

## Streamlining Education Administration in Victoria

Department of Education and Training Victoria  
<http://www.det.vic.gov.au/det/>

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**The Department of Education and Training (DE&T) is responsible for arranging the supply, installation and support of technology infrastructure to enable Victorian government schools to undertake school administration responsibilities. With nearly 1,700 school sites involved this is a significant undertaking.**

### **The Challenge: Keep Schools Up and Running at an Affordable Cost**

Government agencies such as DE&T are under constant pressure to achieve the best value for the taxpayer's dollar while maintaining high levels of service to the community. Information technology is certainly no exception. The department requires quality infrastructure that meets the diverse needs of a range of users. And although school administration is often perceived as an invisible part of our educational institutions, it is, nonetheless, the backbone of the learning process. The Department has a need for fast, reliable desktop computers to run vital backend systems which keep students and teachers in the classroom and contribute to the optimal learning and education outcomes.

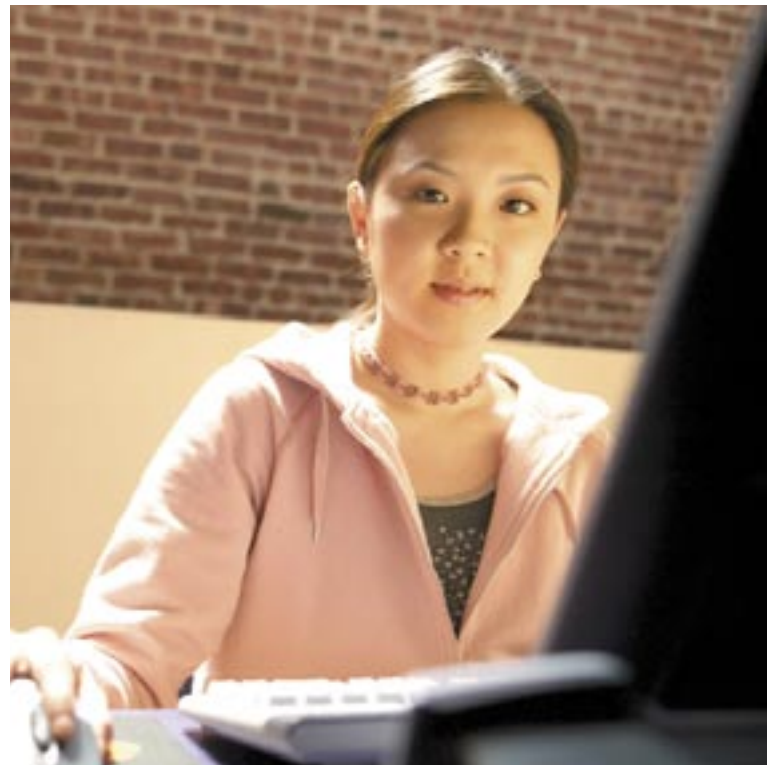
In 2003, DE&T went out to tender for 4,150 Administration desktop computers as part of a Standard Operating Environment for nearly 1,700 primary and high school sites across Victoria. One of the major influences on the selection of the winning bid was value for money. "The key criteria the Victorian Government has established for purchasing decisions above \$100,000 is purely and simply value for money," said DE&T's Manager of ICTechnology Procurement and Contracts, Stewart vanLangenberg. "That doesn't mean lowest price - we also factor in a host of other criteria, including product specifications, performance and build quality as well as the supplier's ability to provide the level of support services required. We also as-

sess the supplier's experience in similar supply arrangements and their financial viability."

### **DE&T Chooses AMD Technology**

In early 2004, DE&T awarded the Administration desktop computer contract worth approximately \$5 million; for 4,500 desktop computers based on AMD Athlon™ XP processors 2400+ to Paragon Systems against stiff competition from a number of tenderers.

For vanLangenberg, the major differentiator was the value for money offered by Paragon's AMD processor-powered systems and the quality of support services that were tendered. "Service and support from Paragon was a key element," he said. "School administration is obviously a vital environment, desktops are in use all the time; staff are under constant pressure and there are serious implications if a system goes down for any reason. So we need a company that is on its mettle and responds quickly to calls."



## AMD the Best Value For Money

DE&T evaluated the various systems on offer from a number of tenderers against a predetermined set of criteria, vanLangenberg explained. "We assessed the tenders against three broad elements – quality of product, quality of support services and the ability of the supplier to meet the contractual requirements - which are weighted in various ways and then compared against the price of the tender."

The Paragon tender with the AMD processor-powered machines clearly came out on top, according to vanLangenberg. "While processor choice is a relatively small part of the overall process, nonetheless it is an important one because often it is the key to the system's performance and has an impact on pricing," he said. "In general, at this point in time, we are finding that AMD processor-based products are providing excellent overall value for money."

## Future Plans

The school administration project is the first time that DE&T has selected an AMD processor-based system in such a formal and fairly high profile way, said vanLangenberg. "However, subsequent to that project and with an eye towards the future, the Department selected an AMD 64-bit system from Paragon as part of its Standard Desktop Operating Environment for the next three or four years. Deploying the AMD Athlon 64 processor-based systems in various areas is an attempt to future-proof our desktop infrastructure. By maximising the technology level today, hopefully we can squeeze a little bit more life out of these PCs and with the likelihood that we're heading towards a 64-bit operating system in the future, we'd like to think we'd be ready should that happen within our user cycle," he explained.

"We are also purchasing from Optima 1,700 WorkPro 6000 micro ATX tower-only machines with AMD Athlon XP processors 2000+ for Radius authentication and proxy-server use with our school Wireless LANS. It will typically be one machine per school, but some schools with multiple campuses may have more."

## Solution Detail

### Key Benefits:

- Value for money
- Significant improvement on previous level of technology supplied
- Consistent look and feel

### Applications Deployed:

- AMD Athlon™ XP processor 2400+
- AMD Athlon™ 64 processor 3000+
- AMD Athlon™ XP processor 2000+
- CASES (Computerised Administration Systems Environment for Schools)
- Microsoft® Office 2003
- Symantec antivirus
- Citrix client
- Smoothwall Express
- freeRADIUS

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DE&TVictoria

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### About AMD

AMD64 evolves the industry-standard 32-bit x86 architecture to support the demanding 64-bit environment that will enable future generations of computer functionality and productivity. AMD designed the AMD64 platform to allow end users to enjoy reliable, best-in-class performance on the 32-bit software they own today while preparing for a seamless transition to high-performance 64-bit applications. The AMD64 architecture is also designed to enhance the security of your computing environment by integrating Enhanced Virus Protection technology enabled by advanced anti-virus features in Windows® XP Service Pack 2 and the upcoming Windows Server 2003 Service Pack 1.

Since the introduction of the AMD64 architecture in 2003, the AMD Opteron™ processor for servers and workstations and the AMD Athlon™ 64 processors for desktop and notebook computers have earned more than 60 awards for innovation and performance and the support of more than 2,000 OEMs, hardware and software developers, system builders, and distributors.



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