Mobility in the Workplace

The typical employee uses three devices a day for work, and most own at least one of them. There has also been a large increase in the number and type of applications used on these devices. How is this changing the modern workforce? Citrix recently conducted a study to learn more about mobility to better understand business priorities as we make these workplace shifts.

IT departments must better support employees who are choosing where, when and how they want to work.

A few findings stick out:

- **Device popularity is divided:** On average, iPhone is the primary smartphone (used by 39% of organizations) while 36% of respondents said BlackBerry is their company’s primary device. Unsurprisingly, iPad is the preferred tablet device, with 91% saying Apple’s device is their primary tablet.

- **App overload:** Companies are managing a large number of apps. On average, respondents said they had 216 applications inside their organization - this depends on company size.

- **Apps are diverse:** Windows apps represent 61% of a company’s portfolio, followed by internal web apps at 24%, SaaS (on-demand software) apps at 10% and mobile apps at 7%. Diversity will expand; Next year, Windows apps will decrease to 50% and SaaS and mobile combined will increase to 25% of a company’s portfolio.

- **Productivity apps are going mobile:** There’s a clear preference for productivity - 58% of respondents rank these apps as a priority. Collaboration and line of business apps closely follow with 51% and 49% of respondents, respectively. Respondents said most of these apps will also have mobile versions created in the next year.

- **Security concerns are top of mind:** 95% of respondents say they are concerned about information contained in emails stored on mobile devices; 94% are concerned about information stored in mobile applications and 91% are concerned about corporate data stored on personal cloud storage services.

- **Shift in focus from managing the device to managing apps and data:** A company’s mobility strategy is focused on managing the device - 62% of respondents said they manage the physical mobile devices.

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Best Service, Product Selection & Price

Each month Construction FOCUS features a CASF member company, selected by drawing a business card from among those attending the monthly networking breakfast. The next breakfast, sponsored by John Moriarty & Associates, will be held on Thursday, January 17, 7:30 a.m. at Shula’s Hotel in Miami Lakes.

White Cap Construction Supply was founded in 1976 with only one store in Santa Ana, CA. The company’s objective from the very beginning was to create a place where professional contractors of all sizes could get all the products they would ever need. Their mission still holds today to be the leading nationwide supplier of hardware, tools, and materials to the construction industry by making it easier for their customers to do business. Through the combination of offering the best service, product selection, and price, they strive for superior customer satisfaction.

The company currently has over 150 locations in 25 states, or technical questions can be answered by one of White Cap’s Product Champions. On the company website, there is an alphabetical list by manufacturer of each “Product Champion” and their expertise. Each person listed has years of experience and product knowledge in their specialty field.

They offer products for all trades and jobs including: concrete accessories, erosion control, industrial, commercial, residential, jobsite safety and fall arrest, power tools and equipment, precast and tilt up, waterproofing, rebar, D.O.T. and governmental. The products they carry come from some of the leading manufacturers: Armor-Tile, Bosch, DeWalt, Hitachi, Knaack/Weatherguard, Makita, Milwaukee, Porter Cable, Rigid, Simpson, Skil and SpecChem, to name a few.

White Cap just recently joined CASF in 2011 and has definitely been taking full advantage of the networking opportunities with presence at mostly all of the events. “CASF is a great organization. It is a useful way for people to grow and strengthen important business relationships”, expresses Grecz.

White Cap Construction Supply has four locations in the Southeast, which include downtown Miami, Medley, Pompano Beach, and our newest location in West Palm Beach slated to open January 2013 with a total of 16 locations statewide. For more information call 954-979-3030 or visit www.whitecap.com.
When asked about their preference, 93% of respondents said they would prefer a strategy of managing corporate apps and data. Only 7% would like to continue managing just the device.

**How IT Can Help:**

What’s the best way IT departments can help as the workplace changes from the office worker to the remote employee? The objective of any mobility strategy should be to securely manage corporate data on any device, simplify the management of decentralized applications and improve control over app and data delivery.

There are common elements of a well-designed approach to mobility that any company can adopt. Below are five steps to designing a mobility strategy that optimizes for an increasingly dynamic IT environment.

**Step 1: Unify cloud apps:**

A unified content controller approach with single sign-on can provide necessary management across a broad array of application types. Centrally managing access to corporate Intranet, web, SaaS and virtualized Windows desktop applications from the cloud is a key strategy for any enterprise. Since most Windows apps were designed for a keyboard and mouse, the key for these applications is to use a solution that can optimize the user experience for mobile devices.

**Step 2: Secure local content on mobile devices:**

A better approach to device management is through local application and data management, which moves access and security away from the device, putting fine-grain information control back in the hands of IT.

For native mobile apps, there are two keys to securing and delivering mobile applications: ‘wrapping’ the application for native execution and providing flexibility for cross-platform development, such as HTML5 apps.

For Cloud data on mobile devices, this involves encrypting the data files on mobile devices, providing 'follow-me' access across devices, and supporting the ability to wipe the data if needed.

**Step 3: Control access based on identity:**

With the proliferation of apps in the enterprise, a key issue is mapping apps to job function. Core to this principle is role-based identity management. Solutions here include support for multiple authentication types, active directory federation, role mapping to appropriate applications and data stores, single sign-on, and "active" identity management to automatically provision and de-provision access to resources.

**Step 4: Control access based on policy:**

Policies must provide 'contextually aware' mobile information access. Key checks and policies need to include location, device type, network, authentication requirements and event-drive access disablement. These policies should then be applied down to the specific application or file to allow or restrict access.

**Step 5: Bring it all together:**

Once control steps above have been made, you’re ready for any app, device, or data. What’s left is balancing IT control with an end-user experience built around convenience through an enterprise app store. Key components of any enterprise app store should include unified store for all apps and data, app availability based on role, app request workflows, self-service subscriptions, native app delivery for mobile devices in use, and 'follow-me' access to information across devices.

Following these steps will result in freedom for employees to choose their own devices, access the content they need for their jobs and use their apps and data wherever and whenever they choose, while allowing IT to retain control over all corporate apps and data in use by employees.

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To give CASF members an opportunity to explore IT and what is available in the market to help them work smarter, the Information Technology committee has planned a **Construction Information Technology Expo** for Thursday, February 21, at the Courtyard by Marriott following the monthly Networking Breakfast and held in the same facilities. Both hardware and software companies will be on hand to demonstrate their products and services. For more information about the Expo and/or securing booth space contact Joyce Salamone at 954-974-6333.
2012 CASF Holiday Kickoff Party!