

A Sound Investment

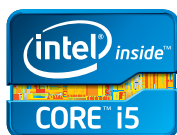
Unipol Financial Group finds potential for more responsive system management with Intel Inside®, touch-enabled tablets with Microsoft Windows® 8



Unipol
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Morgan Travi
Director of IT Infrastructure
Unipol Financial Group



Microsoft

Company

Unipol Financial Group SpA (UFG) is one of the leading financial groups in the Italian insurance and banking sector. With more than six million customers and investors and over 7,000 retail outlets, it has collected around EUR 8.9 billion in premiums. The group also operates a range of banking services.

Challenge

With 7,500 employees spread across the country, UFG's IT team needs to keep a lot of users, across a number of member businesses, happy. Many employees need high performance from their computing devices to cope with mission-critical applications and customer-facing processes. However, the tradeoff for high performance was often a limited battery life.

The ideal device for the Unipol Group is one that offers good performance, as well as a battery that will last the entire work day.

Solution

The organization took the opportunity to evaluate a Samsung* tablet and an Ultrabook™ device, both powered by Intel® Core™ i5 processors and running the Windows 8 operating system. Besides the devices' portability and battery life, a fundamental consideration was their ability to align smoothly with UFG's security policies, such as joining the company domain, being easily updatable with security patches and enabling the central management of antivirus efforts. The organization found that the Windows-based devices met these needs in a way no other tablet device has yet done, enabling it to be completely compliant with minimal administrative effort.

Benefits

In testing some touch devices based on Intel Core i5 processors and Microsoft Windows 8, UFG's first impression was extremely positive. The combination of mobility and integrated 3G card met the organization's two main business needs – having an Internet connection at all times and being able to respond immediately and securely to requests.

Testers noted that the touchscreen feature enabled fast and accurate interaction with core applications, making the Ultrabook as effective as a traditional desktop or laptop PC and making it an excellent content creation tool. The tablet's higher degree of flexibility made it ideal for employees who need to manage systems while on the move.

Morgan Travi, director of IT infrastructure for UFG, concludes: "We are thinking of implementing the devices for our system administrators. The ability to stay securely connected to the company network, regardless of location, is a strategic move that will give us a competitive edge. Moreover, we have high expectations for both the potential of Windows 8 and the new convertible touch devices, which combine the mobility typical of a tablet with the notebook-level performance of the Ultrabook in one single device."

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