



Spirit supplies Honeywell handheld computers to help Thinking Software to keep workforces safe

An innovative solution developed by Thinking Software will help to ensure that everyone who is present on an organisation's site is accounted for in the event of an emergency. Thinking Software approached Spirit Data Capture Limited to find a suitable handheld device for use with its unique roll-call and mustering system, MUSTERD. It subsequently chose Honeywell's Dolphin 70e Enterprise Digital Assistant (EDA) to provide real-time safety information in an emergency.

Thinking Software is an innovative supplier of business solutions that enhance workforce management as well as time and attendance monitoring. Its products are used by over half a million employees worldwide to reduce costs, boost efficiency and improve performance.

Is anything as keen as MUSTERD?

One of the company's latest software solutions is MUSTERD, a state-of-the-art system designed to ensure that an organisation can meet its responsibilities to safeguard its personnel in the event of an emergency. MUSTERD works in tandem with a company's own access control system to collect real-time information about the movement of employees, contractors and visitors around a site, so that their precise location is known if there is a fire or other emergency.

To ensure that the information is always available to the people who need it (Fire Marshalls, Safety Officers etc.), Thinking Software started searching for suitable handheld devices on which the software could be deployed. The company contacted Spirit Data Capture Limited, a consultancy that specialises in handheld solutions for mobile enterprises.

Steve Rothkopf, Managing Director of Thinking Software, explains: "We wanted handheld units with a Windows or Android Operating system. The devices needed to be robust, flexible and reliable and to be supported by a comprehensive repair and maintenance system."

Dolphins to the rescue

Spirit recommended the Honeywell Dolphin 70e, a rugged and reliable EDA. It has an IP rating of 67 and a Gorilla Glass touchscreen display that's highly resistant to damage. The handheld computer can run a Windows® Embedded Handheld 6.5 or a Google Android 4.0 operating system, and delivers full wireless coverage for internal or external applications.

The mobile devices were subsequently deployed by Thinking Software and have enabled MUSTERD to transform traditional approaches to roll-calls, which tend to use paper-based lists of personnel. These manual processes have many drawbacks – they are difficult to use; they are impractical in poor weather or in the dark; and if the access control system is damaged by fire or loss of power, they might not even be accessible.

With Thinking Software's new approach, there will constantly be a secure, real-time list of personnel on the site and their location. The Honeywell mobile devices will always be able to access this information, which helps to ensure that people throughout the site are safe and protected. The device users can instantly produce a list of any people whose safety might be in danger so that the emergency services can be notified.

MUSTERD achieves this by gathering location data about everyone on site and transmitting this rapidly and securely to the Cloud, and then back to the Dolphin 70e devices. The information is accessible even if the access control system has been disabled by an incident. Even after everyone is safe, MUSTERD continues to track their location.

"The Honeywell handheld computers have been working well," says Steve Rothkopf. "We've found that both fire drills and test evacuations are consistently faster and better managed using this new approach. Geoff Littler and his team at Spirit have provided an exceptionally helpful and professional service in providing support for our development programme. Nothing has been too much trouble, and we couldn't recommend them highly enough."



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