

Remit Newsletter 16 – Spring 2007

This month we look at:

- IT benchmarks
- Mobile technology
- Recent events
- Dates for your diary
- Remit News - Practice what we preach

Efficient IT support

Why do big companies spend more per head on IT than small companies? According to research we recently carried out for a client, some well managed large firms spend up to three times as much on IT as small firms.

Here are some of the reasons we suspect:

- Poor control and hidden IT costs in small firms – do some departments buy software they need without going through central IT? It is hard to include all the costs if this happens and formal costs might therefore seem low.
- Very little new is developed – if the business demands little new automation, simple support costs may seem very cost effective.
- Higher costs may be a form of insurance against disaster. More formalised service levels and greater outsourcing sometimes leads to higher costs but better service – and lower risks.
- Larger development projects to satisfy business requirements take increased management levels – but the projects should be better controlled and less risky.
- Smaller IT teams may need to work more unpaid overtime to keep costs within their (smaller) budget. Maybe IT teams in the larger companies go home on time more often than not and get to take holidays!

Setting a business focused strategy, developing an appropriate structure for your IT team and assessing the right level of outsourcing may increase costs, but, boy, does it let you sleep better at night.

Last year we published the output of a roundtable discussion we held on the subject of working with your CIO – it is worth having a look again to see how our workshop participants thought IT directors are often abused.

[CIO Roundtable article](#)

IT Benchmark Survey

If you would like your IT costs benchmarked confidentially against our survey group and are prepared to fill out the answers to 8 questions, please contact us. [Contact us](#)

Mobile Technology

Not many of us like being called a computer geek. But every now and again we all do something which the saner members of our community regard as being on the edge (We all do, don't we?). This month Andrew W has been using a new type of USB key to carry around his work. It has its own operating system and programs as well as all his files (and antivirus) so he can plug it into any PC and work as if in the office – regardless of what software is on the borrowed PC.

When unplugged, it leaves no trace of being there. The cost? £50. Remarkable and Andrew has left his laptop in the office for the last month; he says his back feels better for it. Ah, bless!

Check out the system it uses, U3 Technology at www.U3.com.

Mark has found an alternative to carrying your data around with you. LogMeIn is a software product you install on your PC to run in the background. You can then access your PC and the information on it securely from any browser over the Internet. Best thing is that the basic version is free, and you also get to try the Pro version which doesn't cost too much more if you decide you need the extra features anyway. [LogMeIn website](#).

Not to be outdone, Nick has discovered that your free Wifi minutes which you are given with many of the BT Broadband packages can be used on T-Mobile with a special code from BT. [BT Openzone](#).

Lastly, Bob Thompson has written an article which discusses how you can become a virtual property developer in Second Life, an online community which gives you a chance to start again - and earn real money! [Read Bob's article](#)

Events

Corenet Awards 2007

We were very pleased to be able to entertain friends and clients at the Corenet awards dinner in February at Billingsgate. Jeremy Vine entertained the assembled great and good from Corporate Real Estate and Investors alike.

We were especially proud that Alan Lattimer, COO of Drivers Jonas was on our table when his company's award for sustainability was announced. Drivers Jonas won the award for being the first property consultants to become Carbon Neutral and you can read how they did it at their website. [Drivers Jonas Press Release](#)

Dates for the diary

Public Sector Property & Estates, London, 3rd April. Remit Consulting is taking a stand at this event and please come and talk to us if you plan to attend. [PSPE Conference website](#)

RealComm, Boston, USA – 3rd-5th June. It seems that there will be a good number of UK visitors to RealComm this year and we usually arrange a European dinner on the Monday evening for those who have made the journey.

Let us know if you intend to be there - we have negotiated a discount on the attendance fee and can give you a discount code. [Realcomm website](#)

14th Annual European Real Estate Society Conference, London 27- 30 June 2007 [ERES Conference website](#)

Corenet European Summit, London, 17th-19th September [Corenet website](#)

PCS-Expo, London – 16th-17th October [PCS-Expo website](#)

Remit News

Four years old... already! We have learnt to walk and talk and will shortly start school. We now have siblings and many new friends.

We thought it about time we invested in our website (to stretch the analogy too far: reading & writing?) and, although you will not see much change for the moment, our new website has a completely new piece of software running it: setting up our newsletters managing our contacts, running our collaboration tool (TeamWork) and holding our image bank. The software, by Estates Today, is web-based and makes our lives much easier.

[Estates Today website](#)

Contact us

As always, please get in touch on any of the subjects above - we would love to hear from you.

[Homepage](#)

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Remit Consulting LLP is a management consultancy for the property industry. Our partners and consultants come from property industry backgrounds and understand the practices, processes and jargon which can be so opaque to general management and IT consultants.

We are proud of the reputation we have in the industry for providing independent advice based upon in depth experience and understanding of the issues facing clients in the property industry.

You have been sent this email because we believe that you are interested in these subjects. If you have not already registered for this newsletter and would like us to send you updates and links to news and resources you may find of interest, please e-mail us on subscribe@remitconsulting.com and add your name and company in the body of the e-mail.

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