

# iQ "In Quotes"

## Sue Norris



# Mobility? Think mindset not handset...

Ask any IT manager about the growth in mobility and they'll likely roll their eyes and bemoan the additional security and support headaches it inevitably engenders.

And perhaps they have a point.

What's really so liberating about portable computers anyway? They're okay when they're in the boot of the car, but when they end up simply adding to the stuff the average executive has to carry back and forth, something feels a bit off kilter.

Isn't the whole point of mobile computing to make users lighter on their feet?

The best way to empower a mobile workforce and make it truly flexible therefore, must surely be flexible access. So instead of transferring all your applications and data assets onto yet another piece of hardware (that'll soon be out of date and need constant support and protection), might it not be sensible to think about investing that budget in centralising key applications and information and redesigning the underlying IT infrastructure?

In one fell swoop, your mobile users can work from anywhere, no matter what device they're using, without any residual dependence on either device or location. This also eliminates concerns about device support, system updates, back-up and security, machine loss, damage, or theft.

It's ironic – especially at a time when flexibility is billed as business's be all and end all – but centralising everything and focusing your IT efforts on areas like security, business continuity, system refresh, and other strategic projects, could actually mean your mobile workforce is more nimble, not less.

*Sue Norris is a technology industry journalist.*