

Case study

Coventry University turns to the ElitePad for productivity on the move



HP ElitePads enable users to work effectively at home and on campus

Industry
Education

Objective

Coventry University wanted to introduce tablet devices that could easily integrate with its wider Windows® architecture

Approach

As an existing HP customer, it piloted the HP ElitePad 900 before deploying 80 units to staff across multiple departments

IT matters

- The HP ElitePads seamlessly integrate with the existing IT architecture so connecting them to the network is simple
- Each device can be installed and configured in a matter of minutes
- Users can enjoy a full working day on one single battery charge and get up to an additional 12 hours by using the productivity jacket

Business matters

- Users can be ten per cent more productive because they can now work effectively from anywhere
- By removing the need for multiple devices, the university is saving money
- The inherent mobility of the ElitePad is a distinct advantage for users who move from office to lecture hall to library to home



“The HP ElitePad is a cost-effective, flexible and rugged device that is giving our users a traditional desktop experience regardless of their location.”

– Neil Shorthouse, head of local delivery, Coventry University

Coventry University is deploying HP ElitePads for increased productivity and mobility

The HP ElitePad 900 with docking station and productivity jacket provides users with a traditional desktop experience with a device that weighs less than a kilo. It seamlessly connects to the wider infrastructure to give access to all critical data and services.





Challenge

Introducing more flexible tablets on campus

Coventry University is a public research university in the city of Coventry, England. It has over 30,000 students and two campuses: one in the city centre of Coventry where a large majority of the university operates and one in London. The university comprises three faculties and one school and manages a number of commercial subsidiaries that provide business services to local and national organisations.

The university began equipping staff with tablets several years ago but was frustrated that the leading model on the market could not be integrated with its Microsoft® infrastructure. It wanted to find a flexible, portable device that could be easily connected to its servers by running on a Windows® platform.

“Our existing tablets simply could not communicate with the back-end architecture, which limited their usefulness. We were waiting for a tablet that would run on ‘Windows 8®’ to address the challenges we were facing,” explains Neil Shorthouse, head of Local Delivery, Coventry University. “We moved to HP desktops three years ago and were happy with the products and service provided so it was natural for us to turn to HP for advice on tablets.”

With the introduction of the Windows 8 HP ElitePad 900, the university knew it could be a potentially ideal solution. It bought eight units in order to test their functionality.

Solution

Flexible, seamless mobility

Following a successful pilot which saw the initial ElitePads seamlessly integrated into the wider architecture, different departments heard about the new devices and expressed interest in deploying them. The Faculty of Health and Life Sciences in particular has people on placements in the medical field for whom tablets are especially useful. It purchased 50 ElitePads, complete with docking stations and productivity jackets.

“The accessories are what make the ElitePad so flexible and allow us to tick more boxes without investing in multiple devices, thus keeping costs under control,” adds Shorthouse. “Our Director of IT uses it as his sole device and for a standard office user, the ElitePad with docking station meets all their needs without the necessity of a desktop or laptop.”

Shorthouse is also impressed by the ease with which the ElitePads can be deployed: “They work out of the box. I simply install Office, connect to the domain and that’s it. The whole process takes less than an hour and with the standardised image we are now using, it can be done in minutes.”

Customer solution at a glance

Hardware

- 80 x HP ElitePad 900 16GB Tablet
- Docking Stations
- Productivity Jackets



For departments where higher levels of processing are required, such as engineering and design, the university is looking at the HP ElitePad Revolve 810, an ultra-thin, full-performance Windows 8 notebook that transforms into a tablet. Shorthouse himself uses such a device and has found he can run graphics-intensive applications including Adobe® Premier and perform real-time video editing without a problem.

Benefits

Productivity and flexibility

The university has so far bought 80 ElitePads and has been impressed by their durability and quality. A single battery charge will last a full working day, while the expansion pack provides up to a further 12 hours of continual use. The device is also rugged enough to withstand being dropped – important when you're working on a busy campus.

“The ElitePad makes people work more effectively, giving them the ability to work anywhere, anytime. By my calculations, people are up to ten per cent more productive thanks to the device,” says Shorthouse. “We're giving them a desktop experience regardless of location, which is ideal in an educational environment where people are always on the move around campus.”

The organisation is also seeing cost savings as a result of deploying the ElitePads: “Overall, it will definitely save us money because each user now needs only one device. Also, because we already have plenty of monitors, mice and keyboards, it makes using the docking station very cost-effective.”

As each user's primary device reaches end-of-life, they will have the option of switching to the HP ElitePad so Shorthouse envisions that in the coming years, their use will spread across the university. He is also looking at other HP solutions such as Managed Print Services and ultra-small desktops for students.

“I recently returned from the HP Discover event in Barcelona and saw many exciting developments that we can hopefully introduce to the university,” concludes Shorthouse. “I'm particularly keen to see the new version of the ElitePad. HP is constantly trying to improve its products, which means deploying and using the tablet will only get even easier.”

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