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[» Newsroom home](#)

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- » **Feature stories**
- » Videos
- » Awards

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- » Media relations contacts
- » Fast facts
- » Press kits
- » Executive team
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- » Global citizenship
- » History & Milestones
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Solutions for success

By *Andrea Harris*

Mar. 2005 — What do you think of when you think of mobile technology? Probably the freedom of being away from the home or office, untethered by a desk or phone cord, right?

But, for some people, mobile technology delivers a different kind of freedom — the freedom to walk with confidence through a world of darkness, to explore new ways of learning, to spend more time at a patient's bedside, or simply to live and work independently and safely.

At HP, we believe that we should connect people to the power of technology, using it to lift their potential. Every day, people use HP mobility solutions to access information that truly enhances their lives and the lives of others. Here are some of their stories.

Shedding Light on a Dark Landscape

The increasing complexity of urban life makes modern cities difficult to negotiate for blind and partially sighted people.

"With Trekker, you always know where you are. That means you have one less thing to worry about. It's also non-intrusive: It talks to you but you're not required to answer back."

— **Trekker user**
Doug Wakefield of
Arlington, Virginia

VisuAide's Trekker, a revolutionary computerized travel guide for the blind and visually-impaired, gives users access to real-time information about their location and surroundings.

VisuAide developed the global positioning system (GPS) to run on HP iPAQ Pocket PC handhelds. Trekker combines GPS data,

talking digital maps and talking menus to announce street names, intersections, stores, restaurants and other attractions as the user approaches them, making it easier to negotiate both new cities and familiar territory.

Leveling the Playing Field

Leveraging iPAQ Pocket PC technology, **Freedom Technology** developed PAC Mate — one of the world's first wireless Pocket PC handheld computers for the blind. The PAC Mate enables people who are blind or with low vision to take advantage of the same technology advances as the sighted. The PAC Mate also provides a calculator, linear formatting editor, clock, stopwatch, and speech synthesizer, as well as other popular applications available to sighted people.

Lowering Life's Barriers

What's the value of being a productive member of society? Ask the users of Kiwi, mobile computing software developed by **4M Automation** for the iPAQ Pocket PC. Kiwi helps people with cognitive disabilities, such as Down Syndrome or cerebral palsy, by providing audio, video, or pictorial "prompts" as task reminders.

For example, a hospital employee with Down Syndrome used to carry a binder full of instructions to assemble surgical trays. She now carries an iPAQ Pocket PC equipped with Kiwi software to

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access the step-by-step instructions she needs to guide her activities. She can also check her schedule and look for new messages when she synchs up to the hospital's server.

Tim DeMarks, business development director of 4M automation, says hospitals notice an improvement in the quality of work from employees using Kiwi, and an increase in job satisfaction. "It bolsters their self-esteem," DeMarks says.

Less Deskside, More Bedside

HP's mobility technology even benefits immobilized hospital patients. At the **Klinikum Bamberg Hospital** in Germany, doctors and nurses use HP Compaq Tablet PCs to access the Medico/Os database to quickly link to patient records and medical data. Doctors can display radiology images to patients on the Tablet PC, making bedside conversations more personal and informative.

The **Fresno Heart Hospital** in California also uses HP mobility solutions, to help caregivers spend more time with patients. In the hospital's completely wireless environment, nurses record patient information using HP Compaq Business Notebook PCs. Mounted on a cart and rolled from room to room, the notebook PCs make documenting vital signs easier and data more accessible to doctors. The notebooks also streamline workflow in the lab. In addition, the hospital uses HP Compaq Tablet PCs to take patient meal orders.

HP mobility technology also helps healthcare workers access information when they're "on the road." The **Royal District Nursing Service (RDNS)** in Australia conducts over 1.3 million home visits a year, 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. By equipping the nurses with HP Tablet PCs as they make their daily round of home visits, they can access and manage client data, download schedules and upload visit details in real time.

With HP mobility solutions, it all adds up to less time chasing data and more time with patients.

Access Means Safety

"It's impossible to overstate the value of making reliable, comprehensive and current data available to emergency response personnel. Our department now has critical information from a variety of sources, integrated in a form that helps us make better decisions, which in turn, helps keep our firefighters and our citizens safe."

— Chief Don Oliver,
Wilson Fire & Rescue

Firefighters racing to a disaster scene are the epitome of mobility. But without good information on city infrastructure and vacant buildings, fire fighters can be at risk. With HP mobility technology, the **Wilson North Carolina Fire/Rescue** team has the information they need to react more quickly to emergencies, combat fires and analyze and mitigate serious situations.

HP field-ready notebooks and handhelds instantly deliver access to the city's data - streets, water lines, hydrants, electrical and gas lines, and building and zone specifications - keeping firefighters safer.

The **Roseville California Police Department** found that outfitting patrol cars with cutting-edge HP mobile computing services helps officers respond more effectively to any situation. According to Roseville Police Chief Joel A. Neves, each patrol car is not only a police vehicle, but also a mobile police office.

"The modern police vehicle is packed with numerous communication and information technology devices that deliver a level of access to data that was unheard of just a few years ago," says Neves. "But the project was about more than just the IT - ergonomically integrating all these devices in the demanding police car environment is a real challenge. HP partnered with us to deliver a turnkey installation that has resulted in police cars that are more functional, reliable and comfortable for our officers."

Transforming the Learning Experience

"You can see the smiles and pleasure on the kids' faces while they work on the HP laptops, and teachers are pleased because of an overall improvement in students' grasp of the curricula, which they attribute in part to the children's enthusiasm for working with these devices."

— Domenic Grignano,
East Rock
Magnet School,
New Haven, CT

In the East Rock Magnet School in New Haven, CT, wireless HP Compaq Evo Notebooks enhance traditional learning, invigorate inquisitive children and withstand the rigors of young users. Students exhibit increased interest in their studies, greater productivity in class assignments, and better grades. Last year, students at all grade levels improved State Mastery Test scores.

Kowloon Wah Yan College, one of Hong Kong's most prestigious secondary schools, provides all 70 teachers with HP iPAQ Pocket PCs. The teachers take attendance for each class on the Pocket PC, and have the results automatically tabulated and stored on the school's central server.

Teachers equipped with Pocket PCs also enjoy uninhibited, secure access to crucial office

"We believe the future education system should cater to the needs of individual students, so that each of them can have an all-round and unique development."

— Mr. Wong Wai Leung,
Wah Yan College

documents. General announcements and records stored on the school's network are easily retrieved on the Pocket PC via the wireless connection. Wah Yan College hopes that eventually every student can be provided with a PDA so that it becomes a part of their daily learning journey.

Mobility + Access = Freedom

HP's mobility solutions are well known as a proven, dependable, smart way to provide mobile access and increase productivity anytime and anywhere. But, as mobile technology enters every aspect of our lives, we continually discover more ways it can help people connect with their world and enhance their safety, knowledge and well being.

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