



IT Asset Disposition: Getting the Job Done Right

Companies no longer have carte blanche when it comes to IT asset disposition. Once free to toss old IT assets out the back door whilst unpacking the new ones, today's organisations must meet new social and legal responsibilities in the handling of decommissioned equipment.

However, modern IT asset disposition is not as simple as handing over old desktops to a recycling center. It requires advanced data destruction capabilities that are secure, auditable, and compliant with stringent regulations such as GDPR. And it requires the thoughtful choice of the appropriate disposition method for the asset type.

The good news is that IT asset disposition no longer has to be a source of risk or overhead for companies. In fact, the right recovery options can actually return the monetary value of those assets back to the business.

Regardless of your approach to IT asset disposition, current trends in IT have the potential to have a serious impact on your organisation. This paper examines those trends and suggests factors to consider as you develop, deploy, and refine your IT asset disposition strategy.

THREE CORE CONSIDERATIONS

This guide explores three key IT considerations to approaching IT asset disposition

- 1. Why IT Asset Disposal Matters Now?**
- 2. Turning IT Assets into IT Funds**
- 3. How to Choose a Solution**

1. Why IT Asset Disposal Matters Now?



Given the rapid changes in technology, a comprehensive IT asset disposition strategy is more relevant than ever:

- The number of devices per user is increasing, in turn increasing the number of decommissioned devices per user.
- End-user device lifespans are short—especially for smartphones, which organisations often replace every 12–18 months¹. According to Spiceworks research, 42% of companies use smartphones for two years or less, creating a steady stream of decommissioned devices².
- Even big-ticket components like servers are getting turned over at a quick pace, as OS migrations and new application requirements render existing equipment obsolete. According to the Spiceworks research, 25% of organisations replace or decommission servers within four years².
- Companies continue moving services to the cloud, leaving all manner of legacy equipment behind to take up space or go to waste in the data centre. A recent IDG survey revealed that 73% of organisations have at least one service in the cloud, and another 17% will within the next 12 months³.
- Companies that are taking the hybrid cloud approach or otherwise maintaining their own on-premises infrastructure are reinvesting in their data centres, upgrading and consolidating components for higher efficiency, performance, utilisation, space and cost savings, and cloud-readiness. According to IDC, data centre spending is the top spending priority in the year ahead among IT decision-makers in the UK and across Europe⁴. Legacy equipment gets left behind in the process.
- Serviceability, including the ability to swap out SDDs for HDDs, can dramatically increase the lifespan of individual devices.

2. Turning IT Assets into IT Funds

IT asset disposition comes into play in each of these scenarios, potentially introducing new costs and risks. Fortunately, today's asset disposition technologies offer not only secure, compliant, and auditable data destruction, but the opportunity to recover and remarket decommissioned assets, extracting yet more value from those IT investments.

By reclaiming, refurbishing, and remarketing your devices and their components—from smartphones to storage infrastructure—IT asset disposition providers can return monetary value to the business, helping to offset not only the costs of disposition but the costs of IT refreshes and other modernisation projects.

Of course, timing can affect the financial return companies can realise with IT asset disposition. "With upgrades occurring prior to device obsolescence there are more opportunities for reuse and resale of equipment", says the International Association of Information Technology Asset Managers. "However new models do impact the resale value of previous versions so turnaround time is critical". The organisation recommends that companies optimise their IT asset recovery approaches for efficient and strategic resale opportunities⁵.





3. How to Choose a Solution

When researching your IT asset disposition options, especially when it comes to recovery, not all providers are created equal. Look for recovery facilities that embrace engineering for sustainable development (ESD) practices, and that combine precision controls and testing to produce the highest levels of quality and reliability.

It's also important to look for IT asset disposition providers who comply with international standards and who carry the relevant industry certifications:

- WEEELABEX ('WEEE Label of Excellence') is an accreditation project funded by the LIFE environmental programme of the European Community. WEEELABEX reflects a set of standards with respect to the collection, sorting, storage, transportation, preparation for re-use, treatment, processing, and disposal of waste electrical and electronic equipment (WEEE). WEEELABEX accreditation is recognised by EPEAT, the leading global ecolabel for the IT sector.
- R2 (Responsible Recycling) Standard certification, offered by Sustainable Electronics Recycling International (SERI), reflects the premier global environmental, worker health, and safety standard for the electronics refurbishing and recycling industry.
- e-Stewards is a global team of individuals, institutions, businesses, non-profit organisations, and governmental agencies upholding a safe, ethical, and globally responsible standard for e-waste recycling and refurbishment. Compliance with the e-Stewards global reporting standard provides evidential assurance that used IT equipment is subject to the highest global environmental standards.





Conclusion

Given the deluge of devices under IT management today, it's more important than ever to develop and enforce a comprehensive IT asset disposition strategy that makes the most of your assets whilst providing the highest levels of security, compliance, and auditability. Whether you're refreshing your fleet of end-user devices, clearing legacy equipment out of your server room to consolidate on more efficient infrastructure, or decommissioning servers and storage devices that have been replaced by the cloud, the right IT asset disposition provider can make it a secure—and financially rewarding—experience.

Wisetek can help. Wisetek are leaders in IT asset disposal, reuse, and data destruction services worldwide. With offices in Europe, Asia, the USA, the Middle East, and Africa, Wisetek help clients achieve maximum financial return thanks to advanced reuse, remanufacturing, remarketing, and recycling of retired IT equipment, all whilst maintaining compliance with environmental and data security regulations. Learn more at our website.

Sources

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