Mag Strip encoding Specs 0711

The following specifications are in compliance with the ISO 3554/ANSI 4.16-1976 standards for card data formatting.

TRACK 1

Field	Length	Description
Start Sentinel	1	Always "%" (ASCII 37)
Format Code	1	Always 'B' (ASCII 65)
Card Number	16	Card Number provided by NMS
Field Separator	1	Always "^" (ASCII 63)
End Sentinel	1	Always "?" (ASCII 94)

Eg: If the card number provided is 9000800070006000 the card would be encoded as... %B9000800070006000^?

TRACK 2

Field	Length	Description
Start Sentinel	1	Always ";" (ASCII 59)
Card Number	16	Card Number provided by NMS
Field Separator	1	Always "=" (ASCII 61)
End Sentinel	1	Always "?" (ASCII 94)

Eg: If the card number provided is 9000800070006000 the card would be encoded as... ;9000800070006000=?

TRACK 3

Track 3 is not used by any of our applications at this time. Swiping a card in a magnetic reader should give the following result. %B9000800070006000^?;9000800070006000=?

Card numbers provided by SparkBase are sent as a Comma Separated Value (csv) text file. This file is easily readable by any card production facility. It is important that the file is NOT opened in Microsoft Excel. Doing this could change the numbers and render them useless. Opening them in a simple text editor such as "Notepad" is recommended if they MUST be opened. The CSV file contains a header line with the three fields, followed by the data.

Field	Description
Start Sentinel	Card Sequence Number Used for batch activations and internal tracking
Format Code	Card Number Unique Card Number
Card Number	PIN Number for the card Used in Internet transactions

SEQ	NUM	PIN
0001	9000800070006000	3250
0002	9000800070006301	3875

CARD IMAGING

It is important to make sure that the card number and PIN number are clearly printed on the back of the card. We require adding the text "PIN: " before the pin number so it is not confused with the Sequence number, that can also be 4 digits. The following diagram has the approved locations for the 3 fields.