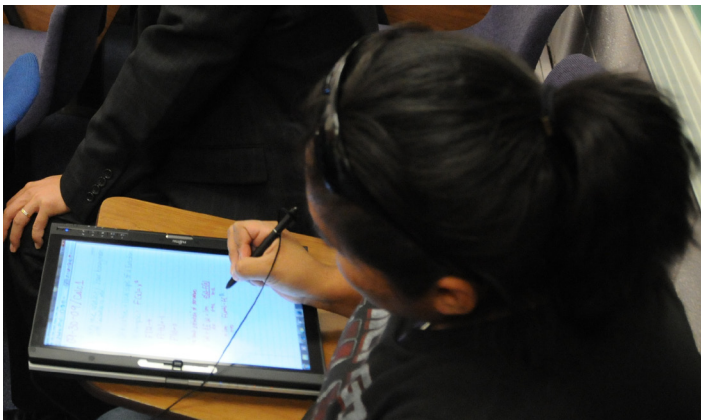


CASE STUDY

THE RUGGED AND VERSATILE FUJITSU TABLET PC PROVES BEST FOR SOUTH DAKOTA SCHOOL OF MINES AND TECHNOLOGY

“THEY (FUJITSU) HAVE TAKEN OUR IDEAS FOR HARDWARE CHANGES BACK TO THE MANUFACTURER IN ORDER TO POSSIBLY MAKE FUTURE CHANGES IN HARDWARE. ALL IN ALL, IT HAS BEEN A GREAT RELATIONSHIP WHICH I’M SURE WILL CONTINUE FAR INTO THE FUTURE.”

Bryan Schumacher, director of information and technology services at SDSMT



THE CUSTOMER:

The South Dakota School of Mines and Technology serves the people of South Dakota as their technological university. Its mission is to provide a well-rounded education that prepares students for leadership roles in engineering and science; to advance the state of knowledge and application of this knowledge through research and scholarship; and to benefit the state, region, and nation through collaborative efforts in education and economic development.

THE PROJECT:

Improve the learning environment by using robust technology that can run complex applications, encourage active participation and creativity in all aspects of the curriculum, and improve students’ ability to absorb and retain information.

THE SOLUTION:

Equip faculty and all 2,200 students with Fujitsu LIFEBOOK® Tablet PCs and fully integrate these computers into the curriculum.

BRINGING TECHNOLOGY TO THE CLASSROOM

In 2006, South Dakota School of Mines and Technology decided to implement a mandatory Tablet PC program on campus. In the Fall of 2006, all Freshmen were issued Tablet PCs, and the following years new Freshmen were brought on board. Now in 2010, all 2,200 students on campus are part of the Tablet PC program, and are carrying Tablet PCs to their classes.

OVERCOMING CHALLENGES

With the South Dakota School of Mines and Technology (SDSMT) being a top-level engineering university, they had many obstacles to overcome with their highly technical programs.

First SDSMT had to come up with a leasing program for their Tablet PCs. If the students own their Tablet PC, the School of Mines is no longer allowed to supply any site licensed software to that computer. Also, students would not be allowed access to the state network (where all the servers reside), so they would basically only have access to the internet and nothing else. Having the university own the Tablet PCs and lease them to the students solved all those problems.

In the classroom, the only computer that made sense at their institution was a Tablet PC – using the pen to take notes especially in classes like Calculus and Physics was the only real solution. First and foremost, the hardware had to be robust enough for students to not only use in their classrooms, but in labs and out in the field while working on many different computing intensive applications. Many of the students are involved in teams where the Electrical Engineering, Mechanical Engineering, Chemical Engineering, and Computer Science students all have to work together to achieve one common goal. The only way this is possible is to have a Tablet PC that can not only compile code, but run 3-D simulations of the models, create electronics boards for the projects, document all processes, as well as real time data acquisition.

LOOKING TO FUJITSU

Two years ago, Fujitsu came into the program. At that time, and still today, the Fujitsu LIFEBOOK Tablet PC was the only computer that could handle the extraordinary needs of the campus and the SDSMT high level software. They have been using Fujitsu T-series

Tablet PCs since the day Fujitsu entered the picture, and have been extremely pleased with the performance as well as the reliability of the Fujitsu LIFEBOOK Tablet PC. With any laptop program there are going to be issues and warranty work, but things went much smoother after the move to Fujitsu.

Also, standardizing to one brand allowed the School of Mines to have spare parts, battery stations, spare computers, etc. in their tech shop. So if there were any issues with a Tablet PC, they could get the student another working unit within minutes instead of weeks.

Since SDSMT runs their own Fujitsu service center, they maintain all the Tablet PCs right on campus. Students are never without a computer for their classes due to the replacement machines program which provides a replacement unit should the student have an issue which cannot be resolved on the spot. With the online ordering process, SDSMT is able to resolve any issue in a matter of days, which gets the replacement Tablet PC back into the system and ready to use again. The process has been a smooth one; in fact it is so smooth they currently take it for granted. Working with other vendors has not been as painless, so SDSMT is very pleased to have this relationship with Fujitsu.

“Fujitsu is also always listening to ideas and criticism, and takes them to heart. They have refined the online ordering of parts to help accommodate our needs. They have taken our ideas for hardware changes back to the design teams in order to possibly make future changes in hardware,” said Bryan Schumacher, director of information and technology services at SDSMT. “All in all, it has been a great relationship which I’m sure will continue far into the future.”

With the Tablet PC program maturing at SDSMT, they are beginning to see more innovative usage of the hardware in and out of the classroom. The faculty on campus is becoming more and more engaged in utilizing the technology in the classroom. Students are finding that they are not restricted to doing homework in a computer lab, but have the freedom to roam around the campus and always stay connected. Distant friends and family are no longer so distant, and having access to their software wherever and whenever they choose is a huge benefit to the student population. The program is still evolving, and will continue to do so over the years but the one thing that has remained solid over the past few years is the reliability of the Fujitsu products and the relationship with the Fujitsu team.

ABOUT FUJITSU AMERICA

Fujitsu America, Inc. is a leading ICT solutions provider for organizations in the U.S., Canada and the Caribbean. Fujitsu enables clients to meet their business objectives through integrated offerings including consulting, systems integration, managed services and outsourcing for enterprise applications, data center and field services operations, based on server, software, storage and mobile technologies. Fujitsu provides industry-oriented solutions for manufacturing, retail, healthcare, government, education, financial services and communications sectors.

For more information, please visit: <http://solutions.us.fujitsu.com/>

FUJITSU AMERICA, INC.

1250 East Arques Avenue
Sunnyvale, CA 94085-3470, U.S.A.
Telephone: 800 831 3183
or 408 746 6000
Fax: 408 764 5060
Web: solutions.us.fujitsu.com
Email: solutions@us.fujitsu.com

Fujitsu, the Fujitsu logo and LIFEBOOK are trademarks or registered trademarks of Fujitsu Limited in the United States and other countries. All other trademarks are the property of their respective owners.

Copyright ©2010 Fujitsu America, Inc.
All rights reserved.
FPC58-2825-01 10/10.
FCI_10.0983

