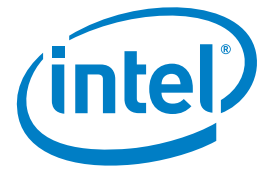CASE STUDY
Intel® Core™ i5 vPro™ Processor
Government/Public Sector
Mobility in the Enterprise

(intel®)

Navigating a mobile strategy

Ordnance Survey finds potential in Intel® technology-powered tablets for technical and customer-facing users

In 1791, the British government was concerned by the risk of invasion along its south coast. As part of its efforts to ensure it was protected against such an attack, it instructed its defense ministry, known as the Board of Ordnance, to carry out a detailed survey of the region to map it accurately. Eventually the whole country was mapped by this newly-formed Ordnance Survey. Today Ordnance Survey provides high-quality, detailed paper and digital maps for use by the government, business and individuals and has become a household name in the UK. Dealing with complex geographical data every day, it needs powerful and adaptable tools to ensure its team of cartographers, scientists and surveyors continue to produce the most up-to-date and accurate maps.

Ordnance Survey®

"Having Intel architecture and Windows 8 in this form factor is like having a tablet on steroids."

Phil Bridges
Senior GI Developer
Ordnance Survey

CHALLENGES

- **Improve access.** Seamlessly extend the workplace for mobile users by enabling full access to the corporate library of software applications and corporate document management system
- **Stay mobile.** Support diverse workforce in a variety of locations
- **Keep up-to-date.** Present Ordnance Survey as a modern technology business, in touch with the many technological means by which customers use its data

SOLUTIONS

- **Trial run.** Tested a tablet running Windows* 8, powered by Intel® Core™ i5 vPro™ processor
- **User experience.** The fast application performance improved employees' productivity
- **Touch-enabled.** New touch functionality was found to be highly intuitive and compelling
- **Easy to manage.** IT team can use the Intel® vPro™ platform[1] to manage new devices along with its existing fleet, lowering total cost of ownership

IMPACT

- **New opportunities.** The combination of the Intel® platform, Windows 8 and the tablet model means technical users can benefit from the efficiencies of mobile computing without compromising productivity
- **Satisfied users.** Sales staff and senior executives now have a modern and powerful means of staying connected and productive in the office, on the road and at home

Mapping while mobile

Ordnance Survey is a unique organization, carrying out specialist technical roles that involve the use of a number of complex GIS applications, including ESRI* and Pitney Bowes* geospatial software. These multi-threaded applications benefit from an architecture that enables them to operate at peak performance, while Ordnance Survey's central document management system – essential for employees to access and share mission-critical information – is only available on a Microsoft Windows-based environment.

The IT team has always ensured that the computing devices it provides to its employees support these requirements. As part of this commitment to always sourcing and using the most effective technology solutions to drive organizational efficiency, the IT team was interested in trying a tablet form factor that was capable of running its GIS applications.

Rising to the challenge

When the opportunity arose to trial a tablet powered by the Intel Core i5 vPro processor and running Windows 8, the IT team gave it to the pre-and post-sales support team for a few days. After a short learning curve to take into account the new features of Windows 8, the overall impression from those who tested it was positive.
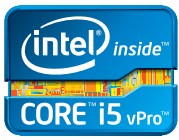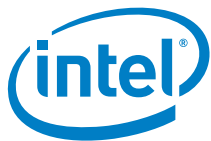
Ordnance Survey explores touch-enabled devices powered by Intel® Core™ i5 vPro™ processors and running Windows 8 for mobile map-makers

Phil Bridges, senior GI developer, was impressed by the user experience when evaluating the device, both in the office and at home. "The performance of the tablet was phenomenal," he recalls. "In fact it's the fastest I've seen many of our applications run on any device, even our geographical software and technical data. The responsiveness was great too – overall I was very pleasantly surprised and didn't want to give the device back."

Tim Morton, technical consultant, also had a chance to try out the device and found its touch-screen functionality very intuitive. "I wasn't sure whether I'd like it, but after a few hours of playing with it, I went home and found I was trying to touch the screen of my laptop so I'd obviously become used to it pretty quickly. I think having the combination of touch screen and keyboard in one device could be very compelling."

The battery life of the tablet was also appreciated, with one user reporting that he was able to take it home to use overnight without having to charge it.

Compatible and manageable

While a compelling user experience is, of course, essential to encourage employee adoption of any new device, Ordnance Survey was also eager to ensure any touch-enabled devices combining Intel technology and Windows 8 met its IT requirements.

"We've got a large number of applications in use across the organization," explains Morton. "It's very time consuming to test them all for compatibility with any new environment. Then if they're not compatible, of course, it's more work for us to make any necessary updates. It's therefore valuable for us to have a clear migration path from Windows 7 to Windows 8."

He continues: "Security is of vital importance to us; we must have devices that can be locked down with Bitlocker* encryption and Microsoft Group Policy*. We'd be interested in looking at convertible models as well, that have a removable keyboard to combine the best of laptops and tablets in one device."

Overall, the team was excited about the potential benefits the trial device opened up. "Having the Intel architecture and Windows in this form factor is like having a tablet on steroids," Bridges says. "It gives the sales and executive teams the opportunity to position themselves as users of innovative technology in a data-centric organization. Meanwhile, it also addresses the manageability and compatibility requirements that the IT department insists on – particularly as we can use the Intel vPro platform that comes with Intel Core i5 vPro processors to manage the devices remotely as we do with the rest of the fleet already. It also means that with a 64-bit architecture and multi-core processors we can achieve never-before-seen performance with our technical applications."

The team is looking forward to being able to offer the usability and efficiency benefits of the touch-enabled tablet model to even the most technical users within Ordnance Survey, who until now have been limited to the more hefty form factors to achieve the performance they need for their core applications.

The road ahead

Ordnance Survey is now considering how and where this sort of device can be most effectively deployed. Besides offering them to senior executives, the team also sees the sales team and anyone with a customer-facing role, as well as those involved in internal training, as being among the potential user group.

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