

Case Study

German Federal Employment Agency

“The main reason we chose to use Fujitsu ESPRIMO Q920 mini PCs rather than desktops was that they are far more energy efficient, and therefore fit in with our ‘Green IT’ strategy. Other important factors were their compact size and light weight.”

Günther Maas, User Services Manager – IT Service Workplace Products, German Federal Employment Agency IT systems house



The customer

The German Federal Employment Agency's (Bundesagentur für Arbeit - BA) IT systems house is responsible for ensuring that the IT processes in the Agency's local branch offices run reliably. Based at its headquarters in Nuremberg, its 2,100 employees help to facilitate the Agency's business operations at offices across the country. The Federal Employment Agency's system landscape comprises 160,000 networked PC workplaces, 9,500 self-service "info terminals" and 9,000 servers. The Agency also operates three highly available data centers in Nuremberg, a modern wide area network and in-house communication networks. The main challenges that the systems house faces are the size and complexity of the infrastructure and ensuring that the Agency's IT services run reliably, as its success depends heavily on their quality and performance.

The challenge

The German government's "Energy Transition" project is imposing ambitious targets on the country's public sector, including achieving a 40 percent reduction in the energy consumed by its IT systems. "At the Federal Employment Agency, we have already reached this target, but we want to do more," says Günther Maas, User Services Manager in the IT Service Workplace Products department at the Federal Employment Agency IT systems house. When the Agency decided it was time to replace all of its workstations, info terminals and developer PCs, Maas knew that energy efficiency would be a crucial factor in the decision as to which new devices to purchase. "We don't just set guidelines for energy efficiency, we monitor them as we go along and call for improvements if they are no longer being met," explains Maas. The FUJITSU Desktop ESPRIMO Q920 mini PC impressed the Agency with its low idle energy consumption of just six watts. This not only reduces power demands, but also operating costs. For a conventional desktop PC, electricity costs run to around €8.50 per year, but for a mini PC, this is just slightly over €3. The Agency also wanted to ensure that any new devices would be able to run stably and reliably in the local offices. So additional requirements such as robustness and low noise pollution levels were also taken into account during the decision-making process.

The customer

Country: Germany
Industry: Public services
Website: www.arbeitsagentur.de



The challenge

Replace the entire computer infrastructure in the German Federal Employment Agency branch offices, taking into account the German government's requirement for all of its public bodies to increase the energy efficiency of their IT systems.

The solution

Purchased 141,000 FUJITSU Desktop ESPRIMO Q920 mini PCs rather than conventional desktops or laptops.

The benefit

- Low energy consumption
- Compact size allows for more space on employees' desks
- Robust devices with low amounts of downtime
- Compact size and light weight means that the devices are portable enough for mobile working
- Low storage space requirements

Products and services

- 141,000 x FUJITSU Desktop ESPRIMO Q920
- Customer-specific software preinstalled on the devices retrieves all of the required applications from the servers as soon as the client is installed
- Fixed MAC address for each desktop, printed on the device packaging
- Fixed BIOS version
- Development and integration of a security function specially requested by the customer
- Specific logistics: delivery in large batches to simplify the rollout and installation, sustainable reduction in packaging volumes (environmental targets)

The solution

The Agency now has a total of 141,000 FUJITSU Desktop ESPRIMO Q920 mini PCs which it uses in four different ways: as info terminals, as desktop computers, as developer PCs and as proxies. The rollout was completed in late November 2015. The devices designated as info terminals were adapted slightly to make them suitable, including the addition of special speakers. Fujitsu was contracted to complete the entire rollout. The company's wealth of experience in logistics was a key factor in the Federal Employment Agency's decision due to the large volume of devices it was purchasing. The devices were delivered in large batches on pallets, with the software required for the individual workstations preinstalled. This meant that the staff could load the Agency's specific software as soon as the ESPRIMO Q920s had arrived and been connected to its network.

The benefit

The ESPRIMO Q920 mini PC Low Power Active Mode means it is incredibly energy-efficient to run. The compact size of the device not only means more space on the employees' desks, but also puts the Agency in an excellent position to cope with future workplace concepts. For example, if an employee does not always work at the same office, they can take their desktop computer with them rather than an additional, more expensive laptop. Employees can therefore work wherever they need to without the Agency having to purchase additional hardware or software. The two-pin cable also means that the computers do not need a special plug adapter, again making them lighter and more space-efficient. A special concept used in the design of the ESPRIMO Q920 mini PC's fan makes it extremely quiet, which in turn makes the office a more pleasant place to work.

Another factor that played a key role in the decision was the device's compact size. This not only reduces the amount of space required on the employees' desks, but also the amount required for logistics and on-site storage. "It was also important to us that fewer materials were used during manufacturing than for conventional devices," says Maas. Cost-effectiveness was another equally important factor for the Agency, and the excellent lifecycle costs of the ESPRIMO Q920 made it a very competitive option.

Conclusion

141,000 workplaces at the Federal Employment Agency were fitted with FUJITSU Desktop ESPRIMO Q920 mini PCs. This has not only dramatically increased the Agency's energy efficiency, but has also improved its flexibility and reduced lifecycle costs. The computers are robust and light, and can be used for mobile working if needed.

Contact

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