

Dar Al-Handasah

Lenovo Case Study: Dar Al-Handasah
Country: Egypt
Industry: Engineering & Design



“The power and reliability of Lenovo ThinkStation S10 workstations ensures that our engineers and designers deliver superior work and can meet their deadlines, which not only eliminates project delay costs but helps us maintain consistent client service.”

- Mahmoud Amin, IT Manager,
Dar Al-Handasah Cairo Office

CUSTOMER PROFILE

Dar Al-Handasah is one of the largest engineering and design practices in the world with 43 offices located throughout 29 countries. The agency has been a pioneering force in the planning, design and implementation of development projects in the Middle East, Africa and Asia since 1956.

OBJECTIVE

Dar's business includes delivering detailed, data-intensive engineering and design renderings to support every step of a client's development project. Dar's engineers and designers require the latest graphics and computer technologies to create their best work. Mahmoud Amin, IT Manager at Dar's Cairo office, realized that he needed to create a standardized PC solution for all employees in his location to ensure teams have the most reliable tools for their function, whether they are working in the design shop or on a client site. A standard PC solution would also enable the Cairo office to deliver software updates quickly to all engineers and designers, streamline back-office workflows and easily scale to support continued growth.

CHALLENGES

The new PC solution in the Cairo office would span more than 1,500 employees across multiple departments and, therefore, needed to be reliable, secure and scalable. Mr. Amin, along with the Dar Cairo IT team, had to make the right technology choice the first time to conduct a streamlined deployment, contain costs and maximize the solution's impact on employee productivity and customer service.

WHY LENOVO?

Dar chose to standardize the Cairo branch's computing platform with Lenovo® PCs, including ThinkStation workstations, ThinkPad mobile workstations and ThinkPad notebooks. Dar selected the Lenovo brand for several reasons:

- Lenovo's ThinkStations and ThinkPad mobile workstations are certified by Independent Software Vendors (ISVs) for key products like AutoCAD®, Autodesk® 3ds Max®, Autodesk® Maya®, Catia®, SolidWorks®, Pro/ENGINEER® and NX™ to ensure business-critical applications are compatible. Of note, the Lenovo ThinkStation S10 had the fastest AutoCAD 2008 rendering for a four processor core system.¹
- Dar can work closely with Lenovo to create a custom platform consisting of powerful and reliable Lenovo PCs to support all areas of its business, including ThinkPad notebooks for executives and project managers, ThinkStations for in-house designers and mobile workstations for added flexibility when needed.
- Backed by the power of Intel Core 2 Duo and Core 2 Quad Core processors and professional quality NVIDIA Quadro graphics, Lenovo ThinkStation workstations deliver outstanding power, performance, stability and compatibility for users in data-intensive areas of work.

BUSINESS BENEFITS

- Lenovo's powerful ThinkStations have helped Dar engineers increase their productivity, resulting in timely project management and higher customer satisfaction.
- The robust design and solid reliability of Lenovo PCs has reduced overall downtime considerably in the Cairo office.

DAR AL-HANDASAH CAIRO SOLUTION SNAPSHOT:

LENOVO HARDWARE
Workstations
ThinkStation™ S10

Mobile Workstations
ThinkPad® W500

Notebooks
ThinkPad® T60

SOFTWARE APPLICATIONS
AutoCAD® (Certified)
Autodesk® Revit® Architecture

THINKVANTAGE TECHNOLOGIES

Rescue & Recovery provides Dar's Cairo employees a one-button solution to help ensure that project drawings are not lost or can be recovered if they become corrupt.

The Client Security Solution helps protect Dar's vital security information such as electronic credentials, while helping to guard against unauthorized access to data residing on PCs.

Image Ultra Builder simplifies the creation and distribution of corporate images and reduces image technology maintenance dramatically, saving Dar valuable time and money managing IT in its Cairo office.

INTEL® TECHNOLOGIES
Intel® Core™2 Duo E6550 Processor
Intel® Core™2 Quad Core Processor

GRAPHICS
NVIDIA Quadro® professional graphics
Tesla™ high performance computing solutions

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¹ David Cohn, "Lenovo ThinkStation S10 Packs High-Performance Computing in a Petite Package," Desktop Engineering 1 Sept. 2008, 29 Jun. 2009, <http://www.deskeng.com/articles/aaakrr.htm>.

“Every measurement and angle counts in our industry. Our benchmark tests indicate that Lenovo PCs are built to be more powerful and therefore run the certified design software faster and more reliably, so our clients receive the highest quality deliverables on time, throughout their projects.”

- Mahmoud Amin, IT Manager,
Dar Al-Handasah Cairo Office

Dar Al-Handasah, one of the world's largest engineering and design practices, provides customers innovative concepts for projects and the detailed design renderings to make those ideas a reality.

With operations in the Middle East, Africa and Asia, Dar's competitive advantage rests on the shoulders of its engineers and their ability to create detailed, accurate project renderings on schedule. Dar understands the importance of arming its employees with the best hardware technology and the latest design software to facilitate seamless workflows from concept development and image creation to file storage and account management.

Lenovo ThinkStation Workstation Leaves the Competition in the Dust

Dar's Cairo branch turned to Lenovo after learning that Lenovo's ThinkStation and mobile workstation products have received more than 400 certifications for various configurations of graphics cards and operating systems by industry leading software suppliers, including Autodesk. In fact, the Lenovo ThinkStation S10 had the fastest AutoCAD 2008 rendering for a four processor core system. This was particularly attractive as Dar was in the process of transitioning to AutoCAD as its standard software and Autodesk Revit Architecture as its design architecture software.

Dar put the ThinkStation S10 workstation through a rigorous benchmark test that compared the ThinkStation's power, speed and graphics to the competition's, while running AutoCAD and Autodesk Revit Architecture. Lenovo ThinkStations were able to load larger file sizes and render complex images significantly faster than other systems evaluated.

The Cairo IT team was impressed by the ThinkStation's computational and graphics performance and reliability. After reviewing the features, functionality and rock-solid design of Lenovo's ThinkPad W500 mobile workstation and ThinkPad T60 notebook, Dar decided to use Lenovo PCs across all functions for all of its Cairo employees.

Lenovo Provides a New Blueprint for Dar's PC Solution

The Cairo office's Lenovo PC solution includes approximately 250 ThinkStation S10 workstations and approximately 300 ThinkPad W500 mobile workstations, as well as ThinkPad notebooks, to provide employees working in every function the right mix of power, connectivity and mobility.

The Lenovo solution was deployed in a phased approach across the Cairo departments. Dar and Lenovo worked closely together to support a smooth transition for uninterrupted employee productivity and ensure all employees were satisfied with their new PCs.

The ThinkStation S10 delivers power and speed based on Intel processors and NVIDIA Quadro professional graphics that help engineers and designers review more designs in a short amount of time, leading to higher quality results and lower overall project costs.

The ThinkStation design is also well-suited for a fast-paced industrial environment with innovative features like a removable handle for easy lifting and moving, illuminated I/O icons in the front of the system to better see the ports in different lighting conditions, and a premium cover latch to access the system easily. Lenovo's unique thermal design offers workstation-level performance with the acoustics of a standard Lenovo desktop PC, for a cool and quiet work experience.



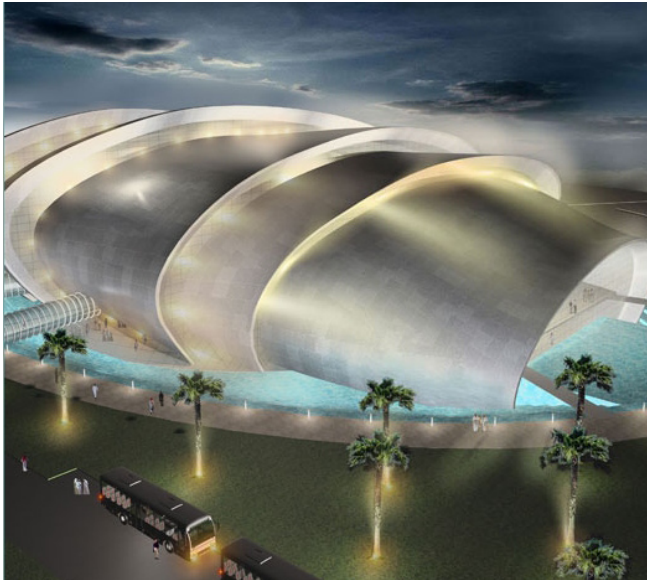
Dar engineers and designers don't stay tethered to their desks, either. Using ThinkPad W500 mobile workstations, Dar engineers can move from site to site and still access the information they need. Equipped with integrated Wireless WAN, the Lenovo mobile workstations deliver reliable access to information so employees can reference the latest drawings on Dar's server and make real-time updates while working in the field. The W500 features Open GL (Open Graphics Library) with up to 512MB of dedicated video memory for increased system flexibility and stability even while operating graphics-intensive applications on-the-go.

ThinkPad T60 notebook PCs provide Dar mobile executive teams the perfect balance of performance, portability and wireless connectivity during meetings with clients to discuss project deadlines and status, while reviewing topographical maps with local governments for urban development plans, or when displaying presentations during new business pitches. The ThinkPad T60 notebook features the ThinkVantage Client Security Solution, a hardware- and software-based layered security platform that helps ensure sensitive client data and information, such as electronic credentials, residing on notebook PCs remain protected. In addition, employees working across every department can maintain communications and seamless back-office operations using their T60 notebooks.

Dar's Lenovo solution comes equipped with a range of ThinkVantage Technologies, a suite of self-help tools that enable Cairo employees to remain productive and decrease PC support costs. Employees are assured that drawings are not lost and can be recovered if they become corrupt, through the one-button solution called Rescue & Recovery.

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In addition, Dar saves valuable time and money managing its deployment with Image Ultra Builder, a tool that simplifies the creation and distribution of corporate images and reduces image technology maintenance dramatically. These unique features deliver added reliability so Dar's employees feel confident when working in varied conditions and locations.

Dar is committed to helping its clients develop sustainable structures, in addition to reducing its own carbon footprint by selecting "green" technologies and materials. For example, the ThinkStation S10 and ThinkPad W500 mobile workstation comply with the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA's) Energy Star® 4.0 requirements to help manage energy usage and related costs. The S10 features 80 percent efficient power supplies and contains more than 50 percent recycled plastics content. Using the BatteryStretch feature, the ThinkPad W500 mobile workstation consumes 25 percent less power compared to previous generation notebooks. It is also one of the first PCs in the industry to have a GREENGUARD Air Quality certification.

Dar and Lenovo Build a Rock-Solid Foundation for Greater Productivity and Efficiency

The Dar team is seeing a revolution in creating increasingly complex buildings, resulting in the need for large and complex models. Lenovo ThinkStations and ThinkPad mobile workstations running Autodesk Revit Architecture software help Dar's Cairo employees to explore early design concepts and forms, load large complex files and render 3D images of buildings, bridges and other architectural structures quickly and efficiently, without ever missing a deadline.

The Lenovo solution helps Dar maintain its clients' visions throughout the design, documentation and construction phases of projects. Lenovo's powerful ThinkStation workstations have empowered Dar's Cairo office to re-engineer its operations to become a more innovative, nimble and efficient branch.

Through its collaboration with Lenovo, Dar's Cairo office has established a PC infrastructure that can unleash the potential of its knowledgeable workers, and provide all employees with the best tools to increase productivity and execute projects with enhanced efficiency and confidence.

To learn more, visit www.Lenovo.com.

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