Case, Dowty-Case, Cray, Case Technology Legacy Products

case communications
July NEWSLETTER
Specialists in high-speed and rugged access solutions

Case Communications July 2009 Newsletter

Greetings,

Welcome to the Case Communications July 2009 newsletter.

....

Facebook under fire for planned changes
The social networking site Facebook has come under fire for planned changes to its privacy settings

More

....

Majority of public sector employees do not know about environmentally friendly IT strategy.
A majority of public sector employees do not know about environmentally friendly IT targets set out in government's Greening ICT Strategy.

More

....

Gary McKinnon's mother meets PM's wife
Janis Sharpo the mother of Pentagon Hacker Gary Mc Kinnon has had tea with the Prime Minister's wife Sarah Brown today, to discuss the plight of her son.

More

....

WiMax set to grow after last years slow down

Growth of the wide-area technology slowed in the economic meltdown, but analysts predict the deployment of WiMax equipment will take off again by year end.

More

....

A recently published study could prompt the medical industry to re-evaluate its growing use of RFID
The medical industry is increasingly looking to radio frequency identification for equipment tracking and even human implantation, but a recent article in the *Journal of the American Medical Association* reports that RFID can interfere with medical devices in hospitals, posing "potentially hazardous" situations.

More

....

Apple Mac sales growth outstripped PCs even before Apple cut prices and introduced new MacBooks last month.

A financial analyst with Morgan Stanley raised her forecast for Mac sales in the second quarter, saying Apple is increasing shipments of its computers at a higher rate than the PC industry as a whole.

More

Public cautious over online services

A survey from the National Endowment for Society, Technology and Arts (Nesta) has found the public is unsure about moving crucial public services online.

More

Post office and e-gov could team up

A report has warned that moving public services to online only could exclude too many people. It has recommended that the post office be utilised to give the socially disadvantaged more chance to use e-government services.

More

New government network is too big

The public sector network that was designed to consolidate major public sector networks currently in operation has had to have its contract scaled down due to complexity.

More

Europe can be the launch pad for technology

Viviane Reding, European Commissioner for Information Society, explains how ICT and nanoscience research funding will keep Europe innovating well into the future

More

Facebook under fire for planned changes

It wants to "simplify" the process so users only have to set them once, instead of for each individual feature.

Facebook says the change will help people share more information with one another.

However, critics argue the new set up could lead to members being persuaded to share too many personal details - their date of birth for example.

Tom Royal is from Computeractive magazine.

He said: "I'm a little bit worried about the settings recommended by Facebook because as far as I can see it's actually sharing quite a lot of information with quite a few people.

"That's not something we'd advise people to do. We'd very much recommend people choose the 'limited' option instead.

'One size fits all'

"For example, just your date of birth can be a security question for lots of internet applications."

Facebook argues a 'one size fits all' approach will make things more straightforward for users.

"The effect of more and more settings has made controlling privacy on Facebook too complicated," according to the site's chief privacy officer Chris Kelly.

It's also phasing out regional networks like London and Manchester because Kelly says "they don't adequately reflect a world where people choose the audience they want to share with".

The number of people using Facebook has risen above the 20 million mark this year in the UK.

It is the most popular social networking site in the world, with 200 million members globally.

![Case Communications July 2009 Newsletter header — Case, Dowty-Case, Cray, Case Technology Legacy Products. Specialists in high-speed and rugged access solutions]

Majority of public sector employees do not know about environmentally friendly IT strategy.

The strategy calls for government IT to be carbon neutral by 2012, with office carbon emissions down 11.5% by 2011.

One of the commissioners of the report says there are scattered trends toward compliance with the strategy.

However, a survey of IT managers in the public sector showed 60% did not know there were any targets to aim for.

The report, titled "The Path to Green Government", was produced by environmental charity Global Action Plan.

It is estimated that information and communication technology (ICT) accounts for one-fifth of the Government's carbon emissions. The Greening ICT Strategy was intended to put the government in a leadership role in the sustainable use of ICT.

A large proportion of carbon emissions can be blamed on the manufacture of new equipment, so a principal focus of the initiative is to make the best use of existing equipment.

However, there is more to the plan once procurement is slimmed down, according to Cisco's head of public sector Neil Crockett.

"There is another, much bigger debate about how ICT can enable other things to happen, like building management, travel reduction, flexible working," he said.

'Pockets of excellence'

The Global Action Plan study was conducted by direct surveys of ICT managers in the public sector - local and national government, education, healthcare and so on - as well as a questionnaire in the magazine Computer Weekly.

Some 60% of respondents said that they were unaware of the Greening ICT Strategy, and among those who were aware, nearly one-third said that they had made no changes to their own ICT usage and procurement, and had no plans to make any such changes.

The problem, according to Global Action Plan director Trewin

Case Communications July 2009 Newsletter

In this Issue:

Restorick, is poor collaboration and knowledge sharing across the sector.

"What we saw was pockets of excellence, areas where the public sector is making both cash savings and carbon savings through smarter use of ICT," he told BBC News.

"But what we discovered was that those pockets of activity tended not to be part of a wider strategy within the public sector. They were very much piecemeal initiatives, which suggests they were being driven by keen individuals."

One straightforward route to knowledge sharing is that between IT managers and those who pay for the energy that the equipment consumes; more than two-thirds of respondents said that they were neither responsible for paying for the energy, nor did they see the bill.

Less than half had calculated their department's "carbon footprint".

"For an ICT manager, if they're not paying the energy bills - which are both volatile and going up - they have no interest in knowing what the long term impact of the product is," he said. "So you get managers buying stuff without thinking about utilising the assets they've got."

While the longer term goal to ameliorate the effects of climate change are a driving force for compliancy, in 2010 the Department for Environment Food and Rural Affairs' Carbon Reduction Commitment scheme will come into effect.

Under the scheme, each large private sector business and public sector organisation will tally up its carbon emissions, with a price tag of 12 pounds per tonne of emissions. Organisation will be placed into league tables; depending on where they fit, they will or will not get the money back.

The concern is that public sector money can, if the sector performs badly, be siphoned off into the private sector - a loss both in monetary and in ideological terms.

"'Health service money goes to Tesco's' is not a great headline," said Mr Restorick.

Groundswell

Catalina McGregor, government deputy champion of the Cabinet Office's CIO/CTO Council Green ICT Delivery Group, said a report from her office due for release in late August will comprehensively detail how each department is doing in unprecedented detail,

from intelligence departments all the way to museums.

While its results are mixed, she told BBC News that signs of progress were widespread and that Mr Restorick's assessment may be a bit wide of the mark

"I'm a little gun-shy to say that folk aren't working well together, because they are," she said. "It's very rare that something central is taken up by local [offices] to this extent on a voluntary basis. It's true that there are no 'big sticks', no incentives, no budgets; but there is a groundswell of support for the green ICT programme."

Rebecca Willis, vice chair of the government's green watchdog the Sustainable Development Commission, pointed out that despite commitments from government, signs of overall change were still lacking.

"The Greening ICT Strategy is an encouraging step towards making government IT more sustainable," she told BBC News.

"However, government electricity usage is continuing to rise, and it is likely that one of the big reasons for this is the proliferation of computers, laptops, chargers, lobby televisions and the air conditioning of server rooms. It's clear that ambition levels need to be raised."

Gary McKinnon's mother meets PM's wife

Trudie Styler, campaigning wife of pop star Sting, accompanied Janis Sharp and presented Mrs Brown with a petition compiled by the National Autistic Society, which requested a halt to McKinnon's extradition to face hacking charges in a US court (pictured).

Janis Sharp said she was grateful for Mrs Brown's support for her son, who was arrested in 2002 after hacking into US military and NASA computers in search of information about a UFO cover-up.

"As each day passes with extradition still looming, it further breaks Gary's spirit not to mention the hearts of all his family, friends and supporters," said Sharp. "I just beg Mr Brown to act and put a stop to this living nightmare."

She called for McKinnon to be prosecuted in the UK on the grounds of medical evidence that since he had Asperger's Syndrome, a form of autism, extradition to the US could cause him severe mental health problems

The High Court heard last month how it was possible to try McKinnon in the UK. It also heard that it would be humane to do so, to avoid submitting him to unnecessary suffering.

Trudie Styler and Sting have been lobbying the government on McKinnon's behalf. Styler said: "Gary's actions were clearly misguided. However extraditing him 7 years after the event and subjecting him to lengthy prison sentence thousands of miles away from his family is an unnecessarily cruel and undignified way to treat anyone, let alone someone with his condition."

In another story Pink Floyd Guitarist David Gilmour will take part in a sing-in protect against attempts to extradite Gary Mc Kinnon to the US to face trial over hacking into the Pentagon computers.

Case Communications July 2009 Newsletter

Case, Dowty-Case, Cray, Case Technology Legacy Products

case communications

July NEWSLETTER

Specialists in high-speed and rugged access solutions

WiMax set to grow after last years slow down

The roaring deployment of WiMax equipment rollout is expected to pause for a few months, then take off again by the end of the year, according to a report from Infonetics Research.

The rapid growth of the wide-area technology has been slowed by the worldwide economic meltdown, but also appears to have been influenced by a simple need to reorganize after its earlier soaring growth, the market research firm said as it released its quarterly report on mobile infrastructure this week.

"Having grown at lung-busting speed for a couple of years, a slowdown and pause for breath for the WiMax equipment market probably would have been inevitable even without the recession," said Richard Webb, the firm's directing analyst for WiMax, microwave, and mobile devices, in a statement. "As it is, economic conditions are exacerbating the pause, with worldwide fixed and mobile WiMax equipment revenue down 16% from the previous quarter and further declines expected in the second quarter."

The WiMax equipment market is growing fastest in developing nations and particularly in Africa, but also in the Middle East, India, Europe, and Asia Pacific regions. In the United States the largest deployment is for Clearwire's infrastructure.

Infonetics indicated that Voice over Internet Protocol over WiMax technology is attracting many carriers and GSM operators also are installing the service because of its cost-effective delivery option.

A buildup of postponed shipments is expected to drive a new surge in WiMax orders, Infonetics said, noting that the service is gaining in developed countries, too, as evidenced by Japan's UQ and the Netherlands' WorldMax networks in addition to Clearwire in the United States.

Case Communications July 2009 Newsletter

In this Issue:

A recently published study could prompt the medical industry to re-evaluate its growing use of RFID

The revelation potentially serves up a big blow to the RFID industry, which views hospitals and medicine as one of its highest growth areas. But the problem could be abated by the use of systems that emit less power than what was used in the *JAMA*-published study, claim some tech vendors who sell such systems to the medical market.

The June 25 article describes a nonclinical study by the Academic Medical Center at the University of Amsterdam in the Netherlands, in which both an active 125-kHz and a passive 868-MHz RFID system were assessed for electromagnetic interference with 41 medical devices, including IV pumps and defibrillators.

Each device was tested three times, for a total of 123 tests, and there were 22 instances of interference classified as "hazardous" to patient care, according to the study. Two instances were classified as creating a "significant" adverse impact on patient care and 22 as having a "light" adverse impact. Passive RFID signals proved the most problematic; average distances between RFID readers and medical devices in the study were 30 centimeters.

The study concluded that hospitals and clinics using RFID in a critical-care environment should be required to conduct on-site tests for electromagnetic interference and keep RFID systems updated with international standards.

Hospitals are increasingly using RFID in combination with wireless area networks to track the location of equipment within hospitals and even patients and staff, using things such as RFID-chipped wristbands. There are even some instances of startup tech companies testing RFID chips that can be implanted in critically ill patients, allowing medical or emergency response personnel to view the medical histories of unconscious patients via an RFID reader.

In a written response to the *JAMA* article, the chief technology officer at Awarepoint, a company that provides RFID systems and wireless networks to hospitals, noted that power levels used by some RFID systems could be the primary cause of interference.

Because Awarepoint uses wireless mesh technology, its systems generate "4,000 times less power than standard active and passive RFID readers," he said.

"Although this study was referring to nonclinical tests, the conclusions derived can still have a pronounced impact on how RFID and [location systems] play in patient care environments," said Awarepoint CTO Ron Hegli in a statement. "The bottom line is that vendors must take into consideration transmission power, electromagnetic interference, and frequency in their underlying technology."

Case, Dowty-Case, Cray, Case Technology Legacy Products

case
communications

July NEWSLETTER

Specialists in high-speed and rugged access solutions

Case Communications July 2009 Newsletter

Apple Mac sales growth outstripped PCs even before Apple cut prices and introduced new MacBooks last month.

The report from analyst Kathryn Huberty said that even before Apple refreshed its MacBook Pros last month, the company increased MAc shipments 25% month-to-month in May, compared to just 1% growth for the total PC market, *Fortune* magazine reported Wednesday.

With new MacBooks hitting the market and market data showing steady growth in Mac shipments over the last few week, Huberty raised her sales forecast in the second calendar quarter, which is Apple's fiscal third quarter, to 2.5 million units from 2.4 million, Fortune said. The revised projection represents a quarter-to-quarter growth rate of 12%.

In April, Apple reported a 3% drop in Mac sales for the calendar quarter ended in March, compared with the same period in 2008. The decline was in line with overall PC sales in the United States in the quarter, which fell 3.1%, according to IDC.

Since then, Apple has become more agressive with pricing, while staying within the high-end of the PC market. The company lopped up to $300 off the price of the refreshed MacBook Pro line introduced last month.

At the same time, Apple cut prices on previous generations of Macs by as much as $850.

Case Communications July 2009 Newsletter

In this Issue:

Case, Dowty-Case, Cray, Case Technology Legacy Products

case communications

July **NEWSLETTER**

Specialists in high-speed and rugged access solutions

Case Communications July 2009 Newsletter

Public cautious over online services

The survey asked 1,092 people 'Do you think switching as many public services and facilities as possible online is a good thing?' The results showed 57 per cent replied maybe, 22 per cent said yes and 21 per cent said no.

The speed of change was also met with caution, with only 4 per cent welcoming the idea of making the switch as soon as possible. Almost three-quarters said the switch should happen within the next five years, 18 per cent said 10 years and 3 per cent chose 20 years.

Although the survey revealed a cautious tone towards mass-change, the respondents did show an appreciation for the benefits online services can bring. When asked why they could be a good thing, 84 per cent said online services would save time, 60 per cent said they would make services easier to access, 57 per cent said they would meet their personal needs and 56 per cent said they would save both the public sector's and the user's money.

But doubts were raised in their potential to increase efficiency. Just 39 per cent believed they would help to run things more efficiently or make it easier for users to provide feedback to a service.

Concerns were also expressed about privacy and security, with 50 per cent of respondents saying it would be "somewhat" of a problem.

Despite the survey's mixed results, Nesta's chief executive Jonathan Kestenbaum insisted that an increased emphasis on online public services must go ahead.

"It's clear that the UK is committed to an online future. We've got to use this to our advantage by making our public services accessible to people. Our economy will depend on it," he said.

Case Communications July 2009 Newsletter

In this Issue:

Post Office and e-gov could team up

The Business and Enterprise Committee has found that the public is "deeply sceptical" about the extent to which it is acceptable to offer public services only online. Citing previous research that agreed with its theory, it said there is widespread concern that certain disadvantaged groups in society might lose out because of their inability to access or use the internet. Particular reference was made to older people who do not know how to use the internet and to low income groups who may not be able to afford a computer and internet connection at home.

Government's role is to encourage the take-up of new technology, the report said, not to enforce it. To combat this problem, the report has recommended providing online service through the post office network.

"We recognise that providing services through the post office network may be more expensive than providing those services online. However, we consider the public's expectation that there should be a choice of ways to access government services and information is legitimate," it said.

"The question should not be 'is it cheaper to provide this service entirely on-line or remotely?' but 'given that there needs to be a choice of delivery methods, what is the most effective way to reach those who prefer to deal with matters face to face?'."

It added that the post office network's value will become clearer once it is accepted by government that there will always be a proportion of the public that will prefer face-to-face contact.

The report has also taken aim at the recently published Digital Britain report. The Digital Britain report called for a digital switchover of public services, by which it meant online being the primary means of access. But the committee said it "profoundly" disagreed.

"We support efficient use of technology. We acknowledge that online schemes can save taxpayers' money (Digital Britain notes the electronic vehicle licensing scheme saves the DVLA around £8m per year). However, while it is reasonable for private companies to decide to restrict their market segment to those who can use web-based services, it is not appropriate for the government to do so," it said.

According to the Digital Britain report, only 55 per cent of those who already have the internet at home actually use public

services online. The report said this proved that many people had chosen not to do so. It also suggested that the Digital Britain report was slightly discriminatory. Its consultation was available only online "rather than those who cannot or do not wish to engage".

Placing internet terminals across the Post Office network with access to a range of approved retailer sites was recommended by the report to give everyone access to the internet. To pay for the installation, the report said post offices could earn commission when customers made a purchase from a website from a terminal.

Case, Dowty-Case, Cray, Case Technology Legacy Products

case communications
July NEWSLETTER
Specialists in high-speed and rugged access solutions

New government network is too big

The Ocean programme was set to replace the Foreign Telecommunications Network (FTN), the Government Secure Intranet (GSI) and the Managed Telecommunications Service (MTS). Costing anything between £500m and £2.5bn, it would have encompassed all areas of government and enabled secure communications and transfer of data from any device in any location.

But Buying Solutions (BS), who led the procurement for the new service, has admitted in a tender notice that the timescale for the project was too demanding. It said a separate procurement to replace the FTN was required. It is not clear what the plans are for the other two networks.

"As a result of this change, which impacts both geographical and functional scope, we have concluded that the existing [Official Journal of the European Union (OJEU)] notice does not adequately reflect the revised position, and have reluctantly taken the decision that it should be formally withdrawn," the tender notice said.

"We will continue to develop and issue a more suitable OJEU which will enable procurement of replacement services to MTS and GSI in line with the Public Sector Network (PSN)."

The Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) has already published a tender to replace the FTN. It has been valued at £500m, roughly the same as what the same project was expected to cost as part of the Ocean programme. The tender has called for a service that provides for a transition to next generation networks based on internet protocol.

When asked what will happen to the replacement of the MTS and GSI , a spokeswoman for the Ocean programme told Public Servant Daily that both projects will continue to work towards their "respective visions". Buying Solutions will continue to lead the procurement, she said, with a timetable still being finalised.

Case Communications July 2009 Newsletter

Case, Dowty-Case, Cray, Case Technology Legacy Products

case communications
July NEWSLETTER
Specialists in high-speed and rugged access solutions

Europe can be the launch pad for technology

It is a time of economic uncertainty. It is also a time when we need to remind ourselves that information and communication technology (ICT) provides the heartbeat of the real economy, of our productivity growth, of our capacity to innovate and create jobs, and of our ability to address key societal challenges.

Europe needs to raise its game and make sure that it leads in ICT innovation and commercialisation. We must better realise that ICT is a principle motor of growth and competitiveness in all industries, the driver of efficiency and effectiveness in our public sector and the means of raising the quality of life of our citizens. This is exactly why making Europe a world leader in ICT is the goal of a new strategy recently announced by the European Commission.

The ICT policy challenge

Three main principles are needed to ensure that Europe better harnesses the potential of ICT for our economic prosperity and international competitive standing.

Firstly, Europe needs to build on its strengths in industry, technology and innovation. European firms and researchers have technological leadership in several key fields. European equipment manufacturers are leaders in broadband data networks and mobile devices. Europe is also a leading worldwide player in the design, integration and supply of embedded systems. Europe has secured 30-35% of the market for ICT systems embedded in products in domains like automotive, industrial automation and avionics. Europe is also a leading player in the semiconductor industry. European programmes have helped us build and maintain these positions, and recent funding decisions by the embedded systems and nanoelectronics joint technology initiatives demonstrate an ongoing commitment by the EU to these areas.

Secondly, we should be well placed to seize the opportunities of future markets, such as the future internet and ICT for energy-efficiency. We are on the threshold of a new era of network and service infrastructures. This internet of the future will feature almost unlimited bandwidth capacity, wireless access everywhere, potentially trillions of devices interconnected, integrated security and trust for all parties, and adaptive and personalised services and tools. With its current strengths, Europe should not be content with anything less than leading this development.

Another high-potential future market is ICT for energy-efficiency. While this includes the energy use of ICT equipment and services, it goes further. Here as well, Europe can take the lead.

And finally, we must continue to mobilise stakeholders around ambitious goals and roadmaps for European leadership in ICT, as we have done in the joint technology initiatives. We must not just focus on keeping up with global ICT research spending levels, but we must also look closely at the efficiency and effectiveness of the ICT innovation ecosystem in Europe. This applies all the way through, from research to innovation to commercialisation.

We must combine 'demand pull' from innovative markets with 'supply push' from new ICT technologies and infrastructures. This involves not only increased financial support to research and innovation, but also stronger collaboration between all stakeholders and the backing of projects that cut across the phases of research, testing and deployment of ICT innovations.

This should facilitate the emergence of markets with clearer demands from users, allowing for shorter innovation cycles, faster responses to socio-economic challenges and opening new opportunities for industry in Europe. It should also result in more rapid returns on investments and thus greater incentives for expanding private investments. Europe should therefore become more attractive to investors, companies and researchers.

Five crucial steps for ICT research and innovation
At the biennial ICT event last November in Lyon, I highlighted five critical steps for ICT research and innovation in Europe:
Increasing the intensity of ICT research
We must increase the intensity of European ICT research in those areas where we can strengthen European leadership. The annual budget for ICT research in our current framework programme will increase from €1.1bn in 2010 to €1.7bn in 2013. This should be matched by similar increases in the EU member states. This will give us the essential critical mass.

Investing better by prioritising
We should identify a small number of key areas, such as the future internet, where, together with industry, policy-makers can map out not only ambitious but also concrete research strategies that will assist Europe to lead in terms of innovation and growth.

Overcoming the deficiencies of scale and fragmentation by co-ordinating our efforts
As the financial crisis shows, Europe works best when it works together. The same is true in research and innovation. We must make greater efforts to eliminate the fragmentation of ICT research and innovation efforts in Europe. It is only through exploiting synergies and aiming at excellence that we will become world-leading.

Unlocking the innovative potential of our very large single market
We also need to address the demand for the innovations we

develop. Our objective is to facilitate the emergence of new public and private markets for ICT-based innovative solutions – thereby facilitating business growth in ICT.

ICT research and innovation must notably be put into service tackling our long-term challenges in areas such as health, energy and transport. Only then will we be able to innovate faster in vertical markets. Only then will public authorities be able to modernise services responding to challenges such as ageing populations, rising energy costs, or congested transport systems.

This is why we are advocating a more strategic use of public procurement of research and innovation, which would empower the public sector in Europe to modernise faster. This is a prime example of how we, as policy-makers, can provide conditions for innovative ICT businesses to grow to a stage where they themselves can reap all the rewards from new knowledge.

Making Europe a launching pad for hi-tech start-ups
Our investments in research and the opening up of the new markets will not be fully exploited unless we can make Europe a more attractive place to establish hi-tech start-ups. Today, few European small and medium enterprises break through the ceiling of €20m turnover. Our aim is to place our small and medium enterprises at the centre of our actions and to help them intensify their links with investors, academic researchers, innovation professionals and policy-makers.

In recognition of these policy challenges and steps forward, we have developed a new strategy for European ICT research and innovation, which was announced in March 2009.