

The World Trade Organization Trades Up To NComputing

The World Trade Organization (WTO) is a non-profit international organization responsible for the global rules of trade between nations. Its 149 member countries account for 97% of global trade. The WTO's mission is to ensure that international trade flows as smoothly, predictably and freely as possible throughout the world. As part of this mission, the WTO hosts an annual conference with 11,000 delegates. The conference has global economic and political implications and impacts the lives of nearly every person in the world.

The Challenge

The Sixth Annual Ministerial Conference was to be held at the massive Hong Kong Convention Centre – one of the largest conference facilities in the world. The delegates and organizers needed easy access to computing resources to make presentations, access the Internet, interact with fellow delegates and communicate with their home countries. Since the delegates were constantly on the move, computer access points were required throughout the convention centre including conference rooms, hallways, Cyber Cafes, and meeting rooms. To meet these requirements, the computing solution needed to be:

- Cost effective
- Highly reliable and secure
- Easy to set up and dismantle
- Environmentally friendly
- Compatible with PC software and the Internet
- Easy to lock down

Notebooks and desktop PCs were considered for deployment throughout the facility, but were found to be too expensive and space inefficient while requiring too much time to setup and dismantle.



Public access areas required reliability and security



The WTO deployed the NComputing solution throughout the Hong Kong Convention Centre including the extensive Press Centre

The Solution

The WTO deployed NComputing technology to meet the challenge. NComputing is the world leader in efficiently harnessing the power of a desktop PC so that up to 30 people can use a single PC at the same time. Normally, with only one user on a PC, the processor's average utilization is less than 5%. In public access applications, many PCs sit idle much of the time. NComputing harnesses the unused power of a PC to share it among multiple users and it does so at a fraction of the cost of individual PCs. In addition, this highly efficient system requires less electricity, less space, and less time to setup and manage, making it ideal for the WTO's conference needs.

"The major criteria were hardware and software reliability, ease of use, maintenance and security. The OfficeStation passed all tests and proved to be the best solution," said the WTO IT project leader.

The WTO retained Targa Hong Kong, Ltd. (NComputing's regional OEM partner) to deploy over 500 NComputing OfficeStation L100s throughout the convention centre including the Press Centre, Delegate Centre, Cyber Café, NGO Centre and lounges.

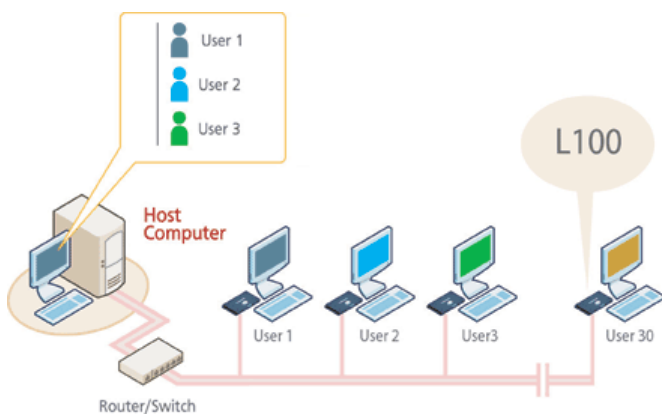
How Does It Work?

With the NComputing solution, each user has a separate keyboard, monitor and mouse which connect to a small access terminal. The terminal then connects via standard Ethernet to the host PC. The L100 terminal is small (size of a small book), is very low-cost, uses very little electricity, and is easy to setup and manage. In addition, the units restrict the ability of users to connect external storage devices ensuring the highest levels of security.



The WTO used small NComputing L100 terminals in place of standard PCs at each access point

NComputing software, installed on the host PC, enables each access terminal (up to 30 per PC) to connect to their own individual session. The entire solution is compatible with standard PC applications and Ethernet networking so IT staff and end users do not require special training. The diagram below shows how the L100 connects back to the host PC over Ethernet.



Up to 30 access terminals can connect to a single host PC over Ethernet



The systems were used heavily by WTO delegates

The Results

The NComputing solution was a perfect fit for the demanding needs of the conference. Over 500 units were installed in a fraction of the time that it would have taken to install 500 desktop PCs. The solution worked flawlessly throughout the conference. The delegates, the conference centre and the support team were pleased with the simplicity and effectiveness of the solution.

The delegates appreciated the simplicity and performance of the solution. "The computing platform is efficient and user-friendly. The performance is excellent and there is no difference compared to a PC," said a delegate from Uganda. Other delegates appreciated that the small size of the terminal meant there was more work space for their documents and belongings.

The conference centre benefited from the terminal's electrical efficiency. Each terminal used less than 10 Watts of electricity, compared to over 200 Watts for a typical PC. This meant a 95% reduction in electrical usage at over 500 access points in the conference.

The Targa team appreciated the ease of deployment and overall project efficiency enabled by the solution. "The NComputing solution performed brilliantly," said Mr. Charles Kwan, General Manager of Targa and team leader of the project, "by using NComputing, we lowered the computer costs for the WTO by 80% while providing the delegates with full computing access. The efficiency of the solution made the delivery of exceptional services look easy."

NComputing and Targa are pleased to have brought the simplicity, efficiency and affordability of their solution to the WTO. NComputing solutions have been deployed all over the world in businesses, schools, and public access areas like conference centres, hotel lobbies, and libraries. To learn more about how NComputing can help your organization, please visit: www.ncomputing.com