



Future-Proofing Operations with a Next-Gen Zebra RFID Solution

To "future-proof" an RFID deployment means moving away from fragmented, single-purpose hardware and transitioning to an integrated ecosystem. By utilizing Zebra's latest suite of scanners, mobile computers, tablets, and printers, organizations can establish an agile infrastructure capable of handling today's basic inventory counts and tomorrow's AI-driven analytics.

1. Enterprise Tablets: Zebra ET401: The ET401 tablet serves as the analytical and operational command center for floor managers, retail associates, and field technicians.

- **The Future-Proof Edge:** Powered by the Qualcomm Dragonwing™ Q-6690 processor, it delivers a massive 42% performance boost over older models to natively support cloud-based AI applications.
- **Integrated RFID:** It features a newly integrated short-range RFID reader capable of scanning 90 tags per second up to 4 feet away, drastically reducing the need to purchase and manage separate Bluetooth RFID sleds.
- **Longevity:** Designed with an unsurpassed 8-year life expectancy (4 years of sale availability plus 4 years of extended support), ensuring a unified deployment model for nearly a decade.

2. Mobile Computers: Zebra TC501 & TC701: These mobile computers are the ultra-rugged, everyday workhorses for frontline workers moving quickly through the warehouse, plant floor, or yard.

- **The Future-Proof Edge:** By incorporating the latest wireless standards (Wi-Fi 7, 5G Release 17, and Bluetooth 6.0), the TC501 and TC701 ensure zero bottlenecks when querying massive ERP databases in real-time or running augmented reality (AR) picking apps.
- **Seamless Data Capture:** Featuring integrated UHF RFID capabilities alongside standard imager optics, workers can seamlessly transition between scanning a damaged 1D/2D barcode and bulk-reading an entire pallet of RFID-tagged goods with a single device.

3. Data Capture Scanners: Zebra DS82: For point-of-sale, quality assurance triage, or high-volume inspection stations, the DS82 scanner provides hyper-focused precision.

- **The Future-Proof Edge:** Traditional barcode scanners are giving way to multi-modal data capture. The DS82 series bridges this gap, allowing operations to handle legacy barcodes reliably while being optimized for immediate RFID data capture. It serves as a critical transitional tool as upstream suppliers increasingly mandate RFID-tagged shipments.

4. Industrial Encoders & Printers: Zebra ZT411r & ZD621r: An RFID system is entirely dependent on the quality of the tags it encodes. The ZT411r and ZD621r handle the critical origin point of the data ecosystem.

- **The Future-Proof Edge:** The ZT411r features Zebra's exclusive RFID On-Metal Tagging Solution. This allows you to successfully print and encode thicker tags for metal containers, IT assets, and liquid-filled vessels—materials that historically disrupted and blocked RF signals.
- **Scalability:** Both printers leverage Zebra's Print DNA and Link-OS. This means they can be managed remotely, integrated directly into major database systems without requiring custom middleware, and adjusted dynamically as your encoding volumes scale.

5. Go Zebra Trade In: Future-proofing your hardware shouldn't break the bank. The GO Zebra Trade-In Program allows operations to trade in outdated technology—including competitor devices—for cash rebates to apply directly toward next-generation hardware.

- **Cost Offsetting:** You can earn up to \$600 per qualifying device, greatly reducing the capital expenditure of upgrading your fleet.
- **Simplified Sustainability:** Zebra covers the shipping and handles the secure, proper recycling of your legacy devices, helping your operations meet green initiatives with zero extra effort.

6. Everything is serialized with RFID. How well does your current system handle this? Moving to RFID means transitioning from basic SKU-level barcode tracking to individual item serialization (where every single product has a unique Electronic Product Code).

- **The Data Surge:** This shift generates a massive, exponential increase in database volume. Scanning a single pallet goes from one barcode read to instantly capturing hundreds of serialized data points.
- **System Readiness:** You must evaluate if your current backend (WMS/ERP) can process this real-time data influx without bottlenecking. This is exactly why investing in edge devices with advanced computing architectures and next-gen connectivity (Wi-Fi 7/5G) is critical—they ensure heavy data loads are processed and transmitted instantaneously.

Device Category	Zebra Model(s)	Primary Function	Key Future-Proofing Differentiator
Tablet	ET401	Merchandise	Inventory audit & Shipping verification
Mobile Computer	TC501, TC701	High-Mobility	Inventory, receiving, & shipping
Scanner	DS82	Point-of-Sale	Work in progress
Printer	ZT411r, ZD621r	Tag Generation & Encoding	On-Metal tagging capabilities; remote AI telemetry