An education in mobile computing

Digital content provider identifies the Lenovo Twist* Ultrabook™ powered by Intel® technology as the best device for its software

Héctor Ruiz-Martin, General Manager, Digital Text

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Company

Digital Text specializes in the creation and commercialization of digital and multimedia textbooks for schoolchildren in Spain. It began as a spin-off of the University of Barcelona’s Omnium cellula magazine for biology students and it now offers Web-based content for learners at primary and secondary levels, covering a wide range of subjects.

Challenge

Digital Text takes a strong interest in the wider context in which its products are used. "Doing interactive exercises on current tablets and notebooks can be difficult," explains Héctor Ruiz-Martin, general manager, Digital Text. "They don’t work well with Flash* as they have low processing power. The moving elements aren’t fluid and there can be a delayed response that detracts from the user experience. A simple exercise can become an odyssey, and when this happens you’re not going to persevere – you’re going to leave and do something else."

For this reason, Digital Text wanted to evaluate the performance and usability of its programs on the latest mobile computing devices, which are increasingly used in the classroom. "It’s absolutely imperative that we make our software usable in the classroom for both teachers and students," adds Ruiz-Martin.

Digital Text customers often rely on the company’s advice about which devices are best suited to make optimum use of its content, so it needed to be sure it was making the most appropriate and up-to-date recommendations.

Solution

Digital Text ran an evaluation of a number of mobile computing devices, including the Lenovo Twist* convertible Ultrabook™ powered by Intel® Core™ i5 processor and running the Microsoft Windows® 8 operating system. It needed the device it chose to be lightweight and relatively compact to fit onto a student’s desk along with other resources and more traditional textbooks.

Benefits

The team at Digital Text was particularly impressed with the new device’s performance. "It demonstrated optimum performance, with fantastic speed when starting it up and opening our applications," comments Ruiz-Martin. "It was really fluid with elements like Flash and this was impressive. The device that I tested had the power of a desktop PC and it was clear that Flash was very responsive."

He adds: "The dual Windows 8 environment (for tablets and desktops) is very interesting for the educational sector, thanks to its flexibility and adaptability for any classroom environment. It was a great result for us, being able to use any type of format to deliver our programs and content. Indeed, everything we’ve tested with the Ultrabook has responded optimally and we’re now looking to develop a Windows 8-based application to deliver our content."

Another benefit was the device’s tactile experience. "It’s as good as using a mouse or touch-pad," concludes Ruiz-Martin. "Moreover the touch-based devices help encourage ‘learning by doing’ activities. Our digital content can help create these great experiences but a touch-enabled device with great performance is also a critical element."

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