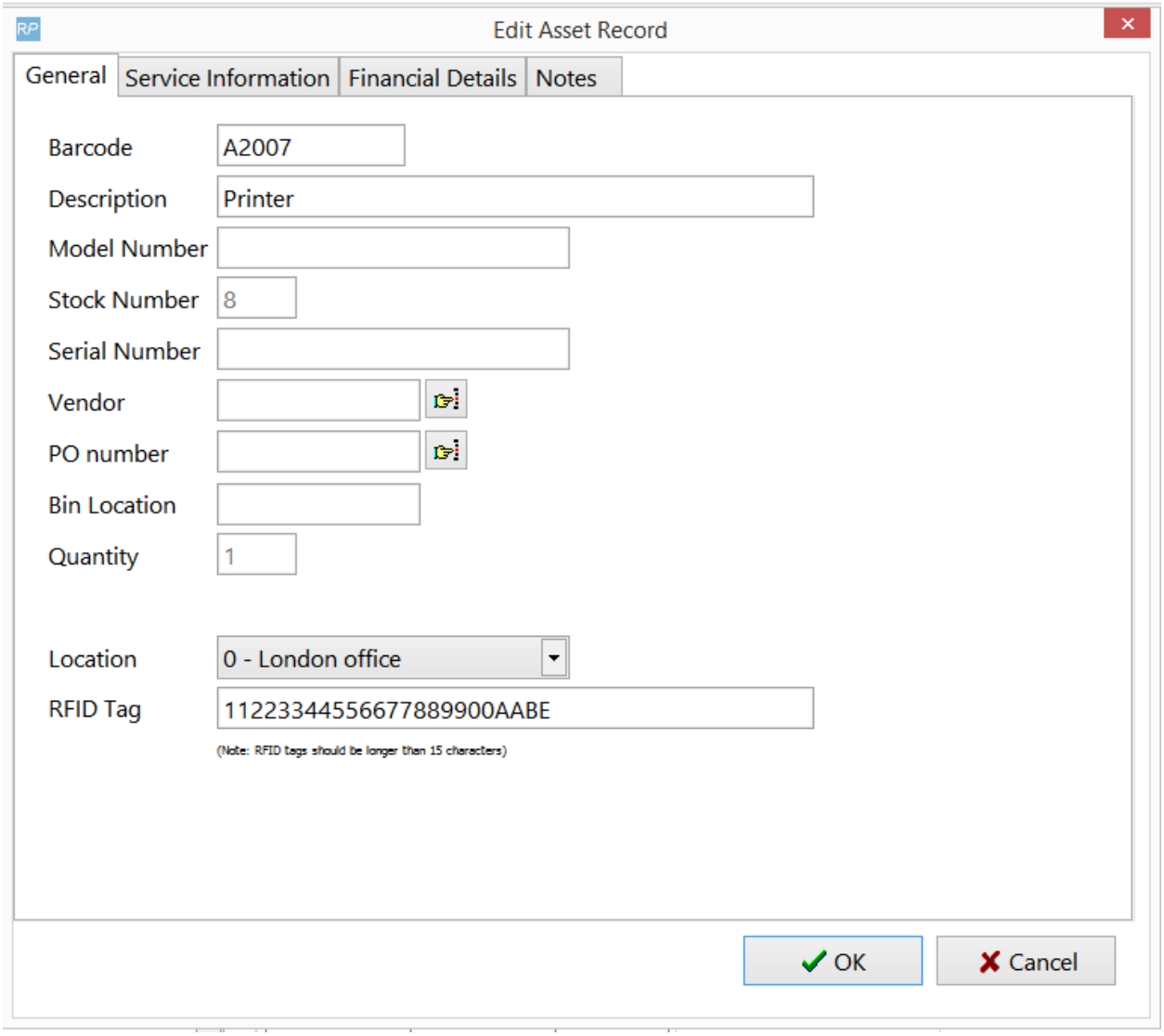
For fixed readers configurations (only or both), check the **Use Speedway Connect** option. If you have an earlier version that does not have this option, enter **swc** in the **Fixed Reader Host** box.



Setup Assets

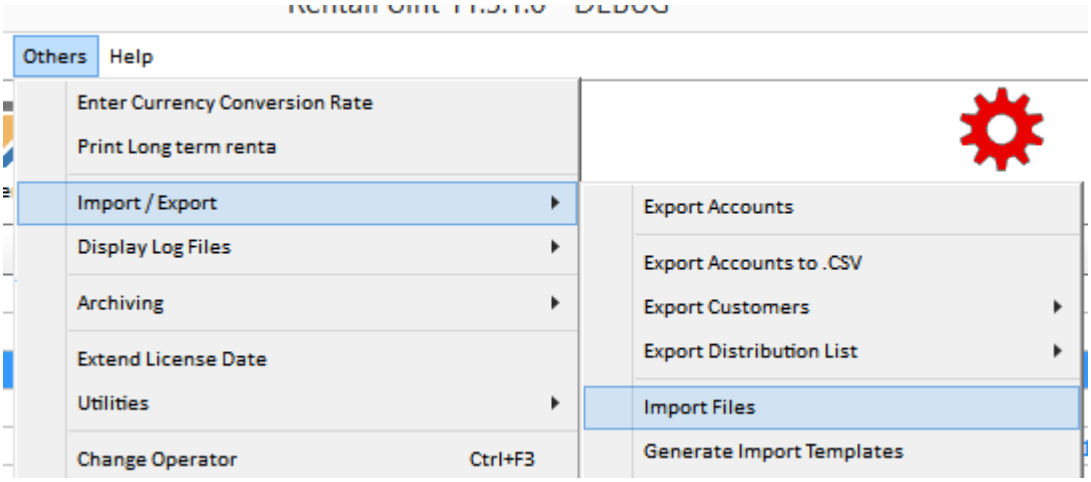
A barcode number needs to be assigned to all assets whether the actual barcode appears on the item or not, though having the barcode on the product can be helpful for sight identification and lookup.

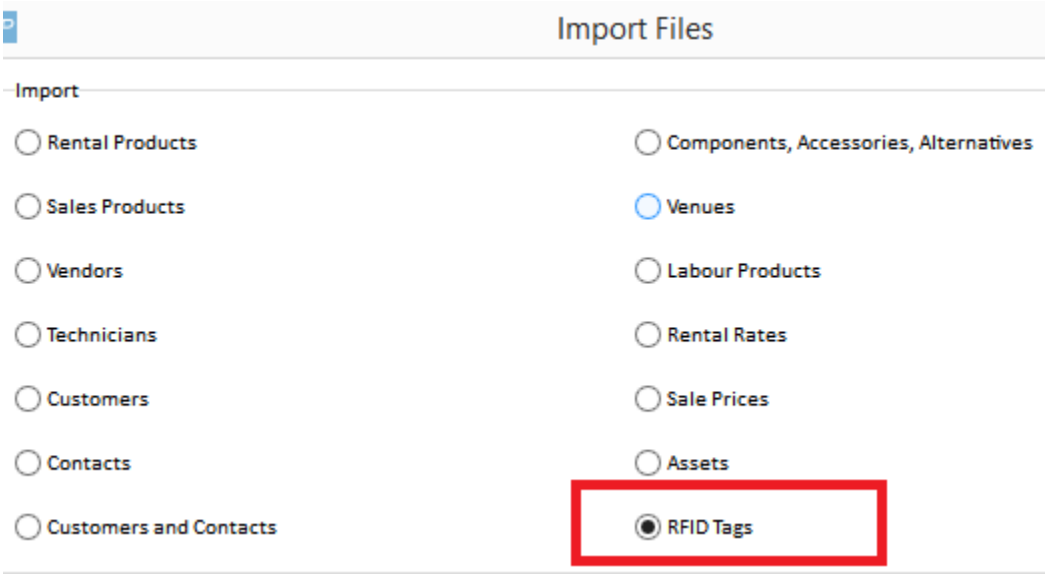
Assets with an RFID tag will have the tag stored in the RFID Tag field in asset properties. All tags must be longer than 15 characters to be identified as such by RentalPoint.


Edit Asset Record
General
Service Information
Financial Details
Notes
Barcode
A2007
Description
Printer
Model Number
Stock Number
8
Serial Number
Vendor
PO number
Bin Location
Quantity
1
Location
0 - London office
RFID Tag
1122334455667788900AABE
(Note: RFID tags should be longer than 15 characters)
OK
Cancel

RFID Import for Assets

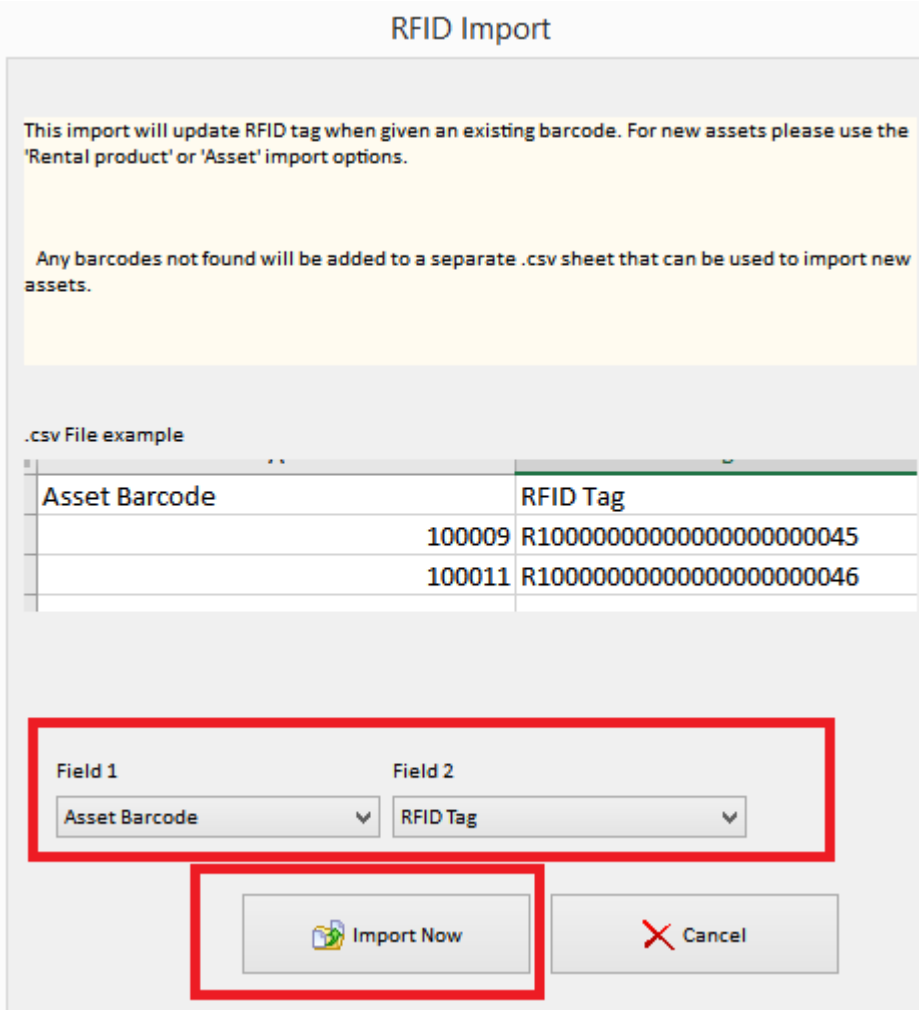
RFID Tags can be imported using the product or asset import from csv files.





Select the .csv file that has a list of barcodes with the corresponding RFID Tag. These should be the first and second column in the spreadsheet.

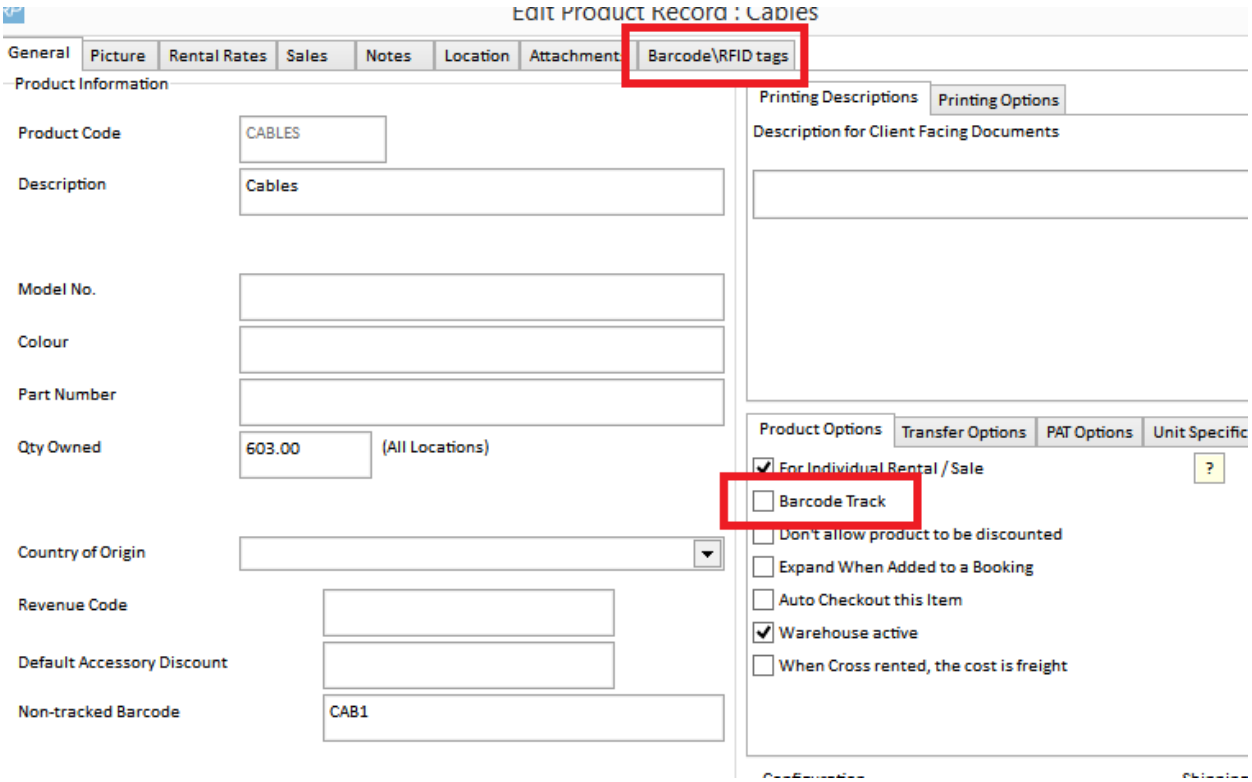
Ensure the column order on the window matches the order in the spreadsheet, then click ‘Import’



RFID for Non Barcoded Items

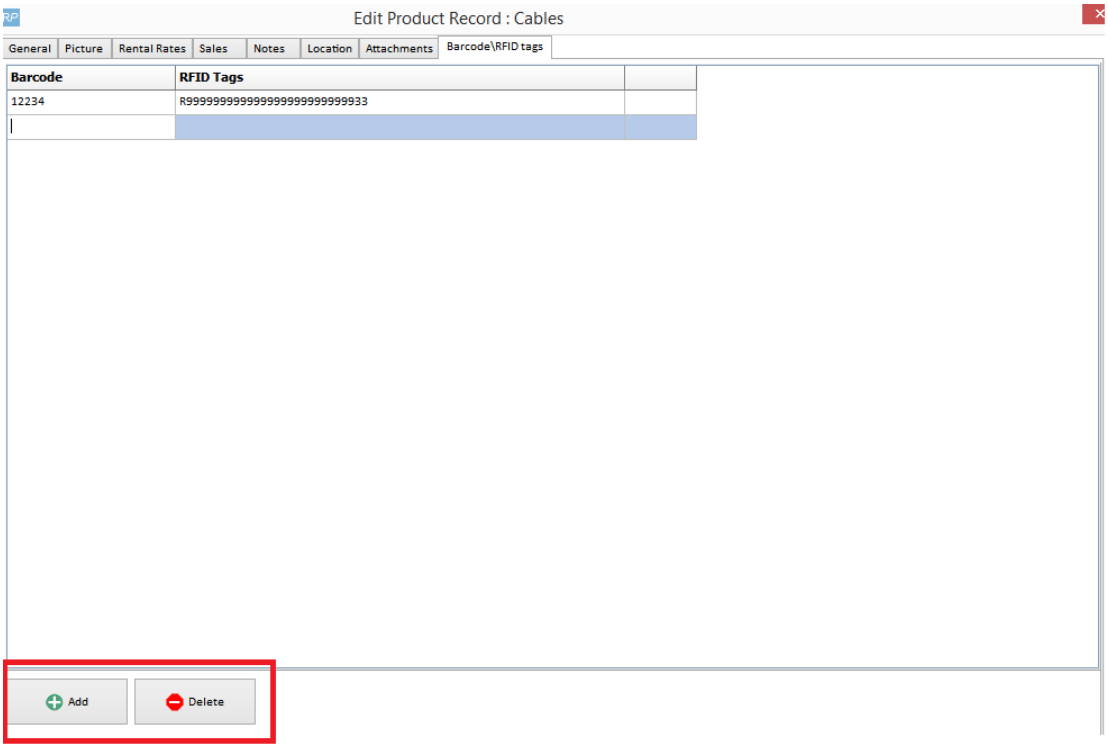
While non-barcoded items do not have separate asset records for each item, they can still be tagged and read with the RFID reader. Unlike a 'non-tracked barcode' however, where the barcode is assigned at the product level and scanned for each individual checkout of that product, the RFID tag for each non-tracked item must be unique. With RFID, since the reader is contently reading the tags in its view, it needs the unique tag to determine that there are two or more separate items.

In product properties (via Inventory Setup (F10)), products that are not checked as 'Barcode Track' will have an extra tab called 'Barcodes\RFID tags'.

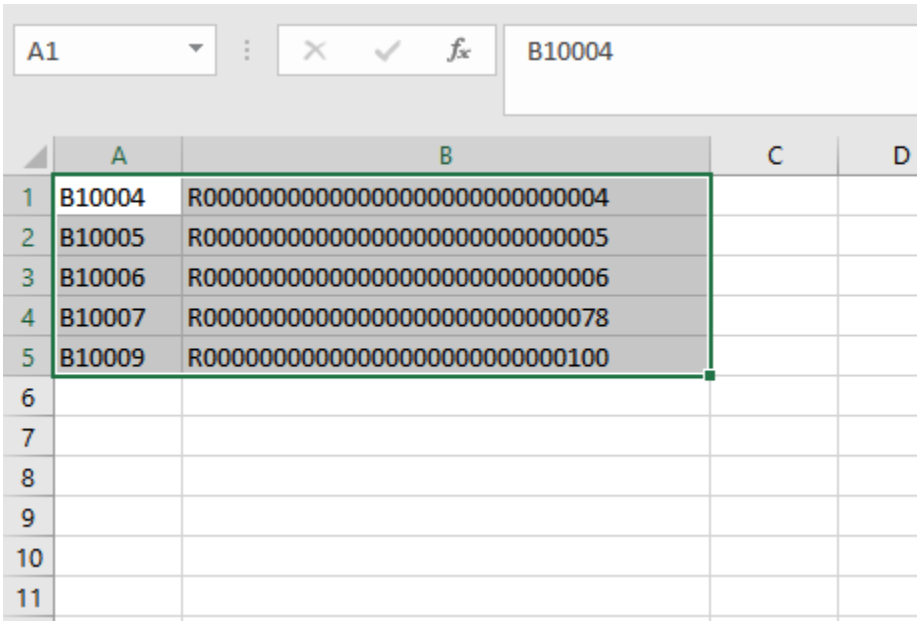


RFID in RentalPoint

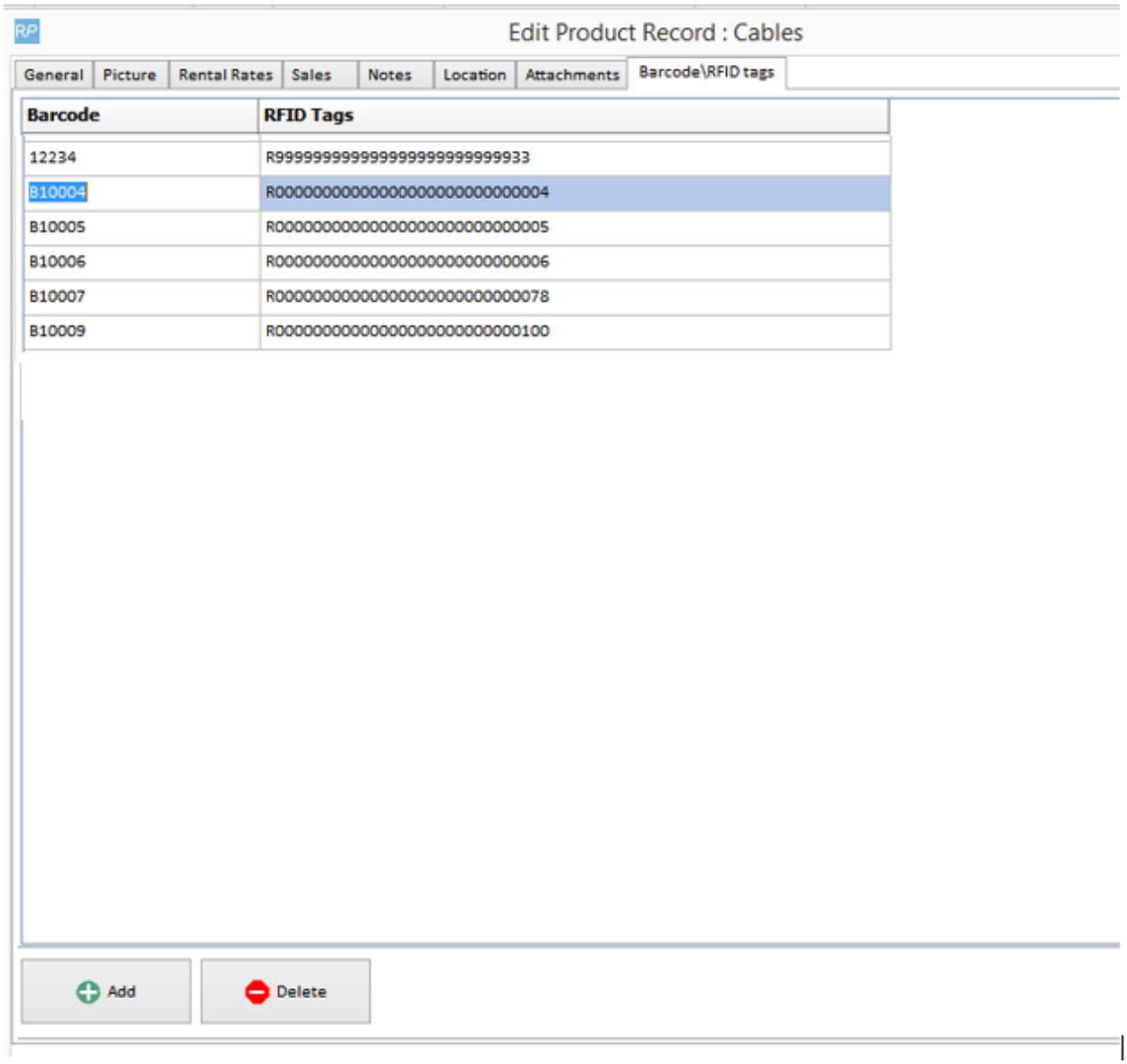
Barcodes/RFID tags can be manually entered / deleted by using the add/delete buttons at the bottom on the grid.



Large numbers of tags or barcodes can be entered by copying and pasting from a spreadsheet.



Click the 'New' button to add a new line and place the cursor in the first column. Then hit Ctrl-V to paste in the rows.

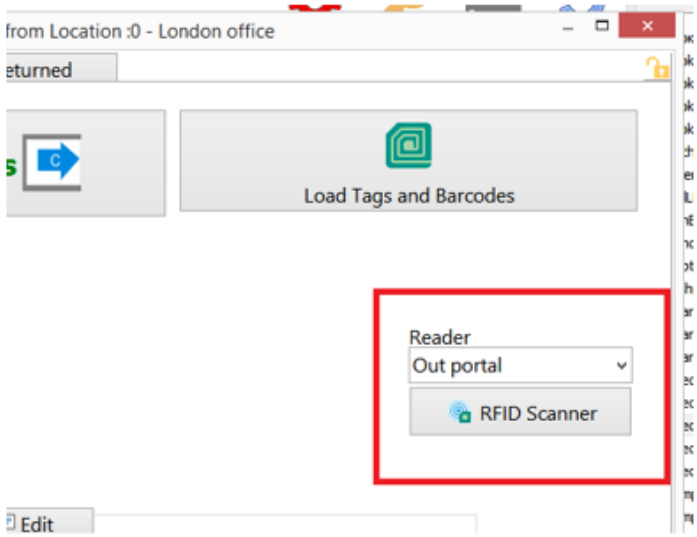


5.Reading Tags from Fixed and/or Mobile Readers

On the checkout and return windows, operators who have privileges to use fixed readers will have the buttons pictured below.

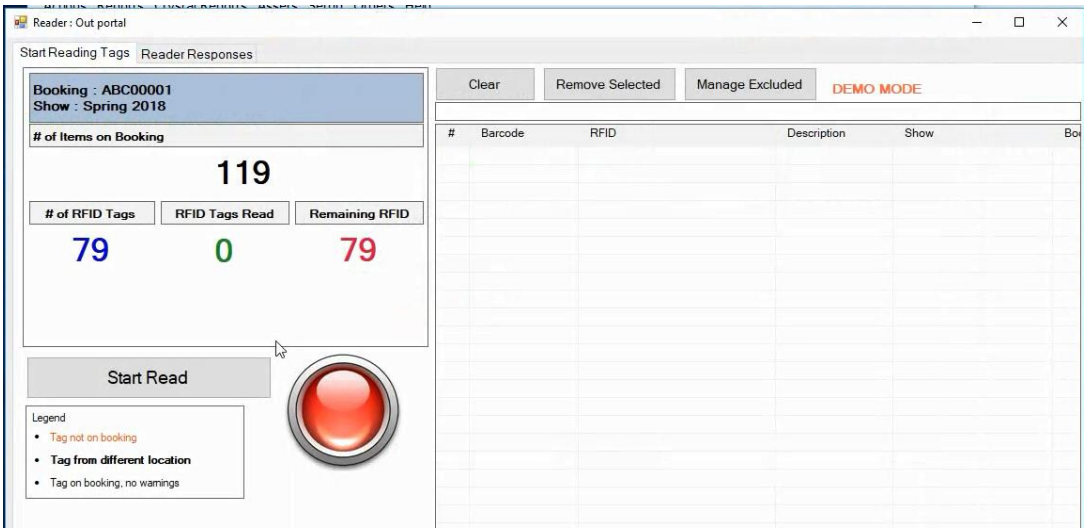
To read tags

1. Select the reader the tags will be loaded from
2. Click the **RFID Scanner** button. This will load the scanner window that connects to the reader.

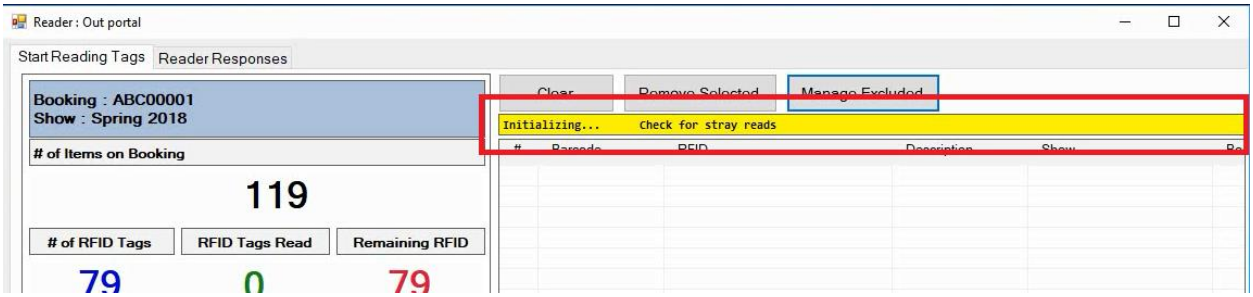


When the reader app is initially opened, the number of items that have RFID tags is displayed along with the number of tags read and the amount remaining.

The red light indicates that the reader is not connected.

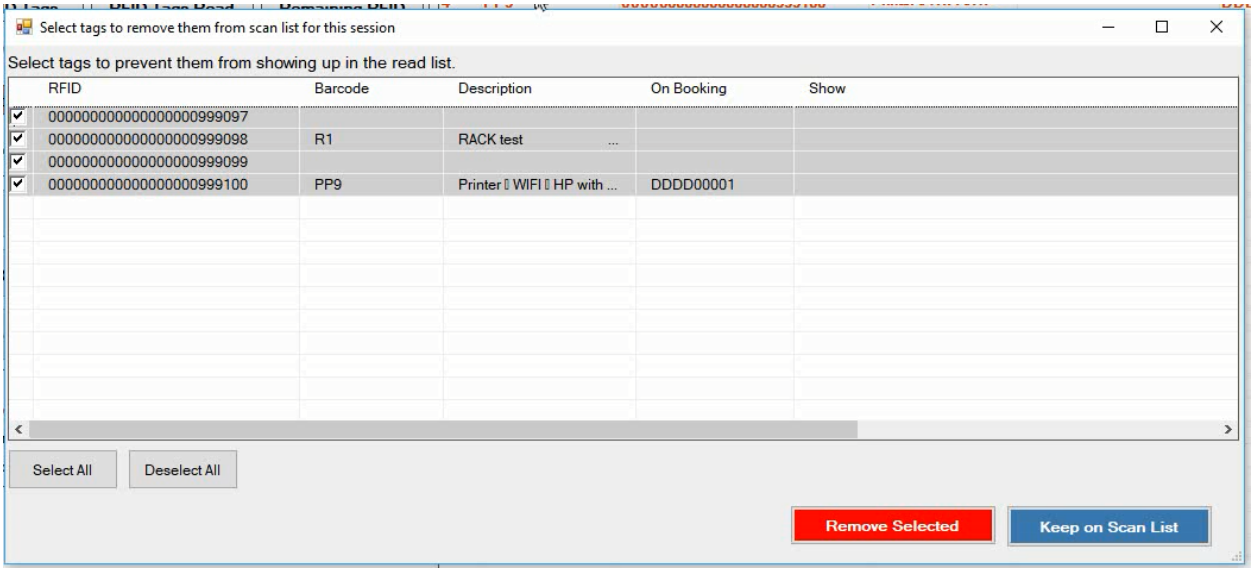


Click **Start Read** to connect to the reader and start reading tags, the red light will turn green.



At first, a yellow message will display indicating the 10 second **initialization period,** that will help eliminate any stray reads. During the time, refrain from moving equipment towards the portal.

At the end of this time any tags read will be shown in a pop-up window to remove or keep them. Removed tags will not be read again for the duration of the session.



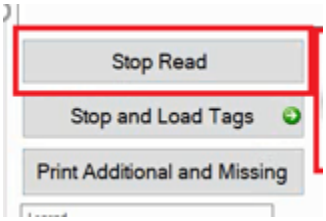
Tags that are read display the barcode, RFID tag #, asset description and the booking and show if the asset is on the booking being checked out returned.

Assets scanned that are not on the booking or are unknown will display in red indicating they are extra items that may need review. In the case or checkout these may be items that are being added at checkout and will be added to the booking when the session is saved in the RentalPoint checkout window. For open return red items may also be assets for a booking being returned that hasn't been specified by the user. Other red items may be equipment that was moved through the portal by mistake or tags that aren't entered in the system.

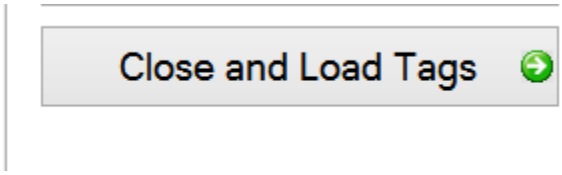
#	Barcode	RFID	Description	Show	Booking	Location Warning
1	RA1	00000000000000000999092	Rack Asset test			0
2	L999093	00000000000000000999090	LED Panel			
3	888001	00000000000000000999089	Folding Table (5')			
4	L999092	00000000000000000999091	LED Panel	Spring 2018	ABC00001	
5	1F13	00000000000000000999096	Folding Chair	Spring 2018	ABC00001	
6	1F14	00000000000000000999095	Folding Chair	Spring 2018	ABC00001	
7	1F12	00000000000000000999094	Folding Chair	Spring 2018	ABC00001	

Stop Read

This will break the connection with the reader to stop reading tags and will leave the reader app window open so that the list of tags can be reviewed and/or specific tags can be removed as needed.



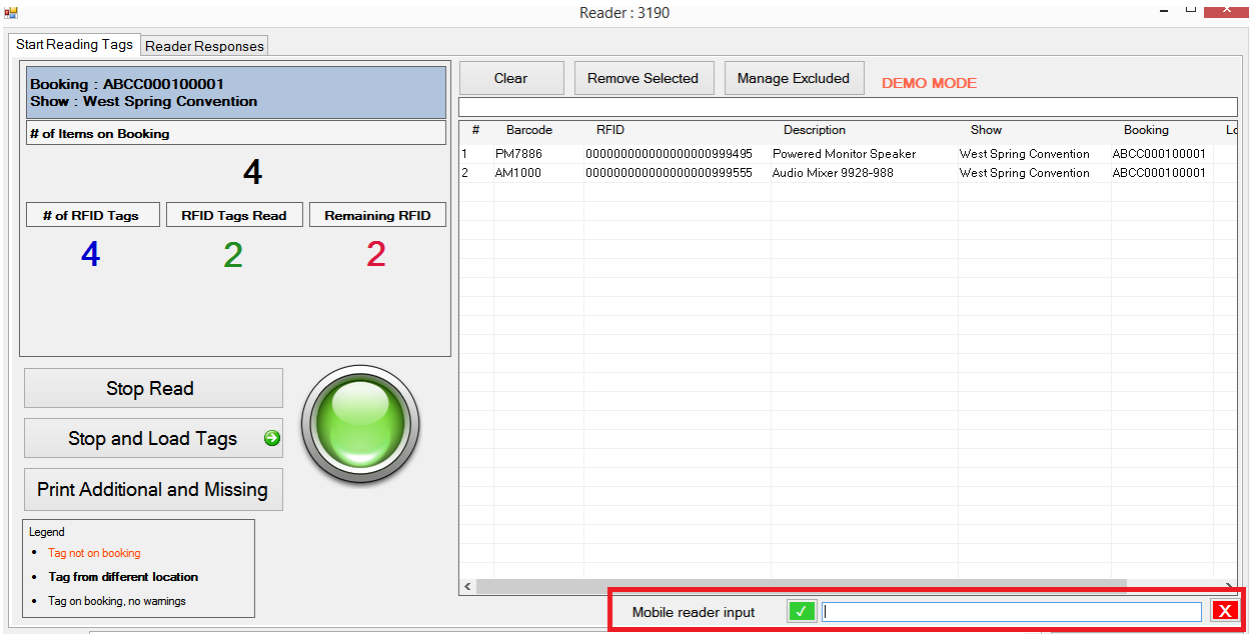
After reviewing the list, click **Close and Load Tags** to close the window and process the tags from the list.



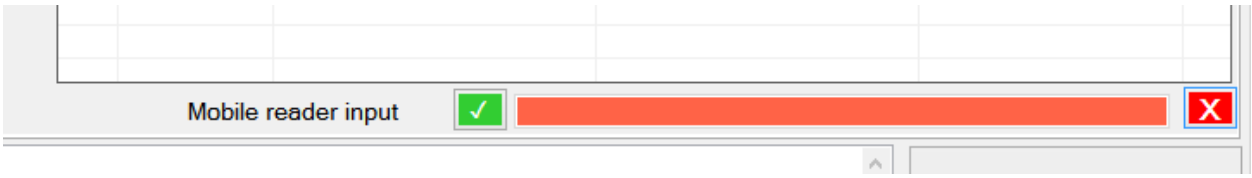
Stop and Load Tags

This option stops the reader, immediately closes the reader window and loads the tags into the scanned list in Rentalpoint.

If the configuration allows for a mobile reader only, the reader window will open and be ready to accept tags immediately with no initialization period.



The cursor needs to be placed in the mobile reader input box in order for the tags to be processed. If focus is lost, a warning beep will sound and the box will be displayed in red.



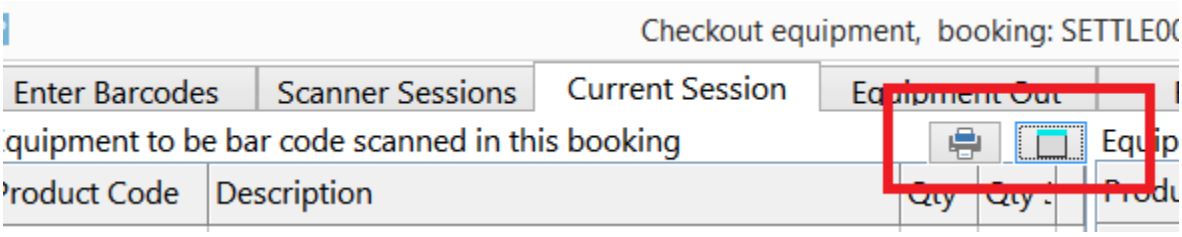
Click the red X next to the box if you wish to stop accepting tags from the reader temporarily. Click the green check mark to start accepting tags from the reader again.

If both fixed and mobile readers are in use, the steps for the fixed reader will be followed at first then the mobile reader input will become available after the initialization period is complete.

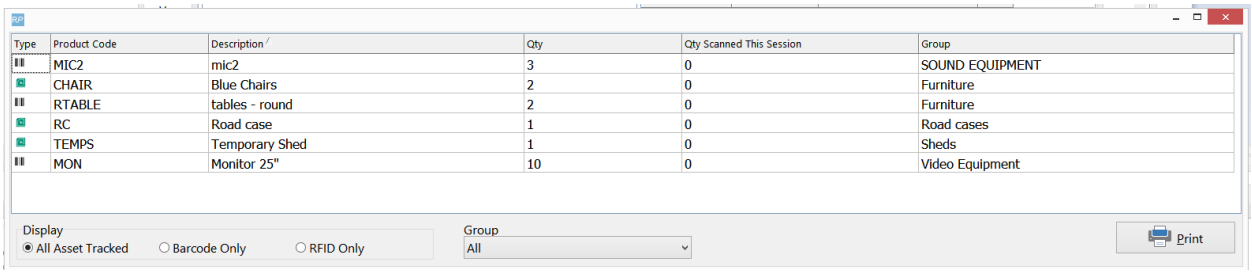
Print / Show Remaining assets

Checkout

Two buttons above the 'Equipment to be barcode scanned' grid will allow the grid to be printed or viewed in a pop-up window to view more equipment and could be placed on a secondary monitor.



The pop up window displays the type of the product (barcoded only or RFID tagged) in the far left of the grid. Items can be filtered to show a certain group and/or barcoded or RFID only.

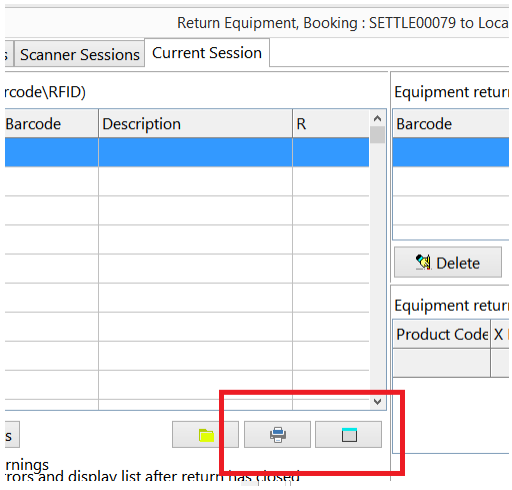


The print feature will print the unscanned assets with a separate group on each page. It can also be sent to csv and saved. Printing the report from the grid will allow the filter to be applied to the report.

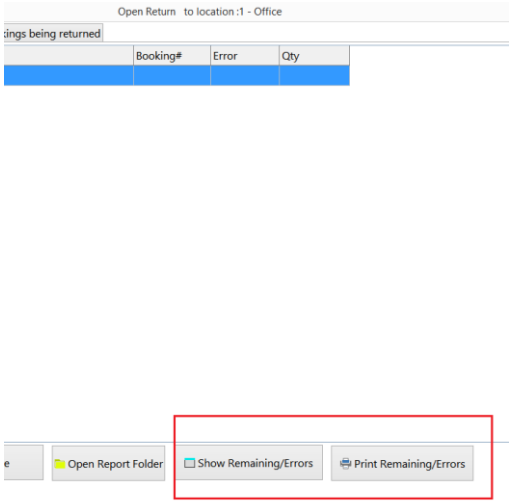
Return / Open return

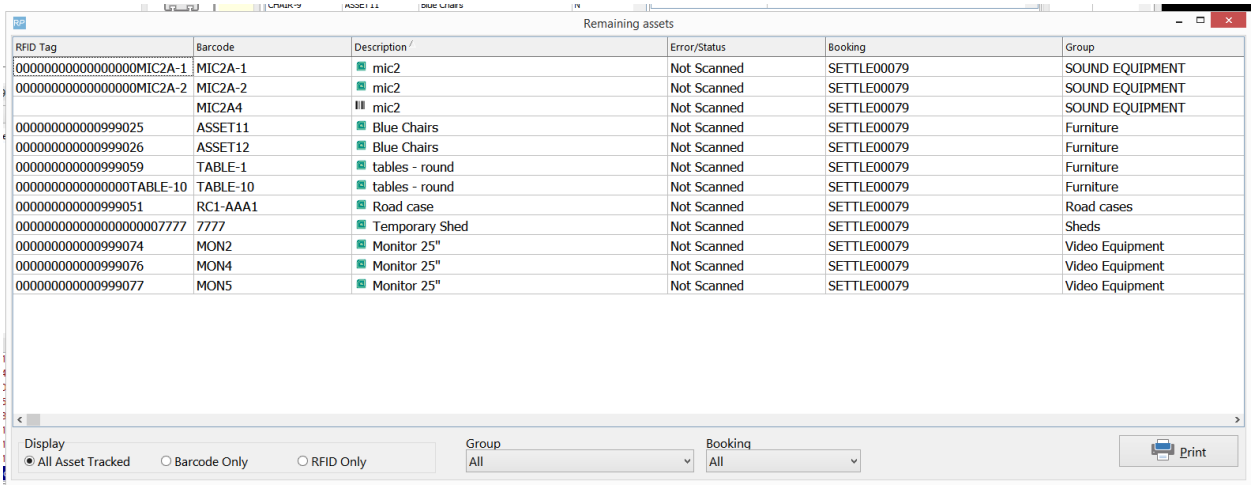
The return windows also have the option to display remaining equipment. In this case the window also displays the barcode and RFID # to be scanned as well as the type.

Return window

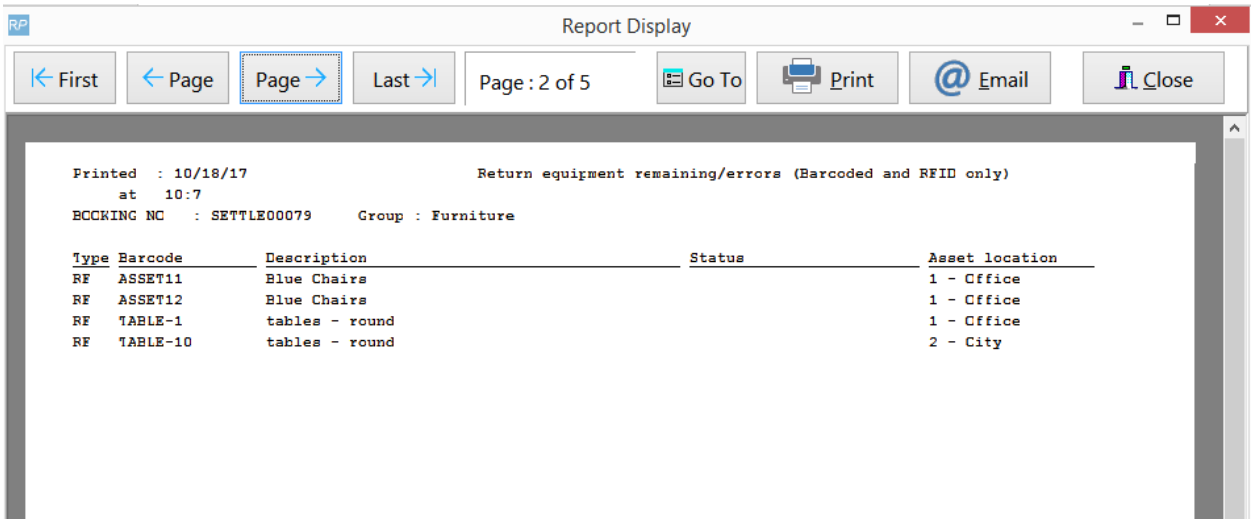


Open return window





The report will page break for each product group so the pages can be handed off to the department responsible for that equipment type.



6.Custom documents

An insert field for custom rtf documents is available to show the equipment that has only a barcode and ones that have rfid tags.

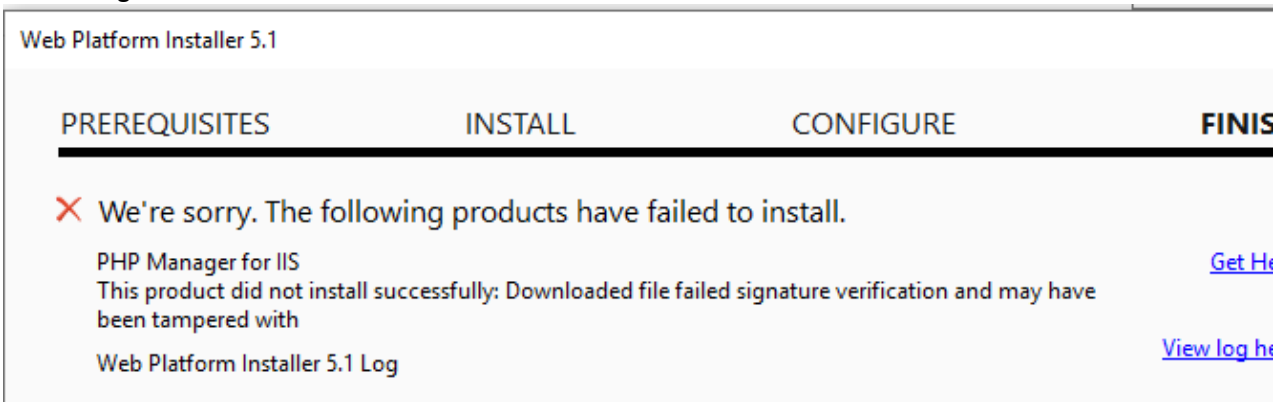
&RFIDBCC:2&

The field will work with booking hardcopy/pull sheet/pick list documents as well as packing lists, collection dockets and return receipts.

Products that have rfid tags on all assets (booking hardcopy documents) will display **RF** in the field while products that have barcodes only or do not yet have rfid tags on all assets will show **BC.** Non-tracked equipment will show a blank space in the fields.

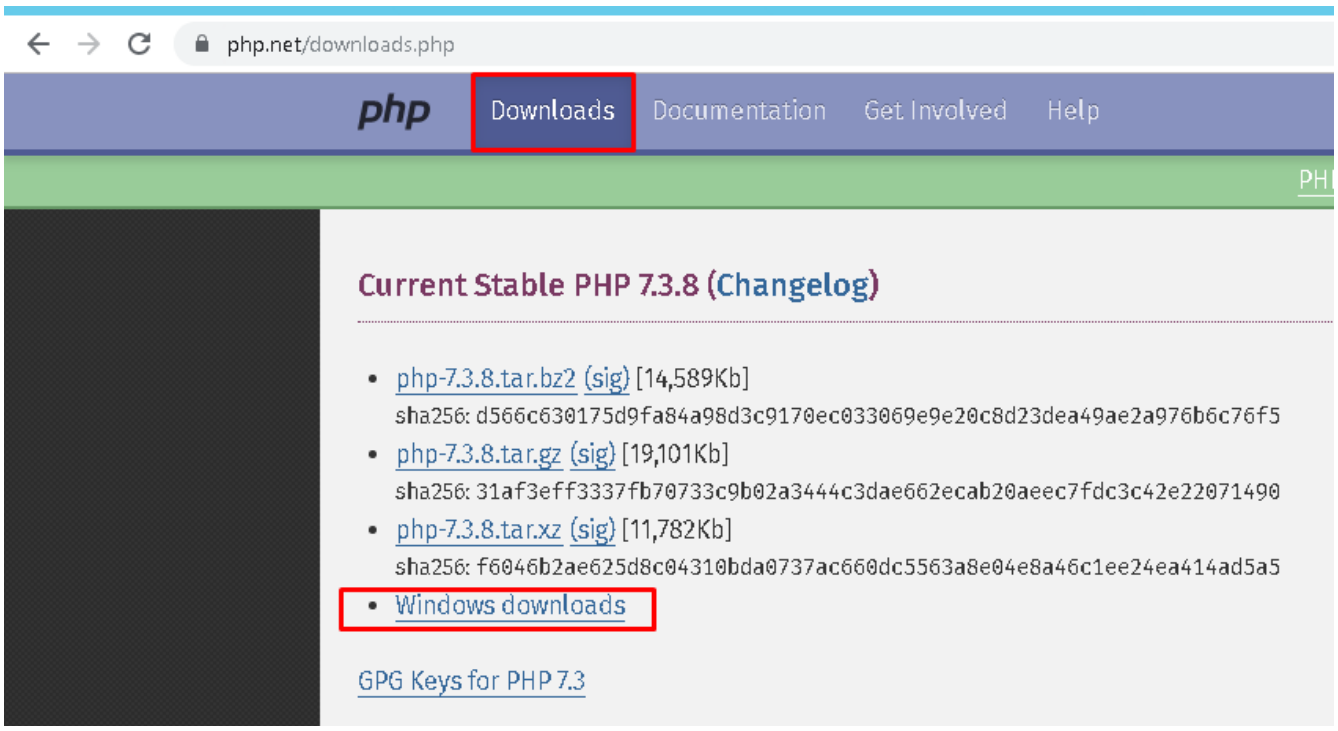
7. TroubleShooting PHP Manager Install

1. **PHP Manager for IIS failed to install**



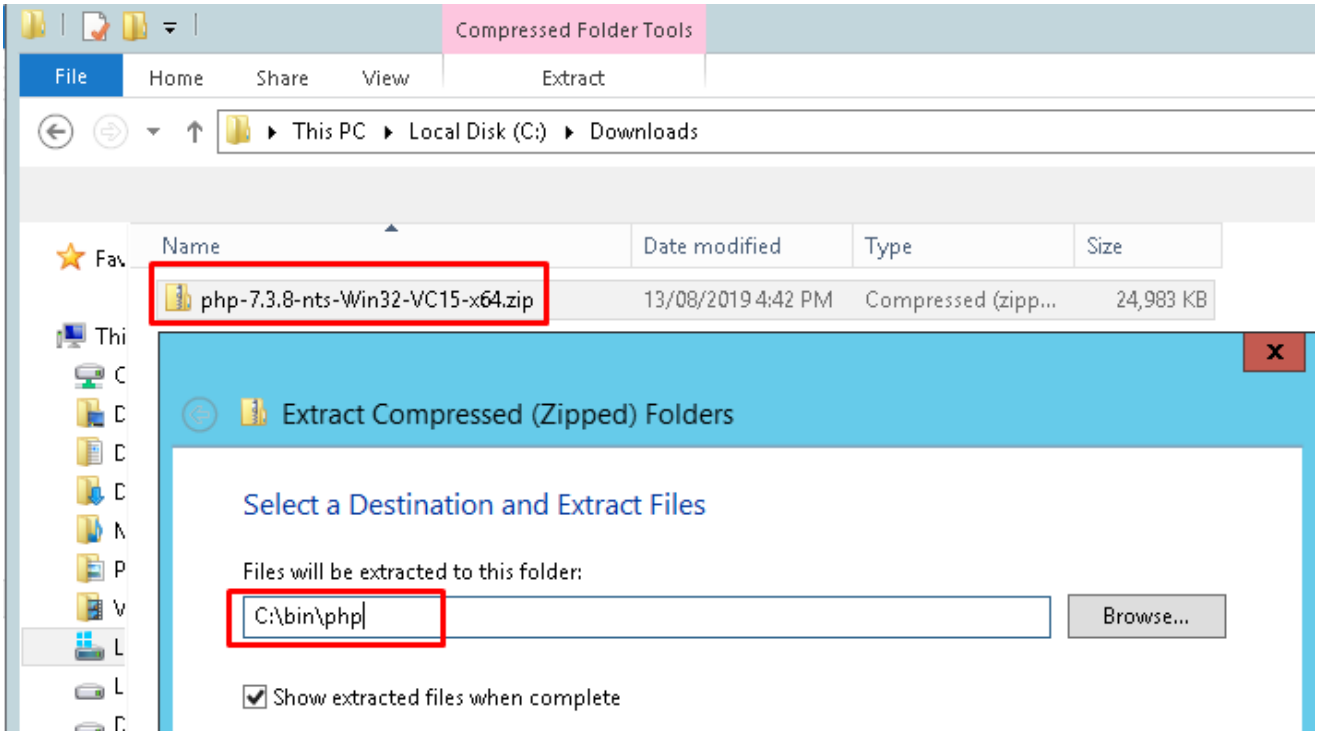
First download and unpack PHP from the following site:

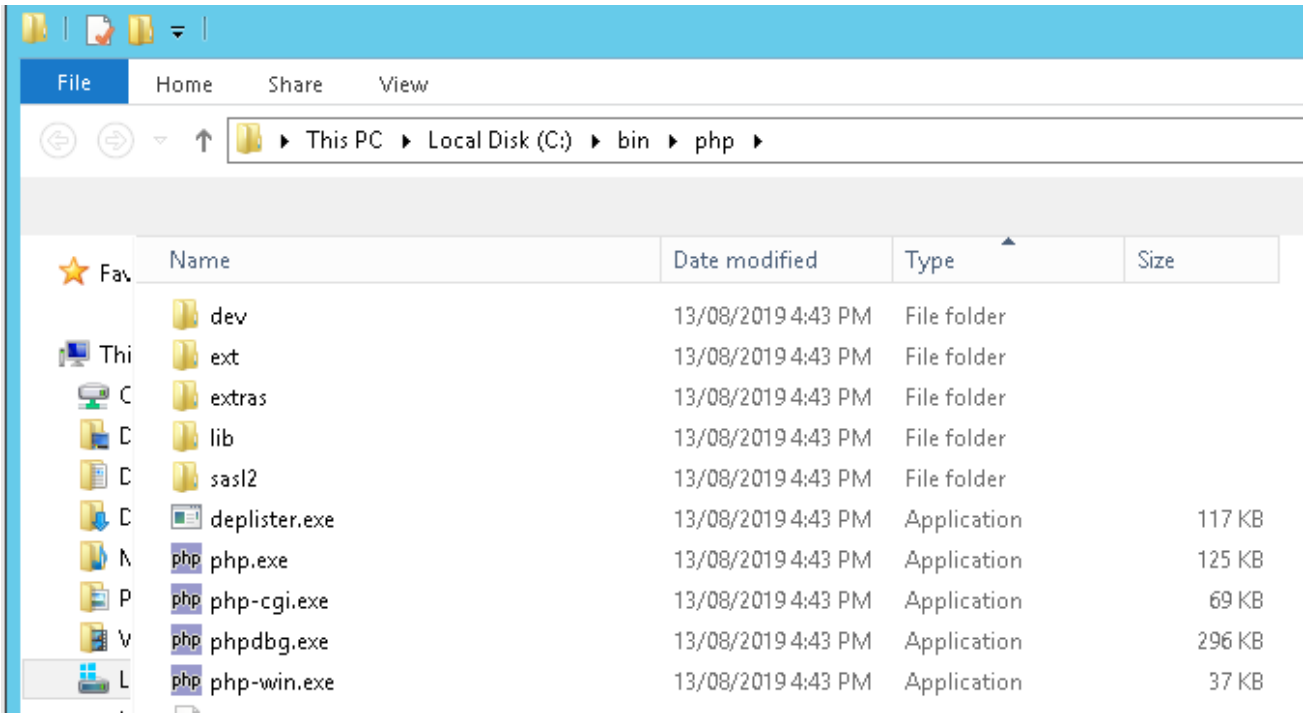
Download and unpack PHP: https://www.php.net/downloads.php



windows.php.net/download#php-7.3
PECL For Windows
PECL extensions for Windows is being worked on. Windows DLL can be downloaded right from the PECL website.
The PECL extension release and snapshot build directories are browsable directly.
Which version do I choose?
IIS
If you are using PHP as FastCGI with IIS you should use the Non-Thread Safe (NTS) versions of PHP.
Apache
Please use the Apache builds provided by Apache Lounge. They provide VC14, VC15 and VS16 builds of Apache for x86 and x64. We use their binaries to build the Apache SAPIs.
With Apache you have to use the Thread Safe (TS) versions of PHP.
VC14, VC15 & VS16
More recent versions of PHP are built with VC14, VC15 or VS16 (Visual Studio 2015, 2017 or 2019 compiler respectively) and include improvements in performance and stability.
- The VC14, VC15 and VS16 builds require to have the Visual C++ Redistributable for Visual Studio 2015-2019 x64 or x86 installed
PHP 7.3 (7.3.8)
Download source code [26.89MB]
Download tests package (phpt) [14.17MB]
VC15 x64 Non Thread Safe (2019-Jul-30 16:05:44)
Zip [24.4MB]
sha256: 19898b2c0f60e022a9567b6ff916e20881ac8907051f116915a55bc419ae64be
Debug Pack [22.99MB]
sha256: de29e42a9605b4f8935cb1d76fdbbc90850847f7f601bb1cbdf9fd24ed08bac1
Development package (SDK to develop PHP extensions) [1.24MB]
sha256: 19428bcd80cd98f4bc03d57ad7d584aedd6bd28d37eb97662bbe0a96f82612fc
VC15 x64 Thread Safe (2019-Jul-30 16:05:58)
Zip [24.53MB]
sha256: 9b9339010e8bbbf4b0945cc196ed4679971462695bc622ab097e1bc0ee117fba
Debug Pack [23.09MB]
sha256: 6b76a912bd5296386331cdb1d7014753fc2fc08b486e5b09c7a2a9bc691e9fdb
Development package (SDK to develop PHP extensions) [1.25MB]
sha256: 71832cd52bee6f1ca67ac548216b3cfff6cd3c355982a84d7d36862933fd8389

Extract the zip to **C:\bin\php**

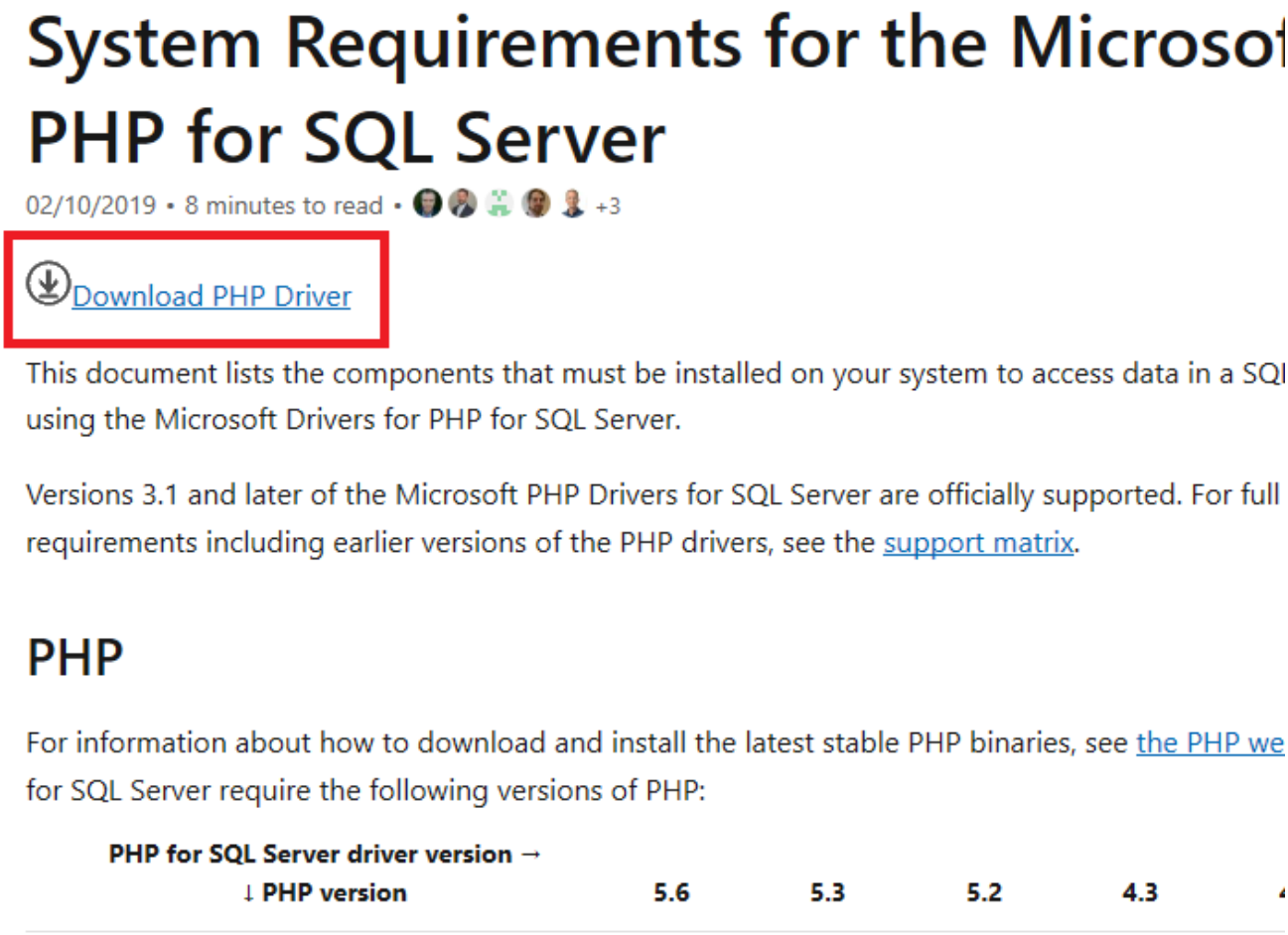




Download and install PHP driver and ODBC driver

https://docs.microsoft.com/en-us/sql/connect/php/system-requirements-for-the-php-sql-driver?view=sql-server-2017

1. Download PHP driver 5.6 (or higher)



System Requirements for the Microsof
PHP for SQL Server

02/10/2019 • 8 minutes to read • +3

Download PHP Driver

This document lists the components that must be installed on your system to access data in a SQ
using the Microsoft Drivers for PHP for SQL Server.

Versions 3.1 and later of the Microsoft PHP Drivers for SQL Server are officially supported. For full
requirements including earlier versions of the PHP drivers, see the support matrix.

PHP

For information about how to download and install the latest stable PHP binaries, see the PHP we
for SQL Server require the following versions of PHP:

PHP for SQL Server driver version → / ↓ PHP version	5.6	5.3	5.2	4.3

Download the Microsoft D

Server

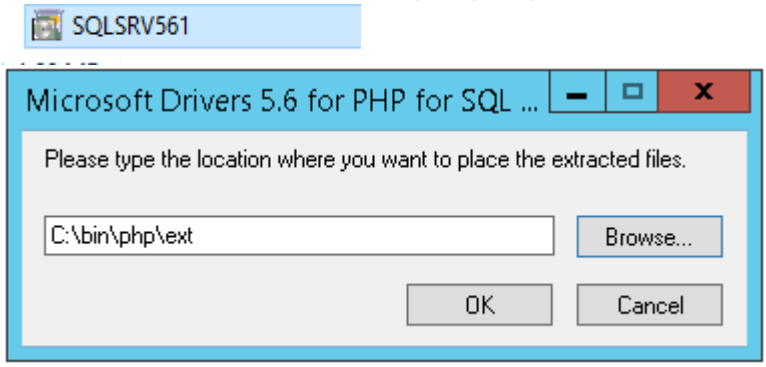
02/10/2019 • 2 minutes to read •

Download PHP Driver

Windows

The following versions of the drivers for PHP on Windows are avail

- Microsoft Drivers 5.6 for PHP for SQL Server
- Microsoft Drivers 5.3 for PHP for SQL Server
- Microsoft Drivers 5.2 for PHP for SQL Server
- Microsoft Drivers 4.3 for PHP for SQL Server
- Microsoft Drivers 4.0, 3.2, 3.1, and 3.0 for PHP for SQL Server



Extract and install to **C:\bin\php\ext**

PHP

For information about how to download and install the latest stable PHP binaries, see the PHP web site. The Microsoft Drivers for PHP for SQL Server require the following versions of PHP:

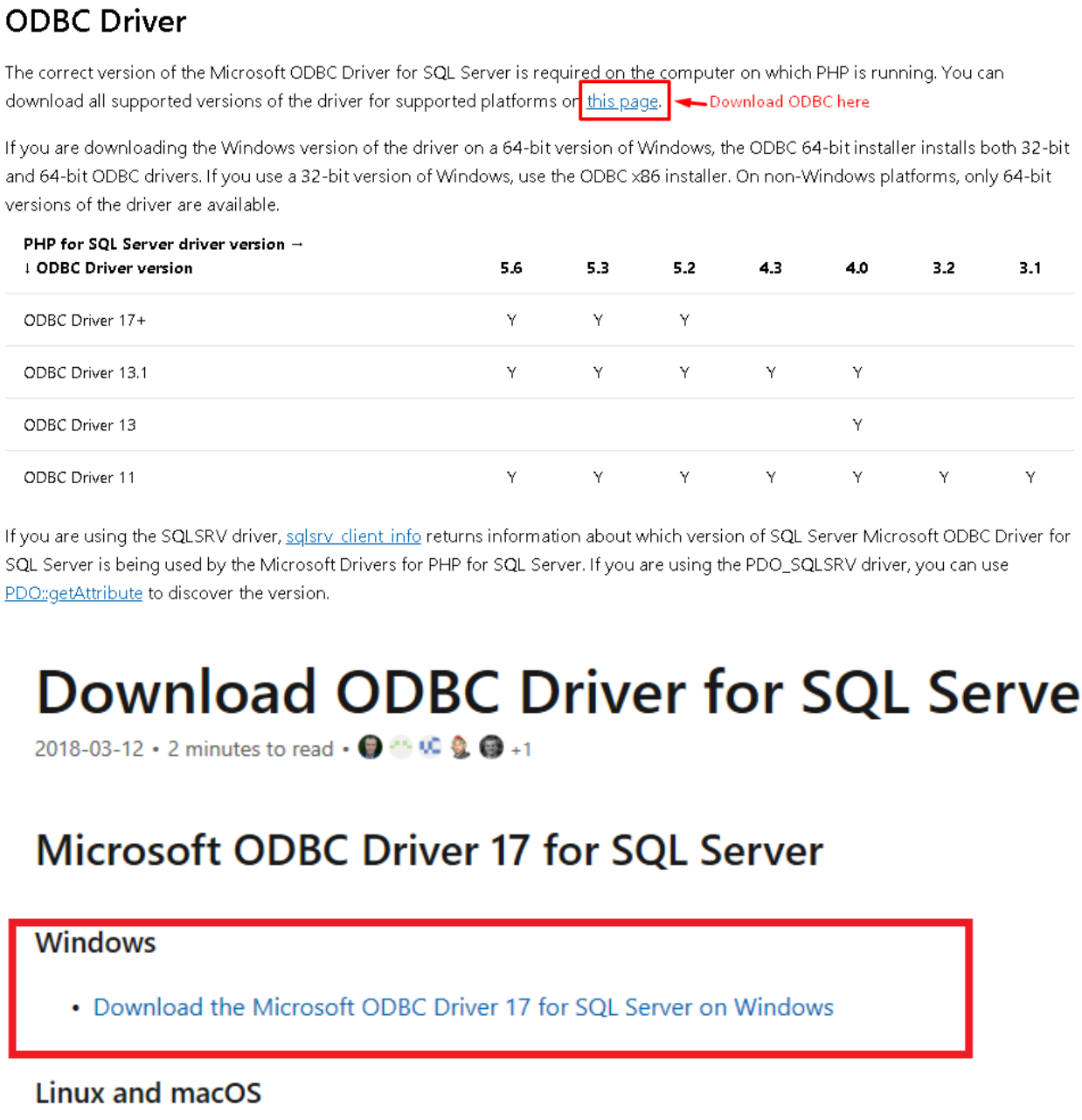
PHP for SQL Server driver version → / ↓ PHP version	5.6	5.3	5.2	4.3	4.0	3.2	3.1
7.3	7.3.0+						
7.2	7.2+[1]	7.2+[1]	7.2+[1]				
7.1	7.1.0+	7.1.0+	7.1.0+	7.1.0+			
7.0		7.0.0+	7.0.0+	7.0.0+	7.0.0+		
5.6						5.6.4+	
5.5	If you installed PHP 7.3, you can use only version 5.6					5.5.16+	5.5.16+
5.4						5.4.32	5.4.32

SQL Server

Azure SQL Databases are supported. For information, see Connecting to Microsoft Azure SQL Database.

PHP for SQL Server driver version → / ↓ SQL Server version	5.6	5.3	5.2	4.3	4.0	3.2	3.1
Azure SQL Database	Y	Y	Y	Y			
Azure SQL Managed Instance	Y	Y	Y	Y			
Azure SQL Data Warehouse	Y	Y	Y	Y			
SQL Server 2017	Y	Y	Y	Y			
SQL Server 2016	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y		
SQL Server 2014	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
SQL Server 2012	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
SQL Server 2008 R2	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
SQL Server 2008	If you choose 5.6 version, you an use only SQL Server 2008 R2 and higher				Y	Y	Y

2. On the same page download the ODBC Driver



ODBC Driver

The correct version of the Microsoft ODBC Driver for SQL Server is required on the computer on which PHP is running. You can download all supported versions of the driver for supported platforms on this page. ← Download ODBC here

If you are downloading the Windows version of the driver on a 64-bit version of Windows, the ODBC 64-bit installer installs both 32-bit and 64-bit ODBC drivers. If you use a 32-bit version of Windows, use the ODBC x86 installer. On non-Windows platforms, only 64-bit versions of the driver are available.

PHP for SQL Server driver version → / ↓ ODBC Driver version	5.6	5.3	5.2	4.3	4.0	3.2	3.1
ODBC Driver 17+	Y	Y	Y				
ODBC Driver 13.1	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y		
ODBC Driver 13					Y		
ODBC Driver 11	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y

If you are using the SQLSRV driver, sqlsrv_client_info returns information about which version of SQL Server Microsoft ODBC Driver for SQL Server is being used by the Microsoft Drivers for PHP for SQL Server. If you are using the PDO_SQLSRV driver, you can use PDO::getAttribute to discover the version.

Download ODBC Driver for SQL Server

2018-03-12 • 2 minutes to read • +1

Microsoft ODBC Driver 17 for SQL Server

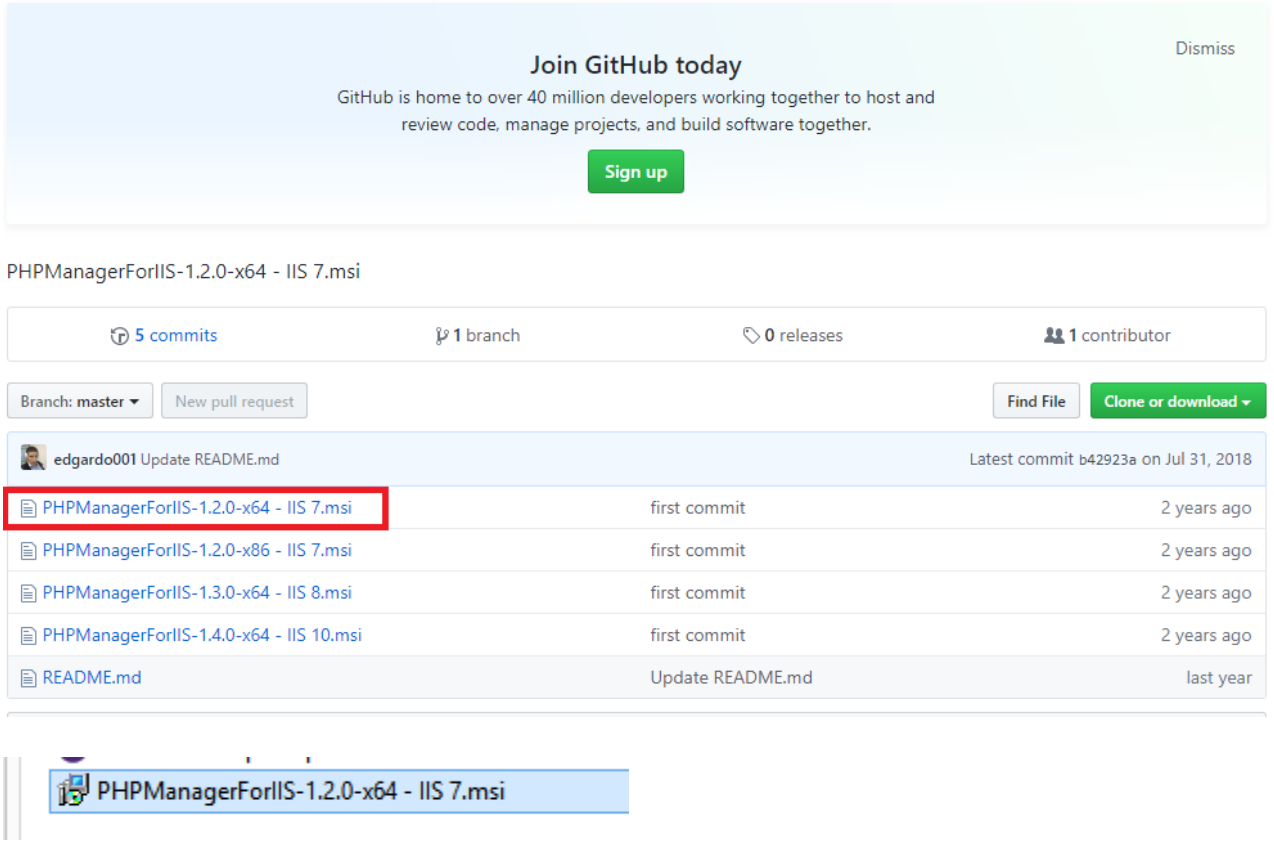
Windows

- Download the Microsoft ODBC Driver 17 for SQL Server on Windows

Linux and macOS

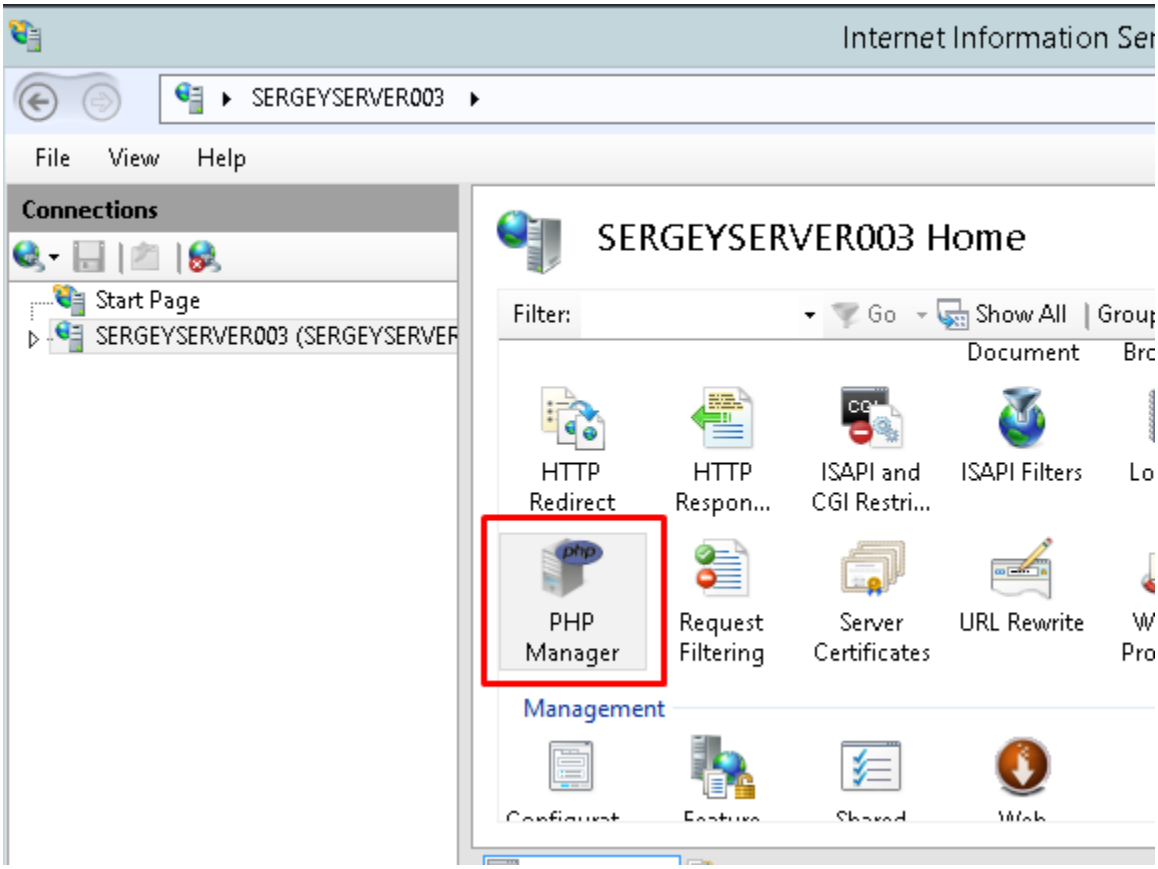
Download and install PHP manager

https://github.com/edgardo001/PHPManagerForIIS-Versiones

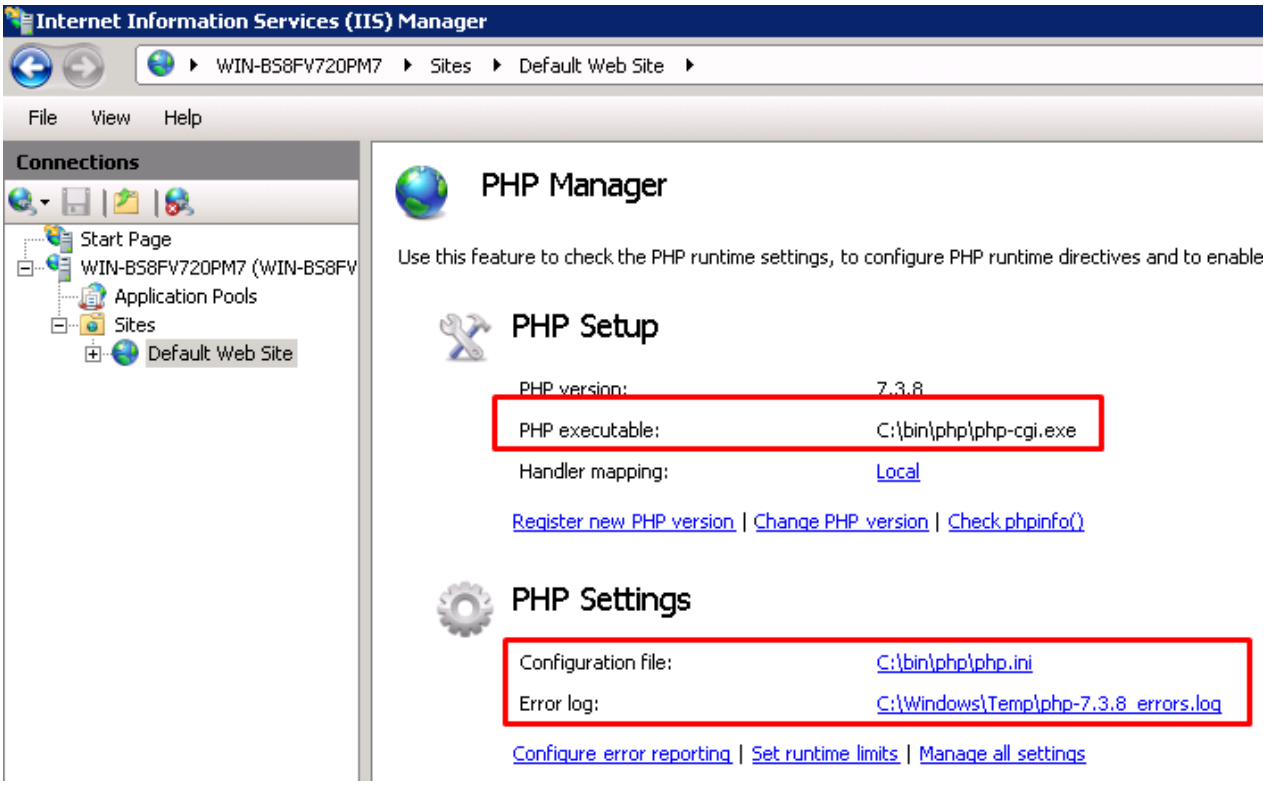


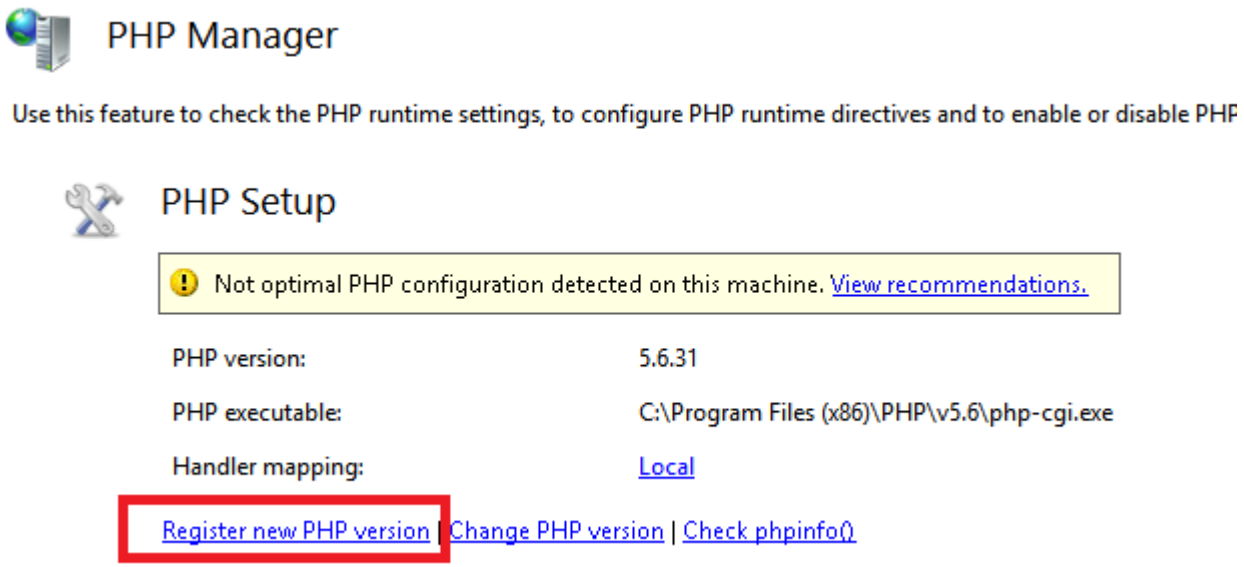
Double click the downloaded file to install

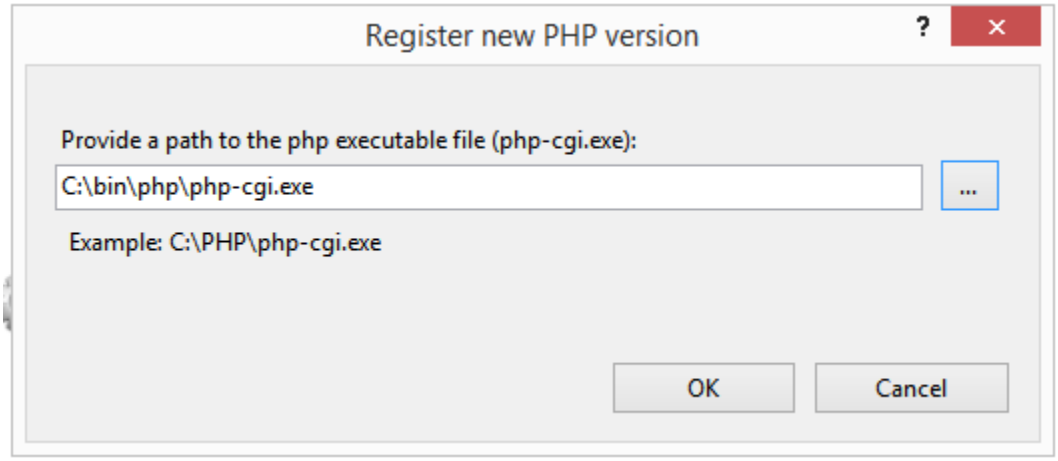
Open IIS Manager -> PHP manager



Configure PHP in PHP Manager






Register new PHP version
Provide a path to the php executable file (php-cgi.exe):
C:\bin\php\php-cgi.exe
...
Example: C:\PHP\php-cgi.exe
OK
Cancel