MOBILE COMPUTING

ONE SIZE DOESN'T FIT ALL FOR PUBLIC SAFETY

There is no single mobility solution on the market today that can be applied broadly to fulfill public safety's widely varying mobility computing requirements. Each agency and workflow requires a different level of processing power, storage capacity, safety and communications capability. Plus, devices used by police, fire and EMS face a combination of harsh conditions, unique data requirements, and uncompromising reliability and security demands that would quickly kill off typical corporate machines and consumer tablets. Here are the features to consider when choosing mobile computing devices for public safety.

THE FUNDAMENTALS

Reliability:
Mobile devices are available with an array of rugged specs to withstand water, dust, vibration and other harsh conditions. Choose the right spec for your application and typical usage locations. Also consider solid state drives to eliminate moving parts, and look for field-replaceable components to allow upgrades and repairs from anywhere.

Performance:
The processor, memory and storage should be robust enough to handle streaming video, scanning IDs and GIS data without slowing down. Mobile devices shouldn't have to be replaced every year to support growing data demands. Find a device that can scale and last for at least three to five years.

Intrinsically Safe:
Ensure devices are safe for use in potentially explosive environments. Find a device that's ATEX, C1D2 or C1Z2 compliant.

Interoperability:
Devices should work with IP-based body cameras for capturing, sharing and storing feeds via the device. Devices should also support your preferred operating system and back-office systems and software without requiring constant hardware replacement.

Security:
To ensure compliance with HIPAA, CJIS security requirements and other regulations, select a mobile device that supports VPN access, multi-layer authentication, fingerprint readers and Common Access Card readers.

Connectivity:
Look for rugged computing devices that can easily transition from 3G and 4G LTE networks to Wi-Fi and Bluetooth®.

AT THE DESK
Rugged mobile computing devices may be built for the field, but they also need to perform in the office.
- Ensure adequate performance specs to run typical office apps and specialized tools.
- Look for flexible docking options.
- Have multiple I/O ports to connect to departmental networks and office peripherals.

BEHIND THE WHEEL
Life in a squad car or fire truck is tough on computing devices.
- Look for rugged specs designed to withstand constant vibration and extreme heat and cold.
- Ensure devices have integrated GPS capability to support dispatch and routing.
- Look for customized docking options that let first responders quickly remove vehicle-mounted devices under urgent circumstances.
- Consider data input options such as touchscreen and active digitizer pens.
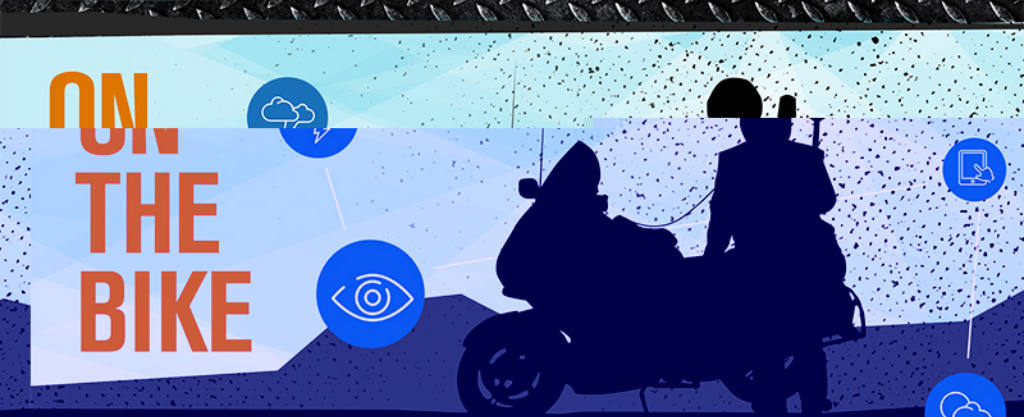
ON THE BIKE
Motorcycle and bike patrols have special requirements for mobile computing.
- Consider smaller form factors.
- Ensure devices can withstand drops and weather extremes.
- Test for screen readability in bright sunlight.
- Look for built-in cameras, barcode scanners and RFID readers to support e-citations and other tasks.

IN THE COMMAND CENTER
The command center environment demands power and flexibility.
- Consider functionality that easily supports ad hoc teams organized for particular incidents or events.
- Look for wired and wireless connectivity options.
- Ensure you have appropriate ports and Bluetooth® for peripherals.

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