How to make the most of your limited time & technology funds

lockncharge

LocknCharge…it just makes life easier.

Learn about:

> Common issues that other schools have with their deployments

> Tips and solutions to these issues

> Common questions we get surrounding mobile device deployments

lockncharge

Devices Galore

Over the past several years, through the thousands of conversations we have had with districts around the United States, we know that managing multiple devices can be a daunting task. A lot of this has to do with the growth in devices available. According to The New York Times and market research firm IDC; desktop, laptop, tablet, and two-in-one computers shipped to Kindergarten - 12th grade schools and higher education institutes in 2014 totaled $7 billion, about 13.2 million devices. This is a 33% increase in devices over 2013. Much of this growth is being led by the rise of the Chromebook. Chromebook sales had a 310% increase year over year.

With this huge variety of mobile device solutions, deployments are becoming more complex for all involved: IT personnel, Administrators, teachers, students, and even parents. In addition to device growth, the change in technology often means the devices that you are using now, are not the same devices you had four years ago. As devices have evolved over the years, so have deployments. We are now seeing deployments consist of a wide variety of devices to accomodate different education levels' needs.

So what hasn't changed? Budgets and space. Schools across the country are still dealing with the same limited budget and funding to care for and manage these deployments. They are forced to manage double the amount of devices without double the budget, and when they do have the budget to manage the devices they need, schools are beginning to run out of space to store everything.

Continue reading to learn how to make the most of every dollar you have and every limited minute you have while managing your mobile deployment.

Source: ICD/ The New York Times

13.2 Million
Devices

Source: ICD/The New York Times

Managing Devices and Deployments

LocknCharge solutions facilitate logistics and makes life easier

Most Common Issues We See

Difficulty managing multiple storage solutions and device types
- Old storage and systems were meant for original device types

Space limitations
- Device quantity is dramatically increasing, but no additional space to store devices

Device distribustion and cable management can be time consuming
- Managing fleets can be overwhelming and distribution of devices can become time consuming if not done properly

Funds are limited
- Educators create their own solutions, leaving devices unprotected and inconsistently charged

Security is limited or inconsistent
- Varied storage solutions lead to security gaps

Since 1999, LocknCharge, has helped schools across the world, large and small assure their devices are secured, charged, and easily deployed.

lockncharge

Managing Devices and Deployments
Issue: Difficulty managing multiple storage solutions and device types.

Devices are unlikely to be the same 5 years from now, that they were 5 years ago. If standardizing on your devices is impossible, standardize everywhere else you can. Universal charging and storage solutions are a great place to start. A universal charging cart can accomodate different device types, allowing you to store, and charge laptops and tablets in the same cart. It enables educators and IT staff alike to be able to easily understand how to wire, store and charge devices. It also allows students to easily understand procedures from class to class on how to access, distribute and store devices.

It may sounds miniscule, but these things can save dramatic amounts of time that can be added back to instruction time. The difference between having 30 students stand in line for devices, and 3 students grabbing a set of baskets for their rows or pod can save several minutes. Teachers can begin teaching without having to supervise distribution or wait several minutes for devices to be deployed. Less time deploying equals more time teaching.

With a charging and storage solution that is universal, it will accommodate your devices today and your devices next year. By beginning to purchase universal solutions, you can save your limited IT funds for new devices or other infrastructure enhancements.

Adding charging stations and lockers in common areas allow you to standardize outside of the classroom, allowing students and faculty to use a common charging solution. By selecting a universal solution, you will be more prepared for whatever devices come into your ecosystem.

"The best solution is to standardize where you can...Universal charging and storage solutions are a great place to start"

More flexibility. Modular. Truly universal… The Carrier 30 Cart is a Cart for all types of mobile devices. It's an 'everything cart'

Managing Devices and Deployments

Issue: Space Limitations

In recent years, space limitation is a rising issue. Schools are running out of space because they were not originally designed to accomodate the space needed for a large quantity of devices or even increases of students.

If space is limited, looking for solutions to store your devices outside of the classroom or sharing a storage solution between rooms can save space.

With a solution that has Baskets by LocknCharge, you can easily share a cart between classrooms or keep the devices in a common area like a library or tech department – while still easily transporting and protecting devices during check in and check out.

Another option with space limitations is to think outside the 'cart' – and go for charging stations that don't take up floor – but can be mounted to the wall and out of the way. This gives you the security you need and charging you need, but doesn't take up space. Some schools incorporate the charging stations over or near lockers outside of classrooms so they are leveraging wall space in the hallways.

You can also go outside of the classroom all together by providing charging and storage solutions in common areas instead with a locker-style system. This enables students and faculty to use the charging solutions in places like lunchrooms, breakrooms, locker rooms, libraries and more.

"When dealing with space limitations, think "outside" the cart and find solutions that don't take up floor or desk space."

The iQ 10 Charging Station can transform any wall, desk or bench into a secure space for charging mobile devices.

lockncharge

Managing Devices and Deployments
Issue: Device Distribution and Cable Management

Device distribution is something that is most often overlooked. People do not always realize the amount of time it can take to have 30 students line up, receive their devices, and return them all at the end. The problem is that this long process takes away from teaching time, can hinder a class' learning, and be a large disruption. It can take teachers up to 10 minutes to have their students get in line, be handed a device, and return it at the end of class. This could be up to 20% or more of a teacher's time. We believe that technology should never hinder instruction

Using baskets, teachers can eliminate the bottleneck effect at the cart and break up a class deployment into smaller deployments allowing just a few to come up and get a basket of devices. To further streamline distribution, coordinate a device's cover color with a Basket color making it easy for students to receive and put away their devices. We have also seen teachers use photos of their students on the device's cover that matches with their photo on a Basket slot. Zip ties can be used to keep wires neatly organized and easier to plug in - included with LocknCharge solutions.

When it comes to cable management and limiting your setup time, choose a solution that does not require tools or has limited assembly. Choosing a solution that does not require moving from the front of the cart to the back or feeding wires through tight channels saves valuable time. Allow your storage solution to be the easy part of setup. By doing this, you let your storage solution be a "solution", not an additional hassle that has to be handled by staff.

Baskets by LocknCharge make mobile device deployments faster and safer, so that Teachers and IT Administrators can focus on creating an engaging learning environment. Baskets allow you to share and safely distribute devices between multiple classrooms. They enable students to assist in the distribution of devices, so teaching can happen faster.

Managing Devices and Deployments

Issue: Funds are limited

Finding funds to allocate to your deployment can be one of the most difficult tasks. Schools are challenged every year to get the most out of their limited budgets and become creative with their spending.

We've seen a wide variety of funding for deployments from federal/ state grants to community backing to bonds, and a combination of those.

Even in the most tough economic communities, such as Coachella Valley Unified School District, they were able to educate the community on the benefits of technology in the classroom and obtain a $42 million dollar technology bond. As one of the poorest school districts in the United States, with 90% qualifying for free or reduced cost lunches and with a population that is 97% Hispanic, the passing of a $42 Million technology bond in 2012 was a signal that the district and community were making a true investment in the future of their students.

If you are looking to get the community involved, or already have a heavily involved community, we have also seen examples of getting local companies to sponsor carts or charging stations. In some scenarios we have seen districts allow cell towers on their land and are leveraging the income from those to fund technology.

Finally, we've seen districts holding fundraisers through their PTA or other organizations, like a technology run, in which all proceeds go to furthering technology in the classroom. In states that have limited funds for education, this can be a great way to get the additional funds you need for your deployments.

> *"Schools are challeneged every year to get the most out of their limited budgets and become creative with their spending."*

The Joey 30 Cart is innovation meeting affordability. Charge, store, secure, and transport up to 30 mobile devices, starting at $999

lockncharge

Managing Devices and Deployments
Issue: Security

Having a multitude of storage solutions can lead to a variety of locking mechanisms – or lack of them – which can be painful to manage and maintain. We've seen the most success with schools standardizing on an approach to how they'll secure devices. From keying all storage systems alike or all different, there are benefits and risks to both avenues, and it really comes down to balancing security and the management of keys, and what is best for the district.

Keeping a consistent solution eliminates or decreases security gaps in your deployment, it assures that all of your devices are secured and not exposed to as much risk when one room or school has a less secure solution.

Assure that the solution you're looking at can't be easily pried open with pry points and assure that the locks are not easily cut off. Before selecting a solution, ask your provider how the unit has performed against break ins in other deployments and how many devices were taken if they solution was compromised. With the investment you're making in devices, assure they're well protected

Assure that the solution you're looking at can't be easily pried open with pry points and assure that the locks are not easily cut off...With the investment you're making in devices, assure they're well protected

About Us

LocknCharge is a company dedicated to the design, manufacture and functionality of the highest quality security, charging and transport solutions for mobile devices. Our vision is to be globally recognized as the most innovative and trusted brand in developing solutions for managing deployments of mobile technology. Our mission is to make life easier for organizations implementing mobile technology.

lockncharge