



# Discovery smoothes migration at Kerry County Council



## BUSINESS DRIVER

Windows XP migration

## INDUSTRY SECTOR

Public Sector, Local Government

## NETWORK TYPE

Decentralised, 600 PCs, 40 Sites

## WHY DISCOVERY

Location tracking, project management wizards

## BUSINESS BENEFITS

Successful XP roll-out, greater visibility of IT assets, reduced inventory overhead

With 600 PCs spread across 40 sites, Kerry County Council turned to Discovery from Centennial Software to help manage its IT assets and ensure that IT staff know exactly where hardware and software is at any given time.

Popularly known as 'The Kingdom', the county of Kerry lies in the south west of Ireland and is the fifth largest of Ireland's thirty-two counties. Until recently, the task of keeping tabs on Kerry County Council's 600 plus PCs and installed software was performed manually. This took up a considerable amount of time for the council's small IT team and led to inventories being both unreliable and sporadic.

### The Need

Confronted with a plan to implement Microsoft's Windows XP throughout the council, the IT department needed to find an automated solution to its inventory management problems. "Not only did we want to know how many PCs were at each location," explained project leader, Diarmuid Normoyle, "But also we needed to know which PCs were able to run XP and which would need to be upgraded or replaced in order to manage the upgrade project effectively."

### The Solution

After doing some research, Diarmuid and his team quickly narrowed their search down to just a few potential applications. "Centennial Software's Discovery seemed to tick most of our boxes," he said, "so we requested a trial version and received a demonstration from the local Centennial partner, Servaplex in Dun Laoghaire who also helped us with the implementation and provided the initial training."

Discovery was able to show Kerry County Council all the PCs on the network, and was able to differentiate between machines that needed simple upgrades and those would need replacing. The unique project management 'wizards' in Discovery also helped Diarmuid and his team calculate the cost of the overall XP roll-out in terms of hardware and labour costs.



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### **User-friendly interface**

Kerry County Council decided to opt for a web-enabled version of Discovery because it provides a number of standard report templates that cover most users' requirements and is especially useful when tailored reports are required. The inbuilt wizards are simple to use and users will quickly compile the information they require.

"Now, whenever a report is required, a user can scan the network and receive information almost in real-time," Diarmuid commented. "It enables me to see at a glance what hardware is becoming redundant and also which PCs are potentially harmful to the environment – perhaps requiring an upgrade to their anti-virus software, for instance."

### **Summary**

"Centennial Software's Discovery has enabled us to know precisely what hardware and software we're running on the network at any point in time and, therefore, to know when changes, perhaps unauthorised, have been made. We're pleased with it and the proof of that is that we use it often," Diarmuid said in conclusion.

### **About Discovery 2005**

Discovery 2005 helps organisations gain 100% visibility and understanding of all IT assets on the network. It automatically finds and identifies all hardware and software on the network, providing detailed information on the configuration of PCs, physical location of assets and individual software programs installed across the network. Discovery 2005 not only build a complete hardware inventory, the unique Software Recognition Engine provides the most complete software inventory possible, accurately identifying commercial, freeware and in-house applications.



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