

Driving Mobility

European Automaker Test Drives Tablets to Spark Major Investment in Transforming its Workforce

A major European automotive manufacturer, with more than 180,000 employees and revenues over €50bn, transforms its vehicle testing processes with a mobile workforce solution based on Microsoft Windows 10 tablets powered by Intel technology.

Sogeti successfully established the case for transformation with an initial proof of concept (PoC). The company first tested the tablets and a custom application to replace handwritten notes used by testing engineers, before fully mapping and managing the company's change trajectory.

The success of the project gained wider strategic importance within the company. With the help of Sogeti and the client's positive experience with Windows 10, the entire organization is migrating to the new operating system (OS).

The Challenge

The company's technicians and inspectors are responsible for carrying out the essential work of qualifying faults in pre-production vehicles and prototypes. They were using outdated, paper-based processes to record their findings and feed back to the production teams. Faults were recorded on handwritten forms and datasheets before being manually loaded into the computer systems by back office staff. The process was slow, costly, and out of touch with their goal of being an efficient, connected workforce.

With no mobility strategy in place at the time, the company asked Sogeti to propose a pilot project using tablets and a custom-built application with the goal of digitizing and streamlining the entire process.

The Solution

The initial PoC consisted of a Windows application prototype that featured PDF generation, management and positioning of fault detection flags on digitally-rendered models, voice synthesis and recognition, and handwriting recognition.

The manufacturer chose Lenovo ThinkPad T10 tablets with Intel® Atom™ quad-core processors due to the familiarity of the Windows operating system and the processor's enterprise-grade performance, reliability and security features.

The new Intel Atom Processor Series integrates performance and collaboration features expected by today's connected workforce while delivering the security and management capabilities that IT requires. Designed for high-performance and lightweight devices, and to enable productive mobile workflows supported by long battery life, the processor series also helps lower total cost of ownership (TCO) by up to 24 percent compared to processors used in other tablets. This saving is realized through reduced software and management costs, and improvement in end-user productivity¹.

Sogeti helped the company fully understand its current workflows, exactly where and how digital transformation could make an impact, and created a personalized transformation trajectory roadmap. The plan included defining best practices for the development of a "universal Windows app", structuring of modern user interface (UI) screens, using Windows ergonomic and design principles, and validating current technology architecture to identify compatibility issues and challenges.

The PoC demonstrated its success by reducing the amount of time to input test data and make it available to the engineers. The company commissioned Sogeti to build out a full scale version of the application for its engineers with a long-term architecture that would maintain currency and enable new features over time.

While the scope and complexity of the application continued to grow, the company explored migrating the entire organization over to Windows 10. Sogeti developers redesigned the application—including the data input screens—to use the new features of Windows 10 universal applications such as the data access and business logic layers, and proposed architectures for PDF printing solutions. Sogeti also worked closely with Microsoft to help optimize the design using the Microsoft technical design and support package, which enhances a developer's user experience.

The Results

No longer relying on a paper-based workflow, company engineers now use the Windows 10 universal app to download listed vehicles for analysis, along with accompanying datasheets, directly to vehicle inspectors' tablets with just a couple of touches. Test engineers then directly input their test results, which are automatically synchronized to the back-office system and back to the product teams.

As with the application build, Sogeti also managed the Windows 10 migration process. With a total of 150 tablets now deployed, this positive experience with Windows 10 has convinced the company – with 71,000 systems worldwide – to move over to Windows 10 within the year.

Considering Windows 10 to move your digital transformation forward?

Let Sogeti guide you through the strategy and implementation of Windows 10 to maximize its powerful advantages across your enterprise. Why not exploit the most value from your Windows 10 OS:

- Improve productivity and minimize downtime
- Empower your employees with an enhanced workplace experience
- Deliver an exceptional customer experience with heightened service levels, responsiveness and technology
- Enable “real-time” decision making with better data and actionable insights
- Boost security and deliver seamless performance — anytime, anywhere, and on any device

Turn your digital transformation into a competitive advantage with Windows 10 and Sogeti.

The company also benefits from the knowledge transfer between its own development teams and those of Sogeti and Microsoft, particularly from the best development and ergonomic practices for Windows 10 applications. The technological validation of key functions and developing a user experience path (created with Microsoft at the Microsoft Technology Center) means that the company can be confident that its application aligns with the expectations of a technology-savvy workforce.

Businesses demand productivity while employees crave unprecedented freedom and access. They come together in the SMART WorkSpace, Sogeti's innovative end-to-end approach for workplace synergy. We can help build your digitally connected workforce from top to bottom, making it attainable, sustainable and affordable for you to boost agility, reduce IT costs, and provide a solid structure for growth.

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