

Case study

IAVE deploys two-in-one PCs to facilitate ePIRLS examinations



The HP x2 210 provides full Windows® 10 functionality with physical keyboard, touchscreen, minimal footprint and extended battery life

Industry
Education

Objective

IAVE needed a portable, cost-effective personal device to enable students to participate in a new international survey of online reading and comprehension skills

Approach

The institution decided that a two-in-one tablet PC with detachable keyboard would provide the flexibility and mobility demanded by its country-wide examination schedule. It selected the HP x2 210 based on its performance, battery life and advanced functionality

IT matters

- Durable battery ensures the HP x2 210 can last over the course of the examination
- Zero downtime or hardware failure among 200 devices
- HDMI and USB 2.0 ports make it simple to connect mice and other accessories

Business matters

- Touchscreen, stylus and keyboard interface provide optimal flexibility for students
- Portability makes it easy to transport multiple devices between schools around Portugal
- Low price makes it an attractive proposition for schools which lack existing PCs



“The HP x2 210 has the battery life, functionality and versatility all wrapped up in a lightweight, small footprint, making it ideal for our purposes. We are beginning a new project with a number of private schools which have ordered a further 500 HP x2 210 devices to ensure it goes smoothly.”

– João Maroco, associate professor, IAVE

IAVE

HP x2 210 enables students to excel in international benchmark exams

IAVE has deployed 200 HP x2 210 PCs to test over 4,600 students across Portugal. Its long battery life, small footprint and keyboard interface have proven perfect for taking part in international ePIRLS examinations. Following this initial success, a further 500 devices have been purchased to facilitate a new e-Assessment test project in private schools.



Challenge

Testing online content comprehension

The Institute of Educational Assessment (IAVE), is a public institute endowed with scientific, administrative and financial autonomy dedicated to the fair and rigorous examination of the country's students as well as benchmarking their performance in relation to global counterparts.

This process involves the regular testing of a randomised set of pupils in order to measure their ability. A key pillar is PIRLS (Progress in International Reading Literacy Study), an assessment of reading comprehension that has been monitoring trends in student achievement since 2001. It represents the worldwide standard for reading comprehension at fourth grade level. As a new extension to PIRLS in 2016, ePIRLS – an innovative assessment of online reading – makes it possible for countries to understand how successful they are in preparing fourth grade students to read, comprehend and use online information.

“The premise of ePIRLS is to gauge how fourth grade students understand and use online content, however, very few of our elementary schools here in Portugal have computers on campus,” explains João Maroco, associate professor, the IAVE's National Research Coordinator for the international student assessment PISA, TIMSS and PIRLS studies.

“Although some students can visit a high school to participate in these tests, we also wanted to find a flexible device that we could easily transport between elementary schools that cannot transport students to the computer labs of high schools. We wanted to make sure that all students randomly selected throughout Portugal could participate in the ePIRLS study.”

Solution

Flexible two-in-one at low cost

IAVE evaluated a number of devices with several key criteria in mind, most importantly portability, long battery life and the inclusion of a physical keyboard. The HP x2 210 Detachable two-in-one PC proved to be the perfect solution.

“We were looking for a Windows-based tablet for the assessment software, with a keyboard that would be comfortable to use,” adds Maroco. “We also needed a USB port for the mouse and extended battery life but wanted a minimal footprint so we could easily take them to schools around the country.”

Customer solution at a glance

Hardware

- HP x2 210 Detachable PC

The HP x2 210 includes a HD 10.1-inch touchscreen with stylus input, standard USB 2.0 port and 80 per cent scale detachable keyboard, making it one of the most versatile devices at an impressively low price. With Windows 10 pre-installed, it was ready to run the examination software out of the box for up to ten hours on a single charge.

“HP had the best functionality at the lowest cost and it was easy for us to pack twenty devices in a single suitcase to carry between schools,” says Maroco. “The tests have a combination of multiple choice and open ended questions so the ability to use keyboard, mouse and touchscreen was a real bonus.”

Benefits

Portable, durable and versatile

In the first year of participating in ePIRLS, some of over 4,700 children participating in ePIRLS have taken the test using the HP x2 210 and these students have embraced the new device, finding immediate familiarity with the touchscreen functionality and robust keyboard.

“Some teachers were a little apprehensive as to whether our nine and ten-year old pupils would feel comfortable with the technology but they intuitively knew exactly how it works,” continues Maroco. “This made taking the examination simple and we suspect faster than using traditional pen and paper.”

The HP x2 210 lasts all day on a single charge and has proven remarkably robust – in this first year not one of the 200 units has presented a hardware failure or broken screen. In fact, such has been the success that IAVE and other Portuguese educational institutions are looking at expanding the roll-out.

“It has the battery life, functionality and versatility all wrapped up in a lightweight, small footprint, making it ideal for our purposes,” concludes Maroco. “We are beginning a new e-Assessment project with a number of private schools and they have ordered a further 500 HP x2 210 devices to ensure it goes smoothly.”

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