



Mobile Computing

by **FalconDirect**

Every law enforcement vehicle should have mobile computing capability! Historically, users have been conditioned to expect costs of up to ten thousand dollars per vehicle plus *infrastructure* costs that could easily exceed fifty thousand dollars or more. We think there is a better way and we would like to share our ideas to show you how inexpensively you can start with mobile computing and how your system can expand as your needs grow. Let's get a few things out of the way, right up front, beginning with a definition of what mobile computing does and how you can plan a migratory path for enhancing capabilities as needs dictate and budget permits. Let's start with the basics.

You start with a *good* laptop computer with rugged construction, a bright screen, reasonably fast operating speed and the storage capacity to meet your needs. We can talk about accessing the Internet and remote databases later. Initially, you want a computer that is suitable for a mobile environment that is capable of storing local areas maps and files that can be updated periodically. In other words, the mobile PC should first be capable of providing map/document displays in the vehicle. The data may not be updated in real time, but stored files are much better than no files!

You will need a stable operating system and basic software. Windows XP Professional is our personal choice at this time although Windows VISTA is optionally available for experienced users. If you plan to integrate software from third party sources, we recommend that you stay with XP Professional. We also recommend a bundled package that includes Microsoft Office 2003 (We suggest waiting for awhile before considering Office 2007). The Office suite will provide document and spreadsheet programs that can be very useful in generating reports and transferring documents as well as both Outlook and Access database management programs.

You will need a good mobile mount kit that is easy to install, preferably one that can be self installed without drilling holes. Once installed, the mount kit should hold the laptop PC securely and dampen vibration.

Our recommended choice for a laptop to be mounted in a vehicle is a specially configured Dell Latitude which we offer as a Dell Value Added Reseller. This particular configuration was developed with the assistance of Leo Clarke, our Channel Partner support representative at Dell Computer with the specific needs of law enforcement in mind. Thanks Leo! The general specifications are as follows:



Dell Latitude D620 with Intel Core 2 duo 667 MHz processor rated at 2 GHz with the following capabilities:

14.1 inch WXGA LCD wide screen display
1 Gigabyte Memory (2 GB recommended for VISTA operating system)
Low heat 5400 rpm 80 Gigabyte hard drive

Special Features Included

A type 1 or Type 2 PC card is included to allow later connection of an Internet data card for connection to Cingular, Sprint or Verizon. Four (4) USB ports are included to allow connection of external devices such as memory sticks for file transfers, external printers, or other peripheral connections. Complete technical specifications are available on the Internet by clicking [here](#).

Our special law enforcement package includes an upgraded 6 cell battery pack, a 12 volt cable for direct wiring to the vehicle ignition system or to the cigarette lighter receptacle.

An 8X DVD ROM Read/Write drive is included for information exchange with other computers.

The law enforcement special package includes Microsoft Streets and Maps plus an internal GPS receiver for quicker response through accurate driving directions.

Built in 802.11g wireless LAN is a standard feature of the law enforcement special package. This allows direct Internet connection in available *hot spots* as well as used in conjunction with a network access point for direct downloading of files. Access point and associated antenna is available as an extra cost option.

Operating System & Software

The law enforcement special package includes the Windows XP Professional operating system, Office 2003 which includes WORD, EXCEL, ACCESS, OUTLOOK, and POWERPOINT. Adobe Acrobat 8 Professional is included which allows development of customized reports and forms for integration of a paperwork reduction program.

Support Services

Pricing includes fully installed operating system, user manuals, and limited technical support by the applicable manufacturer (Adobe, Dell, or Microsoft). Operator training, software integration, and/or connectivity with 802.11g networks or optional cellular data networks is not included. Integration with database information systems such as CJIS, LETS, etc. is not included. The hardware and operating system provided should be compatible with most records management and computer aided dispatch systems. However, no guarantee is made relative to compatibility with any third part software or hardware.

The Dell Latitude D620 law enforcement package includes 3 years of next day on-site service which covers repairs required through normal use of the equipment plus accidental damage repair as necessary.



Mobile Mount

A good mobile mount is the key to wireless mobility. There are a number of manufacturers offering mobile laptop mounts including ExecuDesk, Gamber-Johnson, MobileDesk, Sidekick and others, but our personal choice is the RAM mount.

The VB-106-SW1 is our personal choice with models available for all popular police vehicles. This unique and affordable mounting

system requires no hole drilling (it mounts to the seat track. It is height adjustable for your individual needs and it can be rotated for either driver or passenger use. Additional information is available by clicking [here](#). Ram mounts are made in the USA by National Products, Inc.

Prices and Ordering

Prices may vary depending on promotional offerings by Adobe, Dell, Microsoft, or National Products, Inc. For your convenience, we have provided current pricing information effective March 15, 2007 which can be viewed by clicking [here](#). Prices are subject change without notice.

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