



“We did it again!” The team behind the introduction of Windows 7 at Sweco celebrating with cakes (which cannot be shown in the picture because they have all been eaten up). The iron man team consists of Jens Nilstam from Atea, Daniel Grantz from the Sweco IT department and Peter Frodin.

## Fast Rollout of Windows 7: What Sweco did to succeed

It only took one and a half weeks from start to finish to implement the rollout of Windows 7 in Sweco's organisation. They were greatly helped by the standardisation work carried out when introducing the Jumpstart platform last year, but still cannot stress enough the importance of all involved doing their homework first.

**WHEN TOMORROW VISITS** Sweco, the high tempo and level of energy is almost palpable. Daniel Grantz from the IT department and the team from Atea have just launched yet another pilot environment with Windows 7. Everything is functioning as expected and they are taking a quick coffee break and eating a couple of their favourite cakes from the local food store.

### Advantages

- Sweco, which manages the solution, states that various aspects have now been improved even more:
- A Windows client is approx 20 min faster to install with Windows 7 and its configurations and base applications (approx 40 min total).
- Easier to create a good image.
- Better tools for administrating the platform in the form of MDT 2010, SCCM SP2 and R2.
- New methods of managing device drivers were produced in this project which facilitate the work of machine certification.
- Easier to certify hardware for Windows 7 thanks to the many device drivers integrated in the operating system.
- The functionality of automatic backup of user data when re-installing was improved during the project and is also considerably faster now. Use of USMT 4.0.

Sweco is a company where the various units have a wide degree of independence. There are few centralised functions, but the IT department plays an important role. It is here that Daniel Grantz is holding the reins for the introduction of Windows 7.

### Enthusiasm for the future new platform

“We were quick to adopt Windows 7,” says Daniel. Many units in the organisation are enthusiastic about the future platform.

Things were a little different with Vista, which together with XP will remain in the company for some time yet. But Daniel is not among those who would write off the “old” system.

“I think the bad reputation of Vista is in some way undeserved. The system worked well for us, and overall we have been satisfied. In reality, it seems to be more of a PR problem, but it is certainly true that everything will be better with Windows 7.

Together with Jens Nilstam, Peter Frodin is Atea's onsite specialist. Peter affirms that the work Sweco did on the previous Vista rollout is in no way lost.

“We can exploit and utilise important lessons from the project,” says Peter. This is why we can roll out Windows 7 so quickly now. The technology is in place, much of the analytical work has been done. We already know which applications and components are critical and this enables us to easily find the fastest route to functioning.”

Daniel agrees. The units in the group which have most actively been involved with Vista now have the best possibilities for implementing Windows 7 first. But he also emphasises the value of the work previously spent on standardising the client platforms.

### From start to finish in less than two weeks

“We know our platform and bring a high degree of standardisation with us from our client management project. We are using the Atea Jumpstart platform from before. Many companies embarking on this process must start from scratch – we were there a couple of years ago! And now they are starting in a recession, and that can make things more awkward.”

When Tomorrow comes back a week later, practically everything is ready and Daniel is more than pleased. Sweco has gone from start to finish in one and a half weeks including testing applications, hardware and the upgrading of existing client distribution structure.

“We have carried out a rapid change in technology with all that implies, but we were in a favourable position,” Daniel explains. “Much of the preparatory work had been done. I can’t emphasise enough the importance of structured standardisation work, especially on the application side. If one doesn’t know what one has and thus what must be tested, the risk of confusion and muddle increases and the project may be prolonged.

One challenge we now face is planning how the old system platforms should be phased out. Because no doubt about it, sooner or later they must be. At present, the company is using XP and Vista along with Windows 7,” Jens explains.

“XP is an old platform which in many respects is less flexible than both Vista and Windows 7, and is preventing companies from building modern and dynamic client solutions.

Other issues which must be resolved concern support, the helpdesk and future investments.

“What order should the old systems be removed in, when should we cut off support, how do we go about buying new machines? No decision has been made yet, and this, of course, affects the orderers in our organisation. But it all has to be planned, Daniel Grantz says in conclusion.

### Sweco highlights

Sweco is an international consultancy company where engineers, architects and environmental experts collaborate on developing a sustainable society. Sweco offers qualified high knowledge consultancy services, often early on in customer projects. The group has sales of approx SEK 5.5 billion with 4500 employees in ten countries. At present, Sweco has assignments in some 80 countries around the world. Sweco is listed on OMX Nordic Stock Exchange in Stockholm.



## The project conditions and work agenda

- Examination of application compatibility
- Firewall from third party
- Antivirus solution
- Templates
- Hardware. In Windows 7 it is much easier to certify the hardware and its device drivers. But one has to do the job of checking all relevant hardware oneself.
- Existing deployment solution must be updated.
- Update Configuration Manager, Deployment Toolkit. Certain functions in more recent versions can involve major changes. In this case, the process of installing new computers was altered. Checking this in advance. Checking how and when this must be dealt with in the planning stage.

## Summary of the project

- There was a standard solution for the client platform. (This was also supplied by Atea, see article in Tomorrow 1, 2009)
- Inventory work had already been done in a previous project.
- There were efficient licence models with support for a central application management.
- Application packaging had been performed in a previous project, which meant fewer applications and fewer versions. Only minor updating was necessary.

## The key to success

- You must know your environment and its conditions in order to make the right decisions!
- Start application compatibility testing early on, preferably prior to the project start.
- Get the organisation behind you and establish cooperation with people from the company who will test the new platform.
- Keep a check on which hardware models are to be supported by the new solution.
- Carefully plan upgrades of critical functions in operation. Normal business must be affected as little as possible and as briefly as possible.

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