

Case study

Delia Group of Schools transforms classrooms with tablet PCs



HP ElitePads and Classroom Manager provide interactive learning environment

Industry

Education

Objective

Use the latest tablet PC technology to support independent student learning

Approach

Issued a tender and reviewed proposals from tablet PC vendors

IT matters

- Enabled teachers to monitor student activity, distribute files and carry out surveys with HP Classroom Manager software
- Simplified deployment and management of tablet PCs with HP ElitePads' built-in security features

Business matters

- Provided complete solution, including hardware, software, deployment, training and technical support
- Kept costs low with solution that can be managed by existing team of teachers
- Put in place the technology that will enable students to move towards a more independent style of learning



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– Lam Kwing-Yin, deputy executive director and CIO, Delia Group of Schools



Student-led learning through tablet PCs

Delia Group of Schools wanted to help its students move towards a more independent style of learning. To achieve this, it decided to give tablet PCs to all students and teachers. It selected a solution based on HP ElitePad tablet PCs and HP Classroom Manager software, which is reliable and easy to manage.



Challenge

Independent learning

Founded in 1965, Delia Group of Schools now runs five secondary schools, two primary schools, two kindergartens, and an international school. It has 600 teachers and staff, and around 7,000 students.

Delia has a focus on independent learning, and wanted to use the latest technology to support this. Lam Kwing-Yin, deputy executive director and CIO, Delia Group of Schools says, "The ultimate goal for us is for every student to learn in their own way and at their own pace, and e-learning can help us achieve this."

The group therefore decided to deploy tablet PCs for all staff and students in its five schools over a three-year period. It needed a platform that was secure and easy to manage, and would enable teachers to monitor and customise the e-learning environment for each student.

Solution

Complete solution backed by vision of team

For its tablet PCs, Delia selected a solution based on the HP ElitePad with HP Classroom Manager software. To start the rollout, the group purchased 1,400 HP ElitePad 900 tablet PCs, which were provided to students and staff of Form 1 and Form 4 (ages 11 to 15).

The ElitePads run Windows® 8 and provide 32GB of solid state disk storage. Each tablet PC is bundled with Microsoft® Office.

The tablet PCs are loaded with HP Classroom Manager, which enables teachers to monitor students' activity on applications and the web, as well as to distribute files and carry out surveys.



“We chose HP because it was able to provide a complete solution, including deployment on our network and training, as well as regular technology updates – HP is a trustworthy brand and we believe in their product quality,” says Lam. “We also liked HP Classroom Manager and its device management capabilities.”

Another key factor was the strong relationship HP developed with the group, and the consultancy and advice it provided. Lam comments, “The HP team shared the same vision with us on improving education, and we saw they could work with us to improve how we use ICT, rather than just providing us with the tablet PCs.”

HP worked closely with Delia to deliver the solution. It has provided technical support and a three year parts and labour warranty.

Benefits

Easy to deploy and manage

The HP ElitePad 900 includes built-in security features that makes it easy to deploy and manage, and protects the device, its data and user identity.

The tablet PCs have been designed for mobility and durability, and have met military-standard testing for drop, vibration, dust and temperature.

Delia is developing e-learning content for students that can be delivered on the tablet PCs. HP provided training to staff, starting with a seed group of 90 teachers who put together concerted effort to support the development of e-learning. HP and Delia meet regularly and work as a team to ensure the e-learning environment works smoothly.

“Excluding the spending on infrastructure, hardware and software, we have not invested a lot in other resources,” says Lam. “Everything has been done by our existing team of teachers.”

Customer solution at a glance

Application

Microsoft® Office

Hardware

• HP ElitePad 900 tablet PC

Software

• HP Classroom Manager

HP services

- Training for tablet PCs
- Three year parts and labour warranty

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Teachers as facilitators

According to Lam, the tablet PCs are helping students to learn at their own pace, and teachers are moving into more of a role as facilitators who motivate the students to acquire knowledge.

“Today’s teaching is no longer simply unidirectional – instead, we need to let the students develop on their own, to seek knowledge and to learn independently,” says Lam. “We can assist them to move along this direction, and the tablets and the infrastructure we have set up will help students to develop towards this goal.”

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