

## Green IT: Paring Down Workstations in Oil and Gas Sector



*Cutting wasteful hardware and software makes sense for Green IT, with corresponding reductions in power usage and CO2 emissions from production.*

### Business Overview

A medium size oil and gas company had more than 350 high-end UNIX workstations in their upstream department. These workstations were billed for each computer operated by the IT service provider, which proved to be costly. Management thought they could easily cut the number of workstations down to around 100 computers by requiring occasional users to run applications through terminal servers, instead of having their own workstations.



### Business Challenge

The question posed was, who needed to use the workstations for productive work and who did not? The manager of the upstream department, when questioning users, found that everyone felt they needed their personal high-end computer. How could we identify the users that really needed them?

Several approaches did not work, as shown below:

Approach	Fault
Ask the user.	Everyone said they needed their high-end workstation.
Meter system activity on the workstation.	This shows all usage of the workstations, even screensavers.
Check software license usage by looking at license check-out/check-ins.	No distinction between inactive and active sessions.

A better solution was needed, and turned out to be metering applications in real use on each computer.

*“There were not a lot of good solutions out there, but we found one that worked very well for us”,* said Trond Ellefsen, Systems Architect. *“Open iT provided exactly the right metrics I needed to be able to cut down the number of workstations from 357 to 50, with much more drastic reductions than we thought possible before we started.”*

The cost reduction was around 70%, and users were happy with less heat and noise in their offices. *“The only problem,”* said Kjell Randa, IT Manager, *“was that some users complained they now needed an electric heater in the winter!”*

### About Open iT, Inc.

Open iT’s flexible software management tools can greatly enhance the service value and business viability of any company seeking to deliver the best available IT solutions to its clients. We provide advanced hardware & software usage reporting and optimization solutions. Our customers use Open iT’s tools and services to reduce IT costs, increase performance and support business process improvements. Open iT software enables fully customizable usage reporting, granular charge-back for hardware and software usage, and automated, industry-leading license harvesting capabilities across Windows/Unix/Linux platforms. Open iT metering and optimization tools equip Software and IT Asset Managers with advanced usage metering across license managers such as FlexNet, IBM LUM and Sentinel/Abaqus, in addition to other applications and web applications not using license managers.

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