

# GET NUMEROUS BENEFITS BY UPGRADING TO NEW DELL OPTIPLEX 7040 DESKTOPS

**Good things come in smaller packages**  
with the Dell™ OptiPlex™ 7040 desktops powered by the 6th Gen Intel® Core™ vPro™ processor family\*

Dell OptiPlex 7040 MT      Dell OptiPlex 7040 SFF

**Boost performance by up to 70%**

- Decrease system noise by up to **274%**
- Cut power consumption by up to **63%**
- Reduce footprint by up to **48%**
- Boost graphics performance by up to **10X**

\*versus Dell OptiPlex 9020 SFF, Dell OptiPlex 9020 MT, Dell OptiPlex 980 SFF and Dell OptiPlex 980 MT

Your desktops were fast when you bought them. Your employees appreciated them as top-of-the-line tech, the pinnacle of performance and usability. However, that was years ago – and with each passing year, Dell and Intel have worked together to create smaller, faster systems designed specifically around Intel’s latest lower wattage commercial desktop architecture. These compact systems can deliver significant benefits in performance, acoustics and power consumption.

One of those systems is the latest Dell OptiPlex 7040, available in Small Form Factor (SFF), Mini Tower (MT) and Micro Form Factor (MFF) chassis powered by the latest 6th generation Intel processors. Based on our testing of the SFF and MT form factors, these desktops not only work faster than their predecessors, delivering up to 70 per cent better performance and 10 times the graphics performance, they also take up less space and use up to 63 per cent less power. Results prove that investing in new Dell OptiPlex desktops can improve everyday productivity and save space across your business by providing faster, smaller and quieter designs. Plus, lower power requirements can help you to meet your business’s operating budget.

## ONE UPGRADE, MANY IMPROVEMENTS

**New OptiPlex 7040 desktops:  
Better performance  
in a smaller package  
without sacrificing  
business-critical  
features**

In addition to being slower than new systems, ageing desktops keep employees from gaining the technological advances that new systems and new processors can bring. At Principled Technologies, the new Dell OptiPlex 7040 SFF and 7040 MT delivered CPU and graphics performance wins in our benchmark testing, offered the potential for reduced costs due to consuming less energy, ran quieter and occupied less space than previous versions of the Dell OptiPlex desktop. Extending the refresh cycle of your business's desktops means that your employees miss these next-generation advantages.

We tested three generations of the premium models of the Dell OptiPlex in the two form factors:

- A five-year-old Dell OptiPlex 980, powered by an Intel Core™ i5-680 processor (legacy)
- A previous-generation Dell OptiPlex 9020, powered by an Intel Core i5-4590 (recent)
- The latest generation Dell OptiPlex 7040, powered by an Intel Core i5-6500 (latest)

Figure 1 shows some key similarities and differences between the three generations that we tested.

	Latest SFF/MT	Recent-gen SFF/MT	Legacy SFF/MT
USB 3.0 ports	2 front, 4 rear	2 front, 2 rear	0
PS/2 (for keyboards and mice)	2	2	2
RJ-45 ports connector (for Ethernet)	1	1	1
Serial port	1	1	1
HDMI port (for HDMI displays)	1	0	0
VGA port	1	1	1
DIMM slots (for RAM)	4	4	4

**Figure 1: Key physical similarities and differences between the three generations of Dell OptiPlex SFF and MT models that we tested.**

All six models were performance-grade systems tested in a standard configuration. For detailed specifications of the test systems, see [Appendix A](#). For systematic details on how we performed our benchmark testing, see [Appendix B](#). For more on the benchmarks, see [Appendix C](#).

## PRODUCTIVITY ADVANTAGES WITH IMPROVED CPU AND GRAPHICS

Waiting for a slow desktop to perform basic functions, such as rendering an image, can significantly reduce productivity. Improved CPU and graphics functionality can translate to a faster, more responsive system that saves time on routine tasks. We used three industry-standard benchmarks to demonstrate the performance boost that your employees can get with a new Intel Core i5-6500 processor-based Dell OptiPlex 7040 MT or SFF. As Figure 2 shows, both latest-generation form factors dramatically improved performance over the five-year-old legacy systems, and also showed big improvements over the more-recent models. For detailed results of our benchmark testing, see [Appendix D](#).

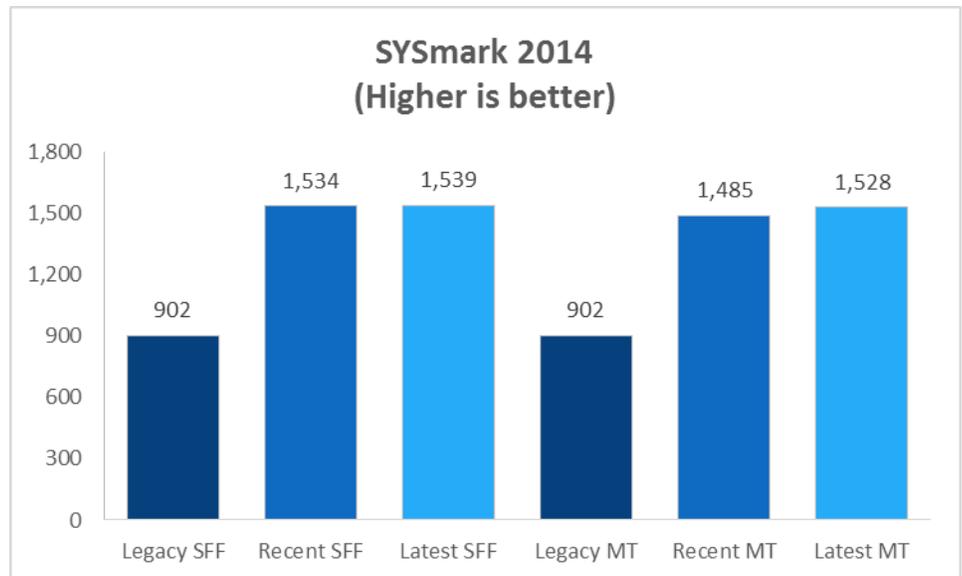
	Vs. legacy system	Vs. recent-gen model
<b>Dell OptiPlex 7040 SFF</b>		
CPU test	122%	2%
Graphics test	922%	29%
<b>Dell OptiPlex 7040 MT</b>		
CPU test	120%	2%
Graphics test	920%	30%

**Figure 2: The latest Dell OptiPlex models increased performance over legacy and recent model desktops, which means that no matter where you are in your refresh cycle, upgrading could bring big improvements to end users.**

### BAPCO® SYSmark® 2014

BAPCO SYSmark 2014 is an industry-standard benchmark that measures performance in areas such as productivity, media creation and financial analysis. As Figure 3 shows, the Intel Core i5-6500 processor-powered Dell OptiPlex 7040 SFF and MT desktops had small gains compared to recent-generation models and outperformed the legacy desktops by 70 per cent and 69 per cent, respectively.

**Figure 3: SYSmark 2014 performance for the Dell OptiPlex 7040 SFF and MT models compared to recent and legacy models.**

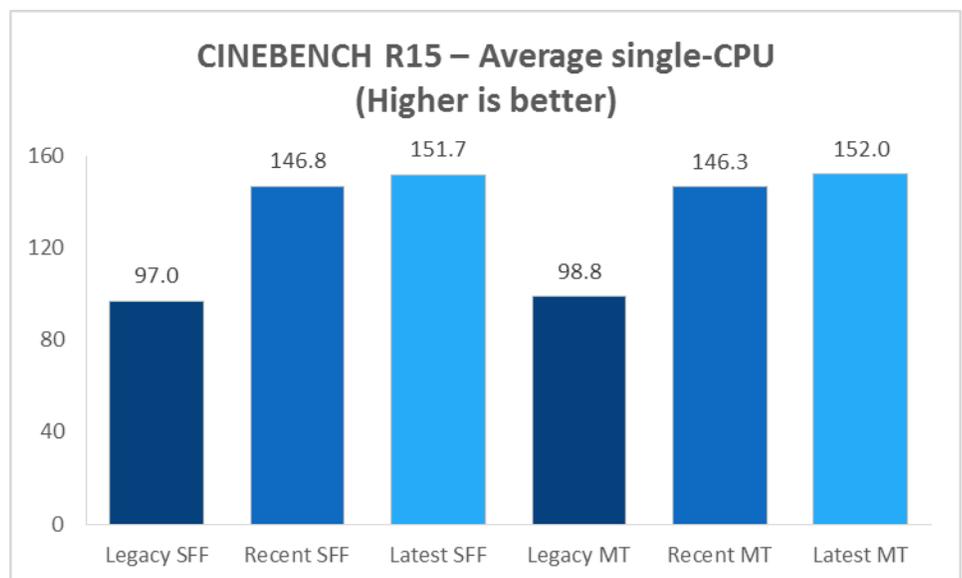


### CINEBENCH R15

This latest version of CINEBENCH features three results: Frames-per-second (FPS), a single-CPU score and a multi-CPU score. The single-CPU score is useful to show the general head-to-head speed advantages for processors regardless of core count, while the multi-CPU score can show the potential of processor functionality when using all available cores.

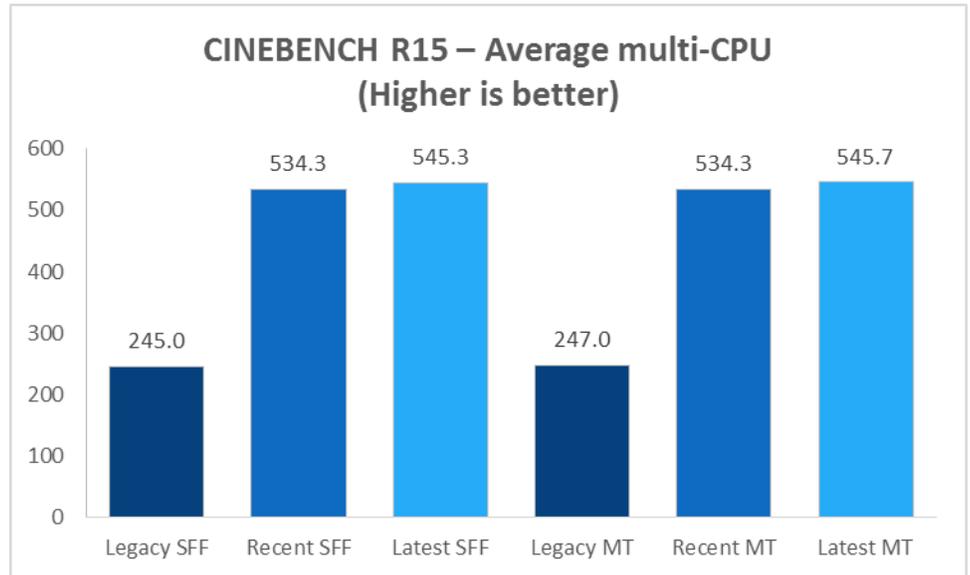
As Figure 4 shows, the Dell OptiPlex 7040 SFF and MT both scored 3 per cent higher than the recent-generation systems and scored 56 and 53 per cent higher than the legacy systems, respectively.

**Figure 4: CINEBENCH R15 single-CPU performance for the Dell OptiPlex 7040 SFF and MT models vs. recent-generation and legacy systems.**



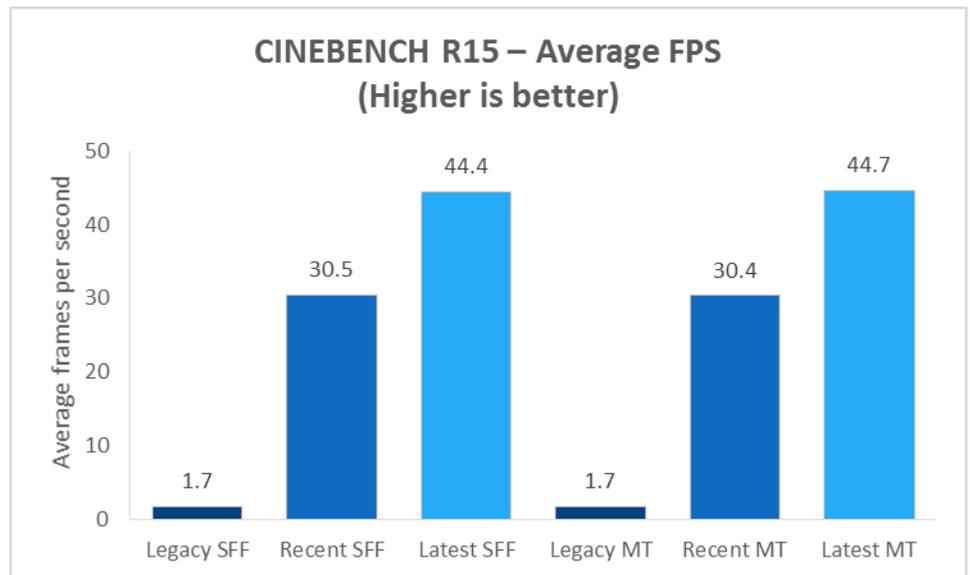
On the multi-CPU test, the quad-core Dell OptiPlex 7040 SFF and MT outscored their recent-generation counterparts by 2 per cent. In addition, the Dell OptiPlex 7040 SFF and MT outscored the legacy systems by 122 per cent and 120 per cent, respectively (see Figure 5).

**Figure 5: CINEBENCH R15 multi-CPU performance for the Dell OptiPlex 7040 SFF and MT vs. recent-generation and legacy systems.**



Delivering more frames per second (FPS) means better video quality. As Figure 6 shows, the Dell OptiPlex 7040 SFF delivered 45 per cent more FPS than its recent-gen equivalent and up to 26 times the FPS of the legacy SFF system. The Dell OptiPlex 7040 MT delivered 47 per cent more FPS than the recent-generation system and 26 times the FPS of the legacy MT model.

**Figure 6: Frames per second as measured by CINEBENCH R15 for the Dell OptiPlex 7040 SFF and MT desktops vs. the recent-generation and legacy systems.**



The 3DMark benchmark runs graphical and computational tests to generate a score for the tested device. The benchmark rates a system’s graphics and virtual physics performance, and high scores generally demonstrate powerful hardware. There are four components to the 3DMark benchmark, each targeting DirectX® (DX) 9-, 10- or 11-compatible hardware. The legacy Dell OptiPlex 980 SFF and MT systems could not run two of the components – Fire Strike and Cloud Diver – because they did not have DirectX 11 technology.

As Figure 7 shows, the Dell OptiPlex 7040 SFF outscored the recent-generation SFF desktop by up to 29 per cent and scored up to 9 times better than the legacy SFF system.

	Dell OptiPlex 7040 SFF	Recent-generation SFF	per cent better for Dell OptiPlex 7040 SFF	Legacy SFF	per cent better for Dell OptiPlex 7040 SFF
Fire Strike	924	728	26%		
Cloud Diver	4,096	3,330	23%		
Cloud Gate	7,668	6,686	14%	749	922%
Ice Storm Extreme	48,037	37,118	29%	10,991	337%

Figure 7: 3DMark performance for the Dell OptiPlex 7040 SFF vs. the recent-generation and legacy SFF systems. Higher scores are better.

As Figure 8 shows, the Dell OptiPlex 7040 MT outscored the recent-generation MT by up to 30 per cent and scored up to 9 times better than the legacy MT system.

	Dell OptiPlex 7040 MT	Recent-generation MT	per cent better for Dell OptiPlex 7040 MT	Legacy MT	per cent better for Dell OptiPlex 7040 MT
Fire Strike	925	728	27%		
Cloud Diver	4,098	3,334	22%		
Cloud Gate	7,664	6,714	14%	751	920%
Ice Storm Extreme	48,052	36,831	30%	10,885	341%

Figure 8: 3DMark performance for the Dell OptiPlex 7040 MT vs. the recent-generation and legacy MT systems. Higher scores are better.

## QUIETER WORKPLACES

For employees trying to focus, background system noise can be distracting. While idle, the Dell OptiPlex 7040 SFF was up to 11 per cent quieter than the older Dell OptiPlex SFF models, while the Dell OptiPlex 7040 MT was up to 13 per cent quieter. When we used PassMark® BurnInTest™ to put the systems under a 75 per cent load stressing the CPU, RAM, graphics and storage, the Dell OptiPlex 7040 MT was the quietest system by up to 274 per cent.<sup>1</sup> Figures 9 and 10 show the results of our acoustic testing.

In our testing of the Dell OptiPlex 7040 SFF and MT desktops, the ambient noise of the room had more of an effect on our results than the increase in system load. As such, there was no noticeable difference between idle and load results for the 7040 desktops.

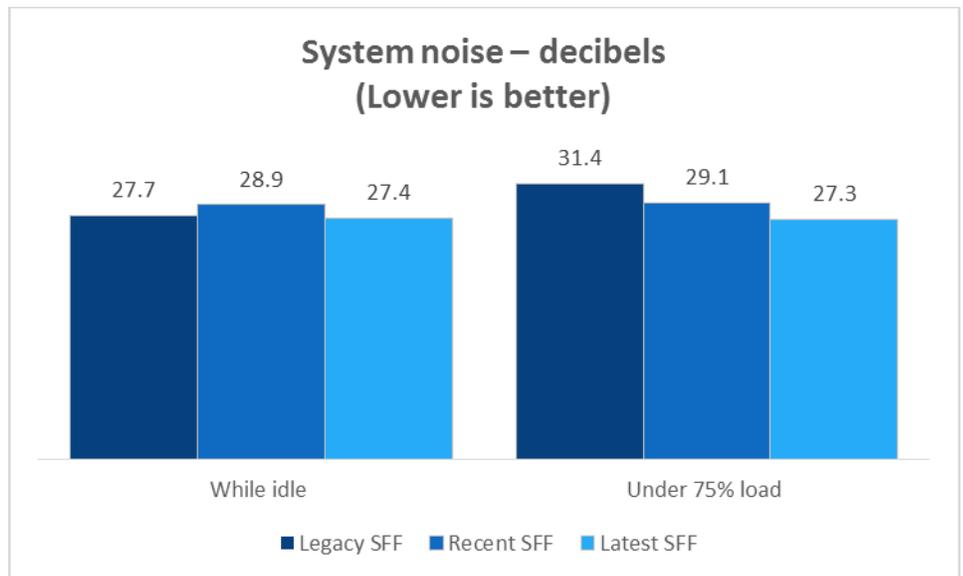
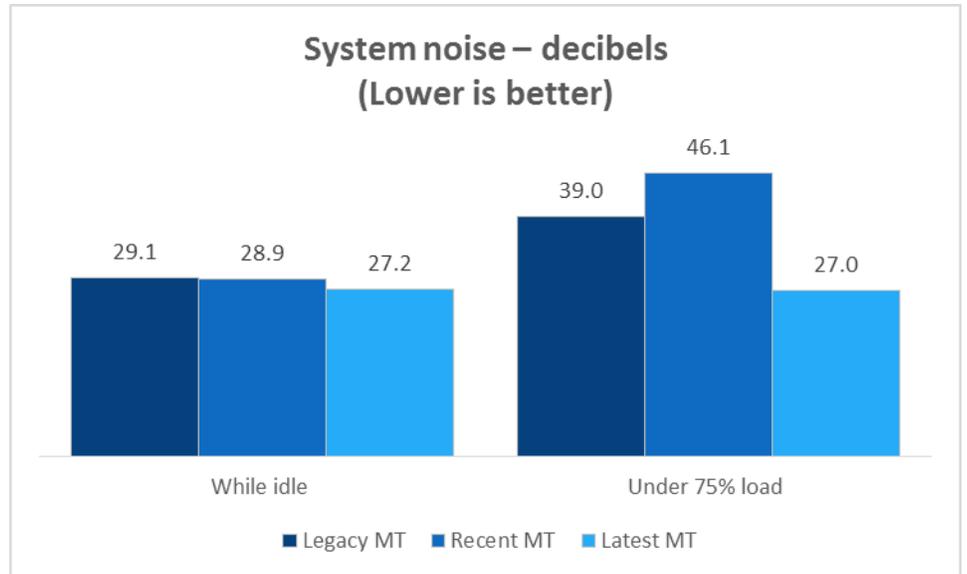


Figure 9: The system noise in decibels while idle and under load for the SFF systems.

<sup>1</sup> For more information on how we calculated these percentage decreases for perceived loudness, see [Appendix E](#).

Figure 10: The system noise in decibels while idle and under load for the MT systems.



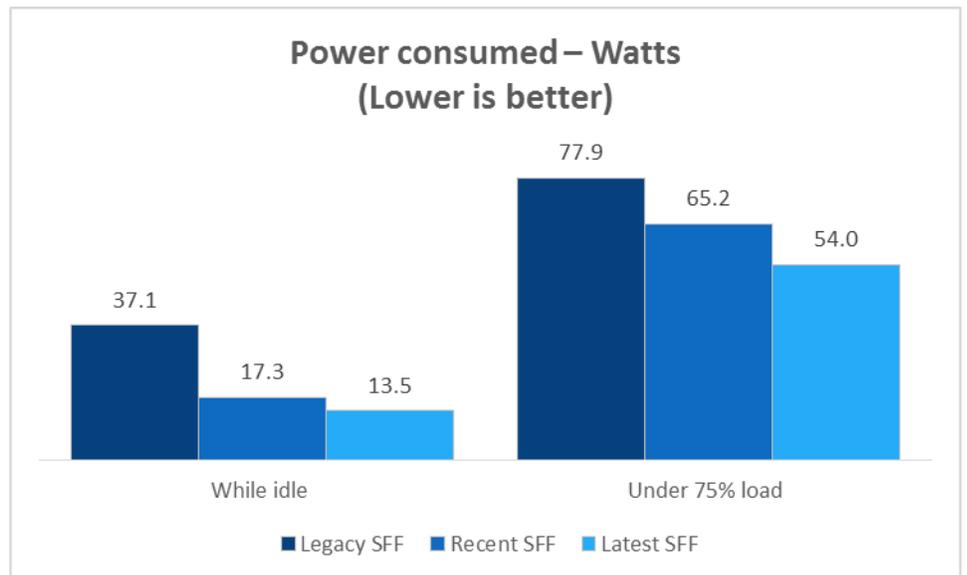
## USED LESS POWER

Why waste energy and dollars with inefficient ageing desktops?

The Dell OptiPlex 7040 SFF and MT desktops consumed less power than their recent-generation and legacy counterparts.

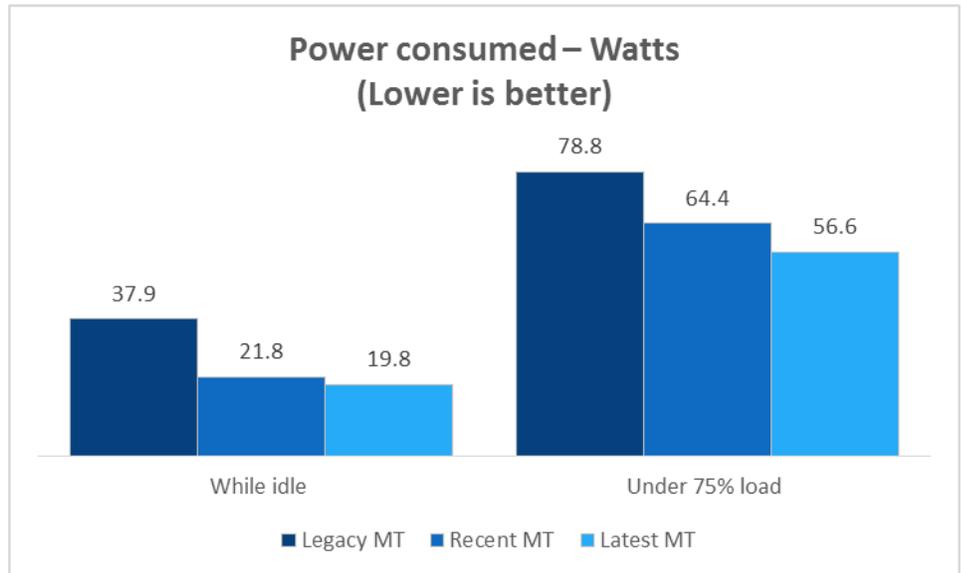
The Dell OptiPlex 7040 SFF consumed 22 per cent fewer average watts while idle and 17 per cent fewer average watts under load than the recent-generation SFF desktop. In addition, the Dell OptiPlex 7040 SFF consumed 63 per cent fewer average watts while idle and 30 per cent fewer average watts under load than the legacy SFF desktop. Figure 11 shows the average power usage of all three SFF systems while idle and under load.

Figure 11: The average watts consumed by each SFF system while idle and under load.



The Dell OptiPlex 7040 MT consumed 9 per cent fewer average watts while idle and 12 per cent fewer average watts under load than the Dell OptiPlex 9020 MT. In addition, the Dell OptiPlex 7040 MT consumed 47 per cent fewer average watts while idle and 28 per cent fewer average watts under load than the legacy Dell OptiPlex 980 MT. Figure 12 shows the power usage of all three MT systems while idle and under load.

Figure 12: The average number of watts consumed by each MT system while idle and under load.



Conventional wisdom indicates that consuming less power can lead to lower operating temperatures, potentially leading to a reduction in cost to cool an office. Figure 13 shows our wattage results converted to British thermal units (BTU) per hour. A single BTU is the amount of heat required to raise the temperature of one pound of water by one degree Fahrenheit. As watts measure power and BTUs measure energy, there is no direct unit-to-unit comparison. The percentage differences between the systems were the same as the wattage results.<sup>2</sup>

	Dell OptiPlex 7040 SFF	Recent-generation SFF	Legacy SFF	Dell OptiPlex 7040 MT	Recent-generation MT	Legacy MT
While idle (BTU/hr)	46.1	59.0	126.6	67.6	74.4	129.3
Under 75 per cent load (BTU/hr)	184.3	222.5	265.8	193.1	219.7	268.9

Figure 13: Our power consumption results converted to BTUs per hour. Lower numbers are better.

<sup>2</sup> For more information on how we converted watts to BTU/hr, see [Appendix E](#).

## PHYSICAL IMPROVEMENTS

### Save workspace with the new Small Form Factor desktop or Mini Tower

As technology improves and components become smaller or unnecessary, desktops are becoming significantly smaller and more versatile. New space-saving designs can open up more deployment options for businesses and less workstation clutter for employees.

As Figure 14 shows, the smaller footprint of the Dell OptiPlex 7040 SFF required less workspace than the recent-generation and legacy SFF systems in our study – 10 and 4 per cent less space in square inches, respectively.

	Dell OptiPlex 7040 SFF	Recent-generation SFF	Legacy SFF
Width (inches)	3.6	3.8	3.4
Depth (inches)	11.5	12.2	12.7
Footprint (square inches)	41.4	46.3	43.3

Figure 14: Physical details of the SFF systems we tested.

As Figure 15 shows, the smaller footprint of the Dell OptiPlex 7040 MT required less workspace than the recent-generation and legacy MT systems in our study – 42.3 and 48.6 per cent less space in square inches, respectively.

	Dell OptiPlex 7040 MT	Recent-generation MT	Legacy MT
Width (inches)	6.1	7.0	7.4
Depth (inches)	10.6	16.0	17.0
Footprint (square inches)	64.7	112.0	125.8

Figure 15: Physical details of the MT systems that we tested.

### Connect via USB 3.0, DisplayPort and HDMI

Upgrading desktops enables employees to take advantage of the latest USB technology. USB 3.0 ports can provide up to 4.8 Gbps transfer rates to USB 3.0 devices – up to 10 times faster than the transfer rate for USB 2.0 connections to USB 2.0 devices. The Dell OptiPlex 7040 MT and SFF models included six USB 3.0 ports. The recent-generation MT and SFF desktops had four, but the legacy systems offered only USB 2.0 ports.

Upgrading desktops can also bring the latest digital display technology to employees. Only the latest Dell OptiPlex 7040 MT and SFF systems offered HDMI in addition to DisplayPort, which means that your employees can choose how to connect one or more digital displays.

## CONCLUSION

The new Dell OptiPlex desktops powered by the latest 6th generation Intel Core processors present many advantages over ageing desktops, including performance gains, energy efficiency and an improved user experience. Compared to the Dell OptiPlex 9020 and legacy Dell OptiPlex 980 SFF and MT models, the Intel Core i5-6500 processor-powered Dell OptiPlex 7040 SFF and MT:

- Improved performance that can help employees in your business in areas of productivity – up to 70 per cent better performance and 10 times better graphics performance
- Offered a quieter workspace – up to 274 per cent
- Saved workspace with an up to 48.6 per cent smaller footprint
- Consumed less power, a benefit that can reduce your energy costs by up to 63 per cent

## APPENDIX A – SYSTEMS CONFIGURATION INFORMATION

Figure 16 details the SFF systems that we used in our tests.

System	Dell OptiPlex 980 SFF (legacy)	Dell OptiPlex 9020 SFF (recent)	Dell OptiPlex 7040 SFF (latest)
<b>General</b>			
Number of processor packages	1	1	1
Number of cores per processor	2	4	4
Number of hardware threads per core	2	1	1
Total number of processor threads in the system	4	4	4
Systems power-management policy	Balanced	Dell	Dell
Processor power-saving option	Enhanced Intel SpeedStep Technology	Enhanced Intel SpeedStep Technology	Enhanced Intel SpeedStep Technology
<b>CPU</b>			
Vendor	Intel	Intel	Intel
Name	Core i5	Core i5	Core i5
Model number	650	4590	6500
Stepping	C2	C0	NA
Socket type	Socket LGA 1156	Socket LGA 1150	Socket LGA 1151
Core frequency (GHz)	3.20	3.30	3.20
L1 cache	32 KB + 32 KB (per core)	32 KB + 32 KB (per core)	32 KB + 32 KB (per core)
L2 cache	256 KB (per core)	256 KB (per core)	256 KB (per core)
L3 cache	4 MB	6 MB	6 MB
<b>Platform</b>			
Vendor	Dell	Dell	Dell
Motherboard model number	0C522T	00V62H	Dell OptiPlex 7040
Motherboard chipset	Intel Q57	Intel Q87	Intel Q170
BIOS name and version	Dell A16 (28/05/2014)	Dell A12 (06/05/2015)	Dell 0.2.10 (18/06/2015)
<b>Memory module(s)</b>			
Vendor and model number	Kingston® KTW149-ELD	Samsung® M378B5173EB0-CK0	Micron® MTA8ATF51264AZ-2G1A1
Type	PC3-10700	PC3-12800	PC4-2133P
Speed (MHz)	1,333	1,600	2,133
Speed running in the system (MHz)	1,333	1,600	2,133
Timing/Latency (tCL-tRCD-tRP-tRASmin)	9-9-9-24	11-11-11-28	15-15-15-37
Size (MB)	1,024	4,096	4,096
Number of memory module(s)	4	2	2
Total amount of system RAM (GB)	4	8	8
Channel (single/dual)	Dual	Dual	Dual

System	Dell OptiPlex 980 SFF (legacy)	Dell OptiPlex 9020 SFF (recent)	Dell OptiPlex 7040 SFF (latest)
<b>Hard disk</b>			
Vendor and model number	Western Digital® WDC WD2500AAKX-00ERMA0	Seagate® ST500DM0 02-1BD142	Seagate ST500LM0 21-1KJ152
Number of disks in system	1	1	1
Size (GB)	250	500	500
Buffer size (MB)	16	16	32
RPM	7,200	7,200	7,200
Type	SATA 6.0 Gb/s	SATA 6.0 Gb/s	SATA 6.0 Gb/s
Controller	Intel ICH8R/ICH9R/ICH10R/D O SATA RAID Controller	Intel Desktop/Workstation/Server Express Chipset SATA RAID Controller	Intel ICH8R/ICH9R/ICH10R/D O SATA RAID Controller
Driver	Intel 8.6.2.1315 (06/08/2010)	Intel 13.1.0.1058 (02/05/2014)	Intel 8.6.2.1315 (06/08/2010)
<b>Operating system</b>			
Name	Windows® 7 Professional	Windows 7 Professional	Windows 7 Professional
Build number	7601	7601	7601
Service Pack	1	1	1
File system	NTFS	NTFS	NTFS
Kernel	ACPI x64-based PC	ACPI x64-based PC	ACPI x64-based PC
Language	English	English	English
Microsoft® DirectX version	DirectX 11	DirectX 11	DirectX 11
<b>Graphics</b>			
Vendor and model number	Intel HD Graphics	Intel HD Graphics 4600	Intel HD Graphics 530
Type	Integrated	Integrated	Integrated
Chipset	Intel HD Graphics	Intel HD Graphics 4600	Intel HD Graphics 530
BIOS version	2080.16	1025.14	1022.7
Total available graphics memory (MB)	1,696	1,696	1,824
Dedicated video memory (MB)	64	64	192
System video memory (MB)	0	0	0
Shared system memory (MB)	1,632	1,632	1,632
Resolution	1,280 × 1,024	1,280 × 1,024	1,280 × 1,024
Driver	Intel 8.15.10.2827 (31/07/2012)	Intel 10.18.14.4170 (16/03/2015)	Intel 10.18.15.4274 (13/08/2015)
<b>Sound card/subsystem</b>			
Vendor and model number	Realtek High Definition Audio	Realtek High Definition Audio	Realtek High Definition Audio
Driver	Realtek 6.0.1.5876 (16/11/2009)	Realtek 6.0.1.6053 (16/10/2014)	Realtek 6.0.1.6075 (30/06/2015)
<b>Ethernet</b>			
Vendor and model number	Intel 82578DM Gigabit Network Connection	Intel Ethernet Connection I217-LM	Intel Ethernet Connection I219-LM

System	Dell OptiPlex 980 SFF (legacy)	Dell OptiPlex 9020 SFF (recent)	Dell OptiPlex 7040 SFF (latest)
Driver	Intel 11.6.92.0 (03/12/2010)	Intel 12.12.80.19 (29/09/2014)	Intel 12.13.17.1 (19/05/2015)
<b>Optical drive(s)</b>			
Vendor and model number	TSSTcorp TS-L633C	TSSTcorp SN-208FB	TSSTcorp SU-108GB
Type	DVD-RW	DVD-RW	DVD-ROM
<b>USB ports</b>			
Number	8	10	10
Type	8 × USB 2.0	4 × USB 3.0, 6 × USB 2.0	6 × USB 3.0, 4 × USB 2.0
Other	eSATA, Display Port, Serial Port	2 × Display Port, Serial Port	Media Card Reader, HDMI, 2 × Display Port, Serial Port

Figure 16: Detailed information for the SFF test systems.

Figure 17 details the MT systems that we used in our tests.

System	Dell OptiPlex 980 MT (legacy)	Dell OptiPlex 9020 MT (recent)	Dell OptiPlex 7040 MT (latest)
<b>General</b>			
Number of processor packages	1	1	1
Number of cores per processor	2	4	4
Number of hardware threads per core	2	1	1
Total number of processor threads in the system	4	4	4
Systems power-management policy	Balanced	Dell	Dell
Processor power-saving option	Enhanced Intel SpeedStep Technology	Enhanced Intel SpeedStep Technology	Enhanced Intel SpeedStep Technology
<b>CPU</b>			
Vendor	Intel	Intel	Intel
Name	Core i5	Core i5	Core i5
Model number	650	4590	6500
Stepping	C2	C0	NA
Socket type	Socket LGA 1156	Socket LGA 1150	Socket LGA 1151
Core frequency (GHz)	3.20	3.30	3.20
L1 cache	32 KB + 32 KB (per core)	32 KB + 32 KB (per core)	32 KB + 32 KB (per core)
L2 cache	256 KB (per core)	256 KB (per core)	256 KB (per core)
L3 cache	4 MB	6 MB	6 MB
<b>Platform</b>			
Vendor	Dell	Dell	Dell
Motherboard model number	0C522T	00V62H	OptiPlex 7040
Motherboard chipset	Intel Q57	Intel Q87	Intel X99
BIOS name and version	Dell A16 (28/05/2014)	Dell A12 (06/05/2015)	Dell 0.2.10 (18/06/2015)

System	Dell OptiPlex 980 MT (legacy)	Dell OptiPlex 9020 MT (recent)	Dell OptiPlex 7040 MT (latest)
<b>Memory module(s)</b>			
Vendor and model number	Kingston KTW149-ELD	Samsung M378B5173EBO-CK0	Micron MTA8ATF51264AZ-2G1A1
Type	PC3-10700	PC3-12800	PC4-2133P
Speed (MHz)	1,333	1,600	2,133
Speed running in the system (MHz)	1,333	1,600	2,133
Timing/Latency (tCL-tRCD-tRP-tRASmin)	9-9-9-24	11-11-11-28	15-15-15-37
Size (MB)	1,024	4,096	4096
Number of memory module(s)	4	2	2
Total amount of system RAM (GB)	4	8	8
Channel (single/dual)	Dual	Dual	Dual
<b>Hard disk</b>			
Vendor and model number	Western Digital WDC WD2500AAKX-00ERMA0	Seagate ST500DM0 02-1BD142	Seagate ST500LM0 21-1KJ152
Number of disks in system	1	1	1
Size (GB)	250	500	500
Buffer size (MB)	16	16	32
RPM	7,200	7,200	7,200
Type	SATA 6.0 Gb/s	SATA 6.0 Gb/s	SATA 6.0 Gb/s
Controller	Intel ICH8R/ICH9R/ICH10R/D O SATA RAID Controller	Intel Desktop/Workstation/Server Express Chipset SATA RAID Controller	Intel ICH8R/ICH9R/ICH10R/D O SATA RAID Controller
Driver	Intel 8.6.2.1315 (06/08/2010)	Intel 13.1.0.1058 (02/05/2014)	Intel 8.6.2.1315 (06/08/2010)
<b>Operating system</b>			
Name	Windows 7 Professional	Windows 7 Professional	Windows 7 Professional
Build number	7601	7601	7601
Service Pack	1	1	1
File system	NTFS	NTFS	NTFS
Kernel	ACPI x64-based PC	ACPI x64-based PC	ACPI x64-based PC
Language	English	English	English
Microsoft DirectX version	DirectX 11	DirectX 11	DirectX 11
<b>Graphics</b>			
Vendor and model number	Intel HD Graphics	Intel HD Graphics 4600	Intel HD Graphics 530
Type	Integrated	Integrated	Integrated
Chipset	Intel HD Graphics	Intel HD Graphics 4600	Intel HD Graphics 530
BIOS version	2080.16	1025.14	1022.7
Total available graphics memory (MB)	1,696	1,696	1,824
Dedicated video memory (MB)	64	64	192
System video memory (MB)	0	0	0
Shared system memory (MB)	1,632	1,632	1,632

System	Dell OptiPlex 980 MT (legacy)	Dell OptiPlex 9020 MT (recent)	Dell OptiPlex 7040 MT (latest)
Resolution	1,280 × 1,024	1,280 × 1,024	1,280 × 1,024
Driver	Intel 8.15.10.2827 (31/07/2012)	Intel 10.18.14.4170 (16/03/2015)	Intel 10.18.15.4274 (13/08/2015)
<b>Sound card/subsystem</b>			
Vendor and model number	Realtek High Definition Audio	Realtek High Definition Audio	Realtek High Definition Audio
Driver	Realtek 6.0.1.5876 (16/11/2009)	Realtek 6.0.1.6053 (16/10/2014)	Realtek 6.0.1.6075 (30/06/2015)
<b>Ethernet</b>			
Vendor and model number	Intel 82578DM Gigabit Network Connection	Intel Ethernet Connection I217-LM	Intel Ethernet Connection I219-LM
Driver	Intel 11.6.92.0 (03/12/2010)	Intel 12.12.80.19 (29/09/2014)	Intel 12.13.17.1 (19/05/2015)
<b>Optical drive(s)</b>			
Vendor and model number	TSSTcorp TS-L633C	TSSTcorp SN-208FB	TSSTcorp SU-108GB
Type	DVD-RW	DVD-RW	DVD-ROM
<b>USB ports</b>			
Number	8	10	10
Type	8 × USB 2.0	4 × USB 3.0, 6 × USB 2.0	6 × USB 3.0, 4 × USB 2.0
Other	eSATA, Display Port, Serial Port	2 × Display Port, Serial Port	Media Card Reader, HDMI, 2 × Display Port, Serial Port

Figure 17: Detailed information for the MT test systems.

## APPENDIX B – HOW WE TESTED

To show the advantages of the new Dell OptiPlex systems, we created scenarios to test the performance, energy efficiency and acoustics of each system. For performance, we used SYSmark 2014, CINEBENCH R15 (single-threaded and multi-threaded) and 3DMark. To capture energy efficiency, we measured power consumption while idle and while running PassMark BurnInTest Professional to simulate a system under load.

We reset all BIOS settings to default. All systems came pre-installed with Windows 7 x64 Professional.

### Installing the benchmarks

#### SYSmark 2014

SYSmark 2014 installs the following applications, which its test scripts employ:

- Adobe® Acrobat® XI Pro
- Adobe Photoshop® CS6 Extended
- Adobe Premiere® Pro CS6
- Google Chrome™
- Microsoft Excel® 2013
- Microsoft OneNote® 2013
- Microsoft Outlook® 2013
- Microsoft PowerPoint® 2013
- Microsoft Word 2013
- Trimble® SketchUp® Pro 2013
- WinZip® Pro 17.5

If any of these applications are already on the system under test, they will cause problems with the benchmark due to software conflicts. To avoid any such issues, before we installed the benchmark, we uninstalled all conflicting pre-installed software applications, including different versions of any of the programs that SYSmark 2014 uses.

#### Setting up the test

1. Disable the User Account Control.
  - a. Click Start and search for User Accounts. Click User Accounts.
  - b. At the User Accounts screen, click Change User Account Control Settings.
  - c. Click the user account that will be used for testing.
  - d. Click Change User Account Control settings.
  - e. Using the slider, change the setting to Never notify and click OK.
  - f. Restart the computer.
2. Purchase and install SYSmark 2014 v1.0.1.21 with default settings from [bapco.com/products/sysmark-2014](http://bapco.com/products/sysmark-2014).
3. Launch SYSmark 2014 by double-clicking the desktop icon and select Configuration.
4. Select all options, then click Save.

#### CINEBENCH R15 – Setting up the test

1. Download the CINEBENCH R15 zipped Windows package from [www.maxon.net/products/cinebench/overview.html](http://www.maxon.net/products/cinebench/overview.html).
2. Unzip the CINEBENCH R15 Windows package to the desktop.
3. Launch CINEBENCH by double-clicking the CINEBENCH Windows 64 Bit icon inside the unzipped directory.
4. Click Agree to the EULA.
5. Select the File→Advanced benchmark. Verify that OpenGL®, CPU and CPU (Single Core) are selected.
6. Exit CINEBENCH.

### 3DMark – Setting up the test

1. Download 3DMark from [www.futuremark.com/benchmarks/3dmark/all](http://www.futuremark.com/benchmarks/3dmark/all).
2. Install 3DMark with the default options by double-clicking the 3DMark installer.exe file.
3. Launch 3DMark by double-clicking on the 3DMark desktop icon. Enter the registration code, then click Register.
4. Exit 3DMark.

## Measuring performance

### SYSmark 2014 – Running the test

1. Launch SYSmark 2014 by double-clicking the desktop icon.
2. Verify that Office Productivity, Media Creation and Data/Financial Analysis are selected.
3. Enter a Project name.
4. Select 3 Iterations, select the boxes beside Conditioning Run and Process Idle Tasks, then click Run Benchmark.
5. When the benchmark completes and the main SYSmark 2014 menu appears, click Save FDR to create a report.

### CINEBENCH R15 – Running the test

1. Boot the system and wait 5 minutes before running the test.
2. Double-click the CINEBENCH Windows 64 Bit icon inside the unzipped directory.
3. Select File→Run all selected tests.
4. When the benchmark run completes, record the results.
5. Shut down the system.
6. Complete Steps 1 to 5 twice more and report the average of the three runs.

### 3DMark v1.5.893 – Running the test

1. Boot the system and wait 5 minutes before running the test.
2. Double-click the 3DMark desktop icon to launch the benchmark.
3. On the Benchmarks screen, run the Fire Strike test.
4. Once complete, record the results.
5. On the Benchmarks screen, run the Sky Diver test.
6. Once complete, record the results.
7. On the Benchmarks screen, run the Cloud Gate test.
8. Once complete, record the results.
9. On the Benchmarks screen, run the Ice Storm Extreme test.
10. Once complete, record the results.
11. Perform Steps 1 to 10 twice more and report the average of the three runs.

## Measuring power efficiency

To record each workstation's power consumption during each test, we used an Extech Instruments® ([www.extech.com](http://www.extech.com)) 380803 Power Analyzer/Datalogger. We connected the power cable from the server under test to the Power Analyzer's output load power outlet. We then plugged the power cable from the Power Analyzer's input voltage connection into a power outlet.

We used the Power Analyzer's Data Acquisition Software (version 2.11) to capture all recordings. We installed the software on a separate Intel processor-based PC, which we connected to the Power Analyzer via an RS-232 cable. We captured power consumption at one-second intervals.

We then recorded the power usage (in watts) for each system during the testing at one-second intervals. To compute the average power usage, we averaged the power usage during the time when the system was producing its peak performance results.

## Measuring power while idle

### Setting up the test

1. Set the power plan to the manufacturer's default setting. Set the display brightness to 100 per cent:
  - a. Click Start.
  - b. In the Start menu's quick search field, type `Power Options`
  - c. Move the Screen brightness slider all the way to the right.
2. Set the remaining power plan settings as follows:
  - Dim the display: Never
  - Turn off the display: Never
  - Put the computer to sleep: Never
3. Disable the screensaver.
4. Connect the power cable from the workstation to the Extech Instruments 380803 Power Analyzer's DC output load power outlet.
5. Plug the power cable from the Power Analyzer's DC input voltage connection into a power outlet.
6. Connect a separate host computer to the Power Analyzer using an RS-232 cable. This computer will monitor and collect the power measurement data.
7. Turn on the Extech Power Analyzer by pressing the green On/Off button.
8. Turn on the host computer.
9. Insert the Extech software installation CD into the host computer and install the software.
10. After installation, launch the Extech Power Analyzer software and configure the correct COM port.

### Running the test

1. Boot the system and bring up an elevated command prompt:
  - a. Select the Windows Start orb.
  - b. Type `cmd` and press Control-Shift-Enter.
2. Type `Cmd.exe /c start /wait Rundll32.exe advapi32.dll,ProcessIdleTasks`  
Do not interact with the system until the command completes.
3. After the command completes, wait 5 minutes before running the test.
4. Begin recording power with the Extech Power Analyzer.
5. Allow the workstation to sit idle for 1 hour.
6. After 1 hour, stop the Power Analyzer data logger. The Power Analyzer creates a CSV file as it collects the data.
7. Use the Power Analyzer CSV to calculate the average power draw in watts during the test.
8. Power off the workstation for 1 hour.
9. Complete Steps 1 to 8 twice more.

## Measuring power while under load

### Setting up the test

1. Download PassMark BurnInTest Professional 7.0 from [www.passmark.com/products/bit.htm](http://www.passmark.com/products/bit.htm).
2. Double-click `bitpro_x64.exe` to run set-up.
3. On the Welcome screen, click Next.
4. Accept the licence agreement and click Next.
5. At the Choose Install Location screen, accept the default location of `C:\Program Files\BurnInTest` and click Next.
6. At the Select Start Menu Folder screen, click Next.
7. On the Ready to Install screen, click Install.
8. At the Completing the BurnInTest Set-up Wizard screen, deselect `View Readme.txt` and click Finish to launch BurnInTest.
9. At the Purchasing information screen, copy and paste the Username and key, and click Continue.
10. At the Key accepted screen, click OK.
11. Select Test selection and duty cycles from the Configuration menu item.

12. Select CPU, RAM, Video, 2D Graphics, 3D Graphics and Disk(s), and deselect all other sub-systems.
13. Set the load on all to 75, then click OK.
14. Select Test Preferences from the Configuration menu item, and set or verify the following by clicking on each tab:
  - Disk: select C: drive
  - Logging: select Turn automatic logging on
  - 2D Graphics: select All available Video Memory
  - 3D Graphics: use defaults
  - CPU: use defaults

### **Running the test**

1. Boot the system, and launch PassMark BurnInTest by double-clicking the desktop icon.
2. Bring up an elevated command prompt:
  - a. Select the Windows Start orb.
  - b. Type `cmd` and press Control-Shift-Enter.
3. Type `Cmd.exe /c start /wait Rundll32.exe advapi32.dll,ProcessIdleTasks`  
Do not interact with the system until the command completes.
4. After the command completes, wait 10 minutes before running the test.
5. Click Start Selected Tests in the BurnInTest V7.0 Pro screen.
6. Begin recording power with the Extech Power Analyzer.
7. After 1 hour, stop the Power Analyzer data logger. The Power Analyzer creates a CSV file as it collects the data.
8. Use the Power Analyzer CSV to calculate the average power draw in watts during the test.
9. Power off the workstation for 1 hour.
10. Complete Steps 1 to 9 twice more.

## **Measuring acoustics**

### **Test requirements**

- Extech SDL600 Sound Level Meter/Datalogger with SD™ card
- PassMark BurnInTest Professional

### **Measuring the workstation's acoustics while idle**

#### **Setting up the test**

1. Place the workstation, mouse, keyboard and display in a windowless, soundproofed professional sound booth.
2. Set the Extech SDL600 on a tripod so that it is about 90 cm (3 feet) in front of and 60 cm (2 feet) above the workstation.

#### **Running the test**

1. Boot the system and bring up an elevated command prompt:
  - a. Select the Windows Start orb.
  - b. Type `cmd` and press Control-Shift-Enter.
2. Type `Cmd.exe /c start /wait Rundll32.exe advapi32.dll,ProcessIdleTasks`  
Do not interact with the system until the command completes.
3. After the command completes, wait 5 minutes before running the test.
4. Start the Extech SDL600 Sound Level Meter/Datalogger and allow the workstation to sit idle for 1 hour.
5. After 1 hour, stop the Extech SDL600.
6. Power off the workstation for 10 minutes.
7. Copy the log file from the Extech SDL600 SD card.
8. Complete Steps 1 to 7 twice more.

## Measuring the workstation's acoustics while under load

### Setting up the test

Ensure that PassMark BurnInTest Professional 7.0 is installed on your system, and configure it as described during the testing for power while under load.

### Running the test

1. Boot the system, and launch PassMark BurnInTest by double-clicking the desktop icon.
2. Bring up an elevated command prompt:
  - Select the Windows Start orb.
  - Type `cmd` and press Control-Shift-Enter.
3. Type `Cmd.exe /c start /wait Rundll32.exe advapi32.dll,ProcessIdleTasks`  
Do not interact with the system until the command completes.
4. After the command completes, wait 10 minutes before running the test.
5. Click Start Selected Tests in the BurnInTest V7.0 Pro screen and start the Extech SDL600 Sound Level Meter/Datalogger.
6. After 1 hour, stop the Extech SDL600.
7. Power off the workstation for 10 minutes.
8. Copy the log file from the Extech SDL600 SD card.
9. Complete Steps 1 to 8 twice more.

## APPENDIX C – BENCHMARK INFORMATION

### About MAXON CINEBENCH R15

CINEBENCH is a free, real-world, cross-platform test suite designed to evaluate and compare the CPU and graphics performance across various systems and platforms. Based on MAXON CINEMA 4D® software, which creates 3D content, the benchmark consists of two main components: the graphics-card performance test and the CPU performance test.

CINEBENCH uses the processing power of a system to render 3D scenes that stress all available processor cores, and reports performance in points (pts). Higher scores are better, as they indicate a faster processor. To learn more, visit [www.maxon.net](http://www.maxon.net).

### About BAPCo SYSmark 2014

According to BAPCo, “SYSmark 2014 is an application-based benchmark that reflects usage patterns of business users in the areas of office productivity, media creation and data/financial analysis.” The benchmark features notable applications from these fields. SYSmark 2014 generates a score from the times that the tested system takes to complete each individual operation in each scenario. For more information on this benchmark, see [bapco.com/products/sysmark-2014](http://bapco.com/products/sysmark-2014).

### About Futuremark 3DMark v1.5.915

Futuremark 3DMark v1.5.915 is a collection of benchmarks designed to rate the graphics performance of smartphones, tablets, notebooks, laptops, desktops or high-performance gaming PCs. 3DMark includes benchmarks designed for Windows, Apple® and Android™ devices. The Ice Storm portion of 3DMark includes 720p graphics tests to measure GPU performance and a physics test to stress CPU performance. Ice Storm is available for Windows, iOS and Android smart phones and tablets. It uses a DirectX 11 feature level 9 for Windows and OpenGL ES 2.0 for iOS and Android systems. Ice Storm Extreme increases the rendering resolution to 1080p and uses higher-quality textures and post-processing effects in the Graphics tests.

For more information on 3DMark, see [www.futuremark.com/benchmarks/3dmark](http://www.futuremark.com/benchmarks/3dmark).

## APPENDIX D – DETAILED BENCHMARK RESULTS

We ran the three benchmarks on all three SFF models, repeating each test three times. For our calculations, we selected the median of the three results for each benchmark and system. We calculated the percentage wins for the Dell OptiPlex 7040 SFF versus the recent-generation Dell OptiPlex 9020 SFF and the legacy Dell OptiPlex 980 SFF on each benchmark. The Dell OptiPlex 7040 outperformed the Dell OptiPlex 9020 SFF and legacy 980 SFF on all three benchmarks. Figure 18 shows our median benchmark results.

	Dell OptiPlex 7040 SFF	Recent-gen SFF	per cent win for Dell OptiPlex 7040 SFF	Legacy SFF	per cent win for Dell OptiPlex 7040 SFF
SYSmark (Overall Rating)	1,539	1,534	0.3%	902	70.6%
CINEBENCH – Graphics (FPS)	44.4	30.5	45.8%	1.7	2,513.5%
CINEBENCH – CPU (All cores)	545.3	534.3	2.1%	245.0	122.6%
CINEBENCH – CPU (Single core)	151.7	146.8	3.3%	97.0	56.4%
3DMark Fire Strike (overall)	925	729	26.9%		
3DMark Sky Diver (overall)	4,097	3,331	23.0%		
3DMark Cloud Gate (overall)	7,669	6,686	14.7%	750	922.9%
3DMark Ice Storm Extreme (overall)	48,037	37,118	29.4%	10,992	337.0%

Figure 18: System performance improvement based on our benchmark testing.

We then ran the three benchmarks on all three MT models, repeating each test three times. For our calculations, we selected the median of the three results for each benchmark and system. We calculated the percentage wins for the Dell OptiPlex 7040 MT versus the recent-generation Dell OptiPlex 9020 MT and the legacy Dell OptiPlex 980 MT on each benchmark. The Dell OptiPlex 7040 outperformed the Dell OptiPlex 9020 MT and legacy 980 MT on all three benchmarks. Figure 19 shows our median benchmark results.

	Dell OptiPlex 7040 MT	Recent-gen MT	per cent win for Dell OptiPlex 7040 MT	Legacy MT	per cent win for Dell OptiPlex 7040 MT
SYSmark (Overall Rating)	1,528	1,485	2.9%	902	69.4%
CINEBENCH – Graphics (FPS)	44.7	30.4	47.1%	1.7	2,510.5%
CINEBENCH – CPU (All cores)	545.7	534.3	2.1%	247.0	120.9%
CINEBENCH – CPU (Single core)	152.0	146.3	3.9%	98.8	53.8%
3DMark Fire Strike (overall)	925	728	27.0%		
3DMark Sky Diver (overall)	4,098	3,334	22.9%		
3DMark Cloud Gate (overall)	7,664	6,714	14.1%	751	920.9%
3DMark Ice Storm Extreme (overall)	48,052	36,831	30.5%	10,885	341.5%

Figure 19: System performance improvement based on our benchmark testing.

## APPENDIX E – HOW WE CALCULATED

### Acoustics percentages

We calculated the difference in perceived volume with the two workstations using the following formula for sound level change:<sup>3</sup>

$$\Delta L = 10 \cdot \log_2 x = 33.22 \cdot \log(x)$$

The change in sound level ( $\Delta L$ ) is related to the ratio for loudness (or volume) by using the calculated  $\Delta L$  as follows:

$$x = 10^{\frac{\Delta L}{33.22}} = 2^{\frac{\Delta L}{10}}$$

For example, if the level change ( $\Delta L$ ) is 0.2 dB, the ratio for loudness is 1.014x, or 1.4 per cent louder.

### Converting watts to BTU/hr

The power (P) in BTUs per hour (BTU/hr) is equal to 3.412141633 times the power (P) in watts (W):<sup>4</sup>

$$P(\text{BTU/hr}) = 3.412141633 \times P(\text{W})$$

So 1 W is equal to 3.412141633 BTU/hr.

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<sup>3</sup> [www.sengpielaudio.com/calculator-levelchange.htm](http://www.sengpielaudio.com/calculator-levelchange.htm)

<sup>4</sup> [www.rapidtables.com/convert/power/Watt\\_to\\_BTU.htm](http://www.rapidtables.com/convert/power/Watt_to_BTU.htm)

## ABOUT PRINCIPLED TECHNOLOGIES



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Our founders, Mark L. Van Name and Bill Catchings, have worked together in technology assessment for over 20 years. As journalists, they have published over a thousand articles on a wide range of technology subjects. They created and led the Ziff-Davis Benchmark Operation, which developed such industry-standard benchmarks as Ziff Davis Media's Winstone and WebBench. They founded and led eTesting Labs and, after the acquisition of that company by Lionbridge Technologies, were the Head and CTO of VeriTest.

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