Optimising Mobile Device Lifecycle Management (MDLM) Cost & Support
7. Mobile Device Disposal & Recycling

July 2017

Prepared by Utelize Communications Limited
www.utelize.co.uk
Whilst consumers have long understood that their smartphone devices have a residual value, organisations and businesses have been slower to adopt formal recycling and resale processes. The fear of their data and information getting into the wrong hands probably outweighed the financial benefits of resale for most. However, in practice, for many organisations these devices either remain in top drawers, or are passed on to friends and family with no accountability or tracking. With existing WEEE directives, and the upcoming EU GDPR regulations from May 2018, this is no longer going to be an acceptable practice.

So, when it comes to the end of the lifecycle for your mobile device, the options really depend on the residual value of the device and your internal processes and inventory. In the section ‘Mobile Device Finance’ above, we reviewed the impact of differing residual values across different device models and manufacturers. For devices that retain a solid residual value, the disposal of the device to a suitable IT asset recycling and disposal business should be considered.

The process with a security accredited or ISO27001 provider should include a certified professional device wipe (normally triple wipe), and as part of the process the value should be pre-agreed (subject to the device meeting the agreed quality). When recycling a sizeable mobile device estate, it is also possible to work on a ‘share of resale’ model. In this model, the asset disposal firm will refurbish the equipment on your behalf, and then share the achieved resale value or margin with the business.

For organisations looking to refresh devices, it may be worth considering using the residual value to achieve an improved price for the new devices, and to ensure certified disposal or resale in the process.

For devices with a very low or non-existent residual value, the priority is to ensure a secure WEEE certified recycling or destruction process, where nothing goes to landfill. Whilst the devices may have limited resale appeal, most devices do contain some base material value, including some precious metals, and it may still be possible to negotiate a ‘nil net cost’ recycling process that ensures that the devices are professionally recycled.
Enabling Mobile IT

Develop your mobile device lifecycle management strategy with Utelize

Mobile device lifecycle management is a rapidly-evolving and complex business challenge. However, approached strategically, it is possible to reduce the impact on your IT team, and to optimise long-term expenditure in the process – approach without a suitable strategy and you’ll inadvertently end up with significant hidden IT resource costs, and overspending on mobile devices.

To receive the full version of this report, including all of our recommendations, please contact Kevin Steed, ksteed@utelize.co.uk.

About Utelize

Utelize specialises in helping enterprises and large public-sector organisations independently to manage and procure mobile airtime and devices. We provide consulting, technology and resources, helping our customers to:

- manage mobile services, devices, security and usage proactively
- reduce mobile costs significantly
- optimise mobile airtime and device administration
- negotiate flexible and competitive terms from mobile networks
- understand the impact of wholesale and regulatory changes in the telecoms market
- evaluate which mobile telecoms technologies and services can best support their business needs

To arrange a no-obligation meeting, contact us at hello@utelize.co.uk, call us on 03300 240 444, or visit us at www.utelize.co.uk