New mobile hardware solutions can increase staff productivity

Around the world, mobile devices are becoming increasingly popular and widespread. Look around and you will see tablets, smartphones, ultrabooks and netbooks being used by everyone.

But what if you are a professional, managing large data sets, running multiple virtual machines, designing the next generation of products or technologies, collecting and analyzing environmental data or monitoring large amounts of incoming variables? You will clearly need much more capable and powerful hardware than the average consumer.

The work of engineers, designers, operators and managers of municipal water and wastewater treatment systems, stormwater management, industrial/hazardous waste management and air pollution can be made easier and more productive by the use of capable mobile hardware. Teams, working with mobile workstations on their customers' sites or anywhere outside their offices, need a system to run multiple applications on multiple operating systems.

Eurocom has assisted many organizations with a strategy called "Engineering-on-the Go". When utilized properly, it can greatly reduce organizational costs while improving a company's ability to adapt to challenges.

Its advantages include:

1. Being able to design new products or address production problems anywhere in the world.

2. Offering customers engineering capacity onsite, anywhere.

3. Being able to receive feedback and making adjustments face-to-face with final users, customers, co-developers and other third parties.

4. Reduced time to market, downtime and development costs of projects.

5. Increased profitability and market share.

6. Improved compliance, timeliness and auditability of field-collected data.

Engineering-on-the-Go can be applied from a single engineer visiting a customer for a consulting session to a complete engineering team being deployed onsite for the full length of the project, and the monitoring and maintenance that follows.

Having powerful mobile workstations that are used to diagnose, simulate and solve issues are a must for companies that do not and cannot accept downtime.

Eurocom has defined three levels of Engineering-on-the-Go implementation: consulting, projects-based, and organizational-wide.

The consulting level can be applied by any size of engineering company and only requires a relatively small investment. A mobile workstation is acquired for an engineer or environmental worker, allowing the individual to perform on-the-go consulting activities or test his draft design with final users in the field.

The mid level of implementation is the act of applying the strategy on a project basis. By equipping an engineering team with mobile workstations for each individual engineer and a mobile server to contain the master file set, back up the data and provide a network for the team members, the company can provide its customers with the extra service of applying the team at a customer's site. This increases speed to market and reduces development costs.

The ultimate form of Engineering-on-the-Go implementation is to integrate it into the competitive strategy of the organization. This requires the organization to provide all its engineers with mobile workstations and have mobile servers available to apply to every project. This greatly increases the company's ability to adapt to changes in the global market.

Case study: Mechanical engineering

In the design and development of a massive development project, engineers benefited from the capacity and mobility of mobile workstations to adjust the original design, based on the feedback they received while face-to-face with customers, co-developers, final users and others.

Traditionally, engineers, product developers and designers are used to working on their office desktop workstations. Due to the limited capacity of laptops, engineers were unable to display or adjust their designs in real life on three-dimensional software programs during their visits. To process the feedback gathered in the field, the engineer would be forced to return to the office, adjust the design and receive feedback — a lengthy and inefficient process.

With capable mobile workstations, users are able to visit their different marketing and sales units (MSU) all around

the world and show their design to them in their CAD and 3D modeling programs. Engineers can process the feedback to the original designers and move on to the next MSU instead of having to stop by the office to make adjustments.

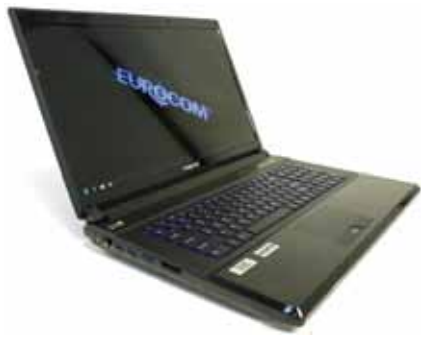
Case study: Infrastructure

A user in the infrastructure engineering industry deployed a whole team of engineers to customers' sites to design, construct and service such projects as a state-of-the-art power generation facility.

For the design process, this company had chosen to send a full team of engineers to the customer site for optimal communication between the client and the engineers. The design team for the development of a power plant consisted of various types of professionals.

The IT department of this company was pleased that the engineers all worked on a single hardware platform that made their support much easier, and they were still able to provide the engineers with mobile workstations that could be configured to fulfill their individual needs.

As well as the mobile workstation for each of the engineers, this team was



Eurocom has assisted many organizations with a strategy called "Engineering-on-the Go".

equipped with a Eurocom mobile server, making it possible for the different engineers to work together on location in an office-like environment. The direct communication with the client reduced the design process by 30%, compared to their traditional estimate.

During the construction phase of this project, mobile workstations replaced paper drawings normally used in the traditional construction process. Blueprints were no longer printed but were viewed directly on the screens of the mobile workstations. After completion of the construction phase, the mobile workstations were used to monitor the power plant's performance.

Emergency preparedness

Organizations with emergency relief operations and maintenance crews have to be prepared to get to a location on very short notice. These organizations need portable high-end computing to co-ordinate relief activities while on location.

Maintenance crews for engineering and environmental monitoring companies, large power generation installations, and factories, for example, need to be able to get to the scene within minutes of a problem or sign of a possible issue. Having powerful mobile workstations that are used to diagnose, simulate and solve issues are a must for companies that do not and cannot accept downtime.

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