

Case Study

Salvation Army Trading Company Gives Old Computers New Life for a Good Cause

Highlights

Using Blancco secure data erasure, SATCoL has:

- ✓ Enabled reuse of castoff technology while supporting the community's most vulnerable people.
- ✓ Met tough standards for secure, regulation-compliant data erasure at donor companies, inspiring trust.
- ✓ Set their sights on selling laptops, PCs, phones, and tablets online and in SATCoL's 240 U.K. retail outlets.

The Salvation Army is known worldwide for its abundant charity work. Its U.K. trading arm, the Salvation Army Trading Company (SATCoL), raises money for charity through nationwide reuse and repurposing schemes. In one of its latest initiatives to serve the community, SATCoL introduced the resale of donated computers and mobile devices across their retail outlets. To build trust with donor partners for these data storage devices, SATCoL turned to Blancco.

Challenge

Every day, the digital divide becomes wider between those who have access to technology and those who do not. In a society that requires computers to get a job or go to school, many people go without.

At the same time, IT teams replace thousands of used computers and mobile devices each day that still have usable life.

During SATCoL's initial review of the IT landscape, it was clear that many devices were not reused. Instead, they were mechanically dismantled before recycling. The market was also saturated with recycling and waste management companies, but there were no charity-led initiatives—a challenge SATCoL's team saw as an opportunity.

SATCoL actively encourages reuse and recycling through approximately 8,000 conveniently located clothing banks and over 240 retail stores, innovative nationwide school programs, and modern processing centers. In a move to develop and produce modern solutions for charitable donations and efficient ways to support the circular economy, the trading organization made it their goal to extend the life of unwanted laptops, PCs, phones, and tablets.

They would remove all stored data, then sell these devices in their shops across the U.K.

Resale would not only give equipment a second life but also help raise vital funds to support the work that The Salvation Army does across the U.K..



But first, they had to earn the trust of hardware donors, providing auditable assurance that no one would ever gain access to donor data.

Solution

"In conversation with people in the industry, 'Blancco' was the name that kept coming up as the most credible partner," said SATCoL Service Development Manager Richard Shea.

SATCoL began working with Blancco to examine the ease, efficiency, and security of [Blancco Drive Eraser](#) for removing data from computers and hard drives. The organization also licensed [Blancco Mobile Diagnostics & Erasure](#) for phones and tablets.

With Blancco's wide variety of [erasure standards](#) and [25+ certifications and approvals](#), donors know their data is safe. In fact, many enterprises already specify Blancco erasure within their internal standards for end-of-life equipment sanitization. With validated certificates of erasure, donors also know they can meet even the toughest audit requirements.

“ Partnering with Blancco is a powerful step towards supporting the most vulnerable in the community. These devices can help with essential daily tasks such as homework for young people, online courses for career progression, and simply keeping in touch with friends and family.”

Richard Shea - Service Development Manager, SATCoL.

Blancco's proven ability to render data safe from unauthorized access means SATCoL can more easily solicit decommissioned computers from businesses, schools, and other donors—setting the stage for additional resale capacity in the future.

Donors also benefit by knowing they are supporting a worthy cause. But that's not all: SATCoL provides premium data sanitization service to donors free of charge. A tamper-proof audit trail completes the cycle, enabling SATCoL to meet the needs of the widest variety of potential donors, including those in highly regulated industries.

Results

SATCoL's one-year pilot with Blancco secure data erasure shows that donors are excited to turn over their old computers for reuse.

"We're a trusted brand raising funds to support The Salvation Army and we pride ourselves on offering excellent service and items that have been given a new lease of life," said Shea. "Using Blancco and being able to offer IT devices in our shops has diversified our product mix and given the community direct access to good quality items ready to be repurposed."

Blancco gives SATCoL credibility as a partner that is fully capable of safely repurposing donated hardware. Building on that trust, SATCoL is looking to extend its donor reach across the commercial and government sectors. Blancco's trusted status also positions SATCoL to pursue accreditations such as with the National Protective Security Authority, which advises and regulates technology usage in the U.K.



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As SATCoL works to increase its technology reuse efforts, its relationship with Blancco is keeping pace with its accelerating pace of change. By shifting to a flexible, volume-oriented licensing model, for instance, SATCoL can nimbly scale on demand as it adds new donors.

Its relationship with Blancco as a key technology partner positions SATCoL to add new commercial and non-commercial donors freely and efficiently over the coming years. Through that partnership, Blancco contributes to SATCoL's mission to deliver technology access to more people while also delivering hope to those who need it most.

About SATCoL

Salvation Army Trading Company Ltd (SATCoL) is the trading arm of The Salvation Army, raising money for charity through our nationwide reuse and repurposing schemes. An intrinsic part of SATCoL's company strategy focuses on clean air, improving working environments, the circular economy and reducing waste.

As the largest charity owned textiles collector in the U.K, SATCoL is actively working to support organizations in reducing their carbon footprints and combatting climate change. Through our reuse and recycling schemes, we extend the useful life of products, and divert items away from disposal and landfill. SATCoL maximizes the potential of charitable donations by creating more opportunities for items to be repurposed all to protect our planet and help transform lives.

SATCoL donates the profits it receives to The Salvation Army, supporting the great work the charity does in the U.K., such as providing specialist support for survivors and potential victims of modern slavery, shelter for those experiencing homelessness, and so much more. To learn more, visit us at satcol.org.

About Blancco

Reduce Risk. Increase Efficiency. Be Sustainable. Blancco Technology Group (AIM: BLTG), a carbon-neutral supplier, provides organizations with secure, compliant, and automated solutions that accelerate the transition to the circular economy. Each year, tens of millions of Blancco erasures allow top-tier organizations to protect end-of-life data against unauthorized access, safely redeploy data storage assets, and firmly comply with increased data protection and privacy requirements. Our precise device diagnostics help move used IT assets confidently into the circular economy, enabling enterprises, IT asset disposition (ITAD) vendors and recyclers, and mobile industry stakeholders to operate more sustainably.

Globally approved, recommended, and certified by governing and industry bodies around the world, Blancco is the industry standard in data erasure and mobile lifecycle solutions. With 35+ patented or patent-pending ideas, we continue to grow the number of innovative solutions global companies can rely on to accelerate operations, secure their data, and grow their businesses. Read more about us at blancco.com.

Learn more about Blancco secure data erasure solutions at blancco.com/solutions.