



## Reduce your organisation's carbon footprint and cut IT spending with MiniFrame SoftXpand

by Lucid IT

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In today's society the environment has become an important subject, we are always being asked to "do our bit" to try and reduce our "carbon footprint". There are several options on the market to choose from if you wish to lower the impact your usage of IT has on the environment.

Firstly there are computers designed with low-power components which consume less electricity. Within the last two years a new category of PCs known as "netbooks" have gained popularity. These are small notebooks which typically include a low-power Intel CPU that consumes as little as 2.5 Watts of power. The payoff for using energy saving components is a battery life of up to 7 hours, compared to a typical laptop which will last a maximum of 2 hours; this means less plugging in to recharge and a lower carbon footprint as a result.

Due to the runaway success of these "netbooks", PC manufacturers like Dell and Asus are now starting to release desktop variants of netbooks called "nettops". These desktop PCs are extremely compact with typical dimensions of 22cm by 17cm and have a power consumption of around 20 Watts, which is 90 percent lower than a typical desktop computer.

Another option for saving energy is using a "thin client". A thin client is a small, low-power computer which is connected to a remote server that performs the majority of processing tasks for the thin client. The server can also have software installed on it that can be accessed by the thin client; such as an office suite or accounts package.

There is also a new, revolutionary option for going green and reducing your organisation's carbon footprint - Miniframe SoftXpand, a multiseat computing solution offered by Lucid IT Services. SoftXpand transforms a single desktop PC running Microsoft Windows XP into up to six fully independent computer workstations using standard monitors, keyboards and mice. With SoftXpand you can easily lower your organisation's carbon footprint. Rather than having six separate workstations all requiring their own power source and generating heat, SoftXpand only requires one computer to be switched on, which reduces power consumption by up to six times.

SoftXpand is based on a simple fact; today's PCs are so powerful that the vast majority of applications use only a small fraction of the computer's capacity. MiniFrame's Multiseat computing software SoftXpand taps this unused capacity so that it can be simultaneously shared by multiple users, spreading out the cost of the PC, and providing six times the number of seats for the same money. SoftXpand's unique resource sharing & intelligent balancing system allows the full utilization of a PC's power and cleverly allocates resources. Modern Video cards are equipped with a powerful Graphics Processing Unit (GPU) and Video Memory (VRAM). SoftXpand uses this power and automatically balances it between the workstations according to the applications' needs.

SoftXpand lowers electricity consumption drastically; a single SoftXpand machine will use 1/6 of the electricity of six standard PCs - which helps to reduce your electricity bills and carbon footprint. As a result of these lower power requirements, it also generates less heat; a single SoftXpand machine will produce 1/6 of the heat of six machines -- meaning you won't need to turn on the air conditioning as often. And when the system reaches the ends of its useful life, only one PC will need to be replaced instead of six and less hazardous computer equipment will end up in landfill.

For more information on MiniFrame SoftXpand, visit <http://www.luciditservices.co.uk/green>

Lucid IT Services is a West Midlands, UK based IT consultancy specialising in IT Security and Green Computing solutions. For more information visit <http://www.luciditsecurity.co.uk>