Managing Older IT Assets — a Growing Challenge

Security, e-waste concerns loom large

As businesses replace IT equipment that no longer meets their needs, they face a significant challenge. The fun part is deciding what new technology to deploy, how to finance the purchase or lease, and how to use it to expand capabilities or boost productivity.

Deciding what to do with obsolete or surplus equipment taken out of service may lack the appeal of deploying new gear, but it also presents an important opportunity – as well as significant risks. By thinking ahead, companies can minimize or eliminate risks associated with disposition of old equipment and maximize upside possibilities.

Asset management best practices

Choose a partner that is knowledgeable about privacy and environmental issues. Laws and regulations span the globe, including Sarbanes-Oxley and HIPAA in the United States, Canada's PIPEDA Act, and RoHS (Restriction of Hazardous Substances) restrictions in Europe and Asia. Just staying current with legislation is a major challenge. Unless you have an in-house expert, work with a company that does.

Recognize the repercussions of security breaches. Almost 20% of customers immediately terminate their accounts when they learn of a security breach, and an additional 40% consider canceling at a later date, according to an independent survey by the Ponemon Institute.

Send equipment off for refurbishing immediately. Up to 90% of IT equipment can be resold if processed promptly after coming offline. Every day it sits in a storeroom the value drops – and the likelihood of theft or a security intrusion increases.

Not all data security providers are the same. Equipment needs to be protected until all data is eradicated. Research how a vendor hires employees and subcontractors. Investigate the shipping process. While many vendors work with PCs, fewer have experience with server technology.

Select a vendor with a brand name and reputation for integrity. Create rigorous, documented controls and reporting to provide audit trails and guard against potential legal issues. A responsible asset disposition partner will report on how and when data is erased.

Please contact HP Financial Services for a description of asset management services offered by the company, including applicable terms and conditions.

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