Exploring the possibilities

Spanish local government trials the benefits of Intel® technology-driven Ultrabooks™ devices for mobile workers

COMPANY
Situated in the north of Spain, the region of La Rioja has about 323,600 inhabitants. With a long and illustrious tradition of wine production, the region is also well known for taking an innovative approach to using IT to support government operations and services. It is always on the lookout for new technologies that can help it cut costs and improve quality of life for the population.

CHALLENGE
As part of this ongoing commitment to technological improvement, the La Rioja government was interested in exploring the potential of Ultrabook™ devices as a mobile computing option across a number of departments. Employees in different areas have very different working styles and computing needs, but many of them, such as social workers and hospital staff, spend a lot of time on the move. High-performance, efficient mobile devices are essential for these groups.

SOLUTION
Intel and HP provided the La Rioja government with an HP EliteBook Folio 9470m™ Ultrabook, powered by the 3rd generation Intel® Core™ i5 vPro™ processor. The organization ran a number of trials and demos to assess the capabilities of the device’s various features, including:

• A Belkin ScreenCast* TV Adapter and HDMI/VGA connector were used with Intel® Wireless Display (Intel® WiDi) to test the possibility of conducting secure “no wires” meetings.

• A virtualization demo using Windows* 8 Pro showed that two virtual environments can be run on the same device, one with Windows 7 and the other one with Windows 8. In this way the user can run both a work and a personal environment on the same device.

• An Intel® vPro™ platform demo illustrated remote manageability features.

• Intel® Identity Protection Technology (Intel® IPT) was also tested, to evaluate the use of public key infrastructure (PKI) for VPN access for secure login.

BENEFITS
The testing that La Rioja carried out has raised a number of possibilities for further deployment. “We are thinking about making the devices available to healthcare employees, among others,” comments Tomás Gómez Pérez, technological platforms and ITC support manager Information and Communications Department, La Rioja Government. “We’ve seen that the user-friendly, powerful Ultrabook™ devices would be an effective tool for them, and we’ve been impressed with the manageability and security features that we tested.”

Indeed, the organization already has a number of desktop PCs in place which are equipped with the Intel vPro platform. Activating the remote manageability capabilities in these and any new mobile devices would enable the IT team to manage its entire client fleet centrally, accurately and with minimal user downtime.

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