ADLINK
LEADING EDGE COMPUTING

Battling the Spread of Infectious Diseases

For industries with strict hygiene standards, ADLINK panel computers are easily cleaned with common cleaners, detergents, and water.



Use Case

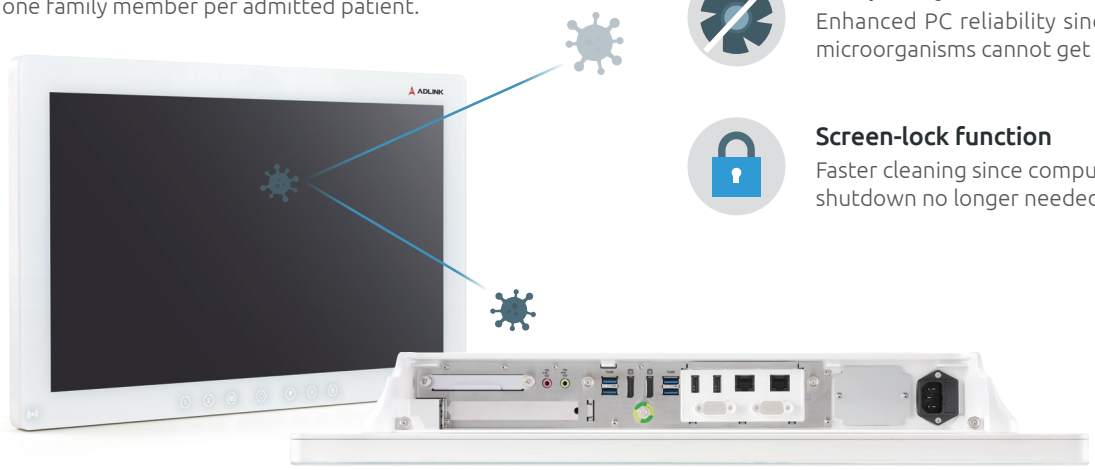
Background

Taiwan has waged a successful fight against COVID-19, with many activities returning to normal, no lockdowns, and one of the lowest per capita death rates in the world. From the start of the pandemic to April 2021, just 12 people have died from the disease.[1] However, there is always a risk the COVID-19 infection rate could rise, thus continually fighting transmission is critical.

Challenges

Deserving much credit, healthcare facilities, like the National Taiwan University Hospital (NTUH), have worked diligently to ensure zero incidences of virus transmission in the hospital. NTUH is a leading hospital in Taiwan and a role model for implementing safety protocols.

Preventing the spread of the virus within the hospital is a great challenge given the sheer number of people going in and out every day: around 8,000 medical staff, 10,000 outpatient visits, and one family member per admitted patient.



Aluminum housing without screws
No screw holes to clean

Edge-to-edge protective glass (no frame)
No locations around the glass for bacteria to grow

On-screen buttons
No physical buttons that trap bacteria

Completely sealed fanless design
Enhanced PC reliability since dust and microorganisms cannot get inside

Screen-lock function
Faster cleaning since computer shutdown no longer needed

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Needs

“Frequent cleaning is fundamental to battle the spread of infectious diseases,” said Dr. Chien-Hua Huang, chairman and clinical professor of Department of Emergency Medicine at NTUH. This includes computers that can be accessed more than 1,000 times a day, according to Dr. Huang. Highly problematic are commercial computers because they are vulnerable to bacteria growth in and around the keyboard, mouse, buttons, housing screws, and frame gaps.

NTUH runs three shifts a day, each shift requiring cleaning to be conducted up to three times. But when the emergency room is busy, treating patients comes first, and sometimes thorough cleaning is not possible, especially if it means shutting down the computer for cleaning.



Solution

NTUH sought a hygiene-focused medical PC to reduce disease transmission and ease cleaning. The hospital selected ADLINK’s MLC8 medical panel computer that is suitable for use in operating rooms and intensive care units (ICUs). The NTUH IT department was able to quickly connect the medical PCs to hospital systems in three days and then install the PCs in the emergency room and other virus treatment facilities in three workdays.

A key feature of the MLC8 feature is it can be easily and thoroughly cleaned without needing to shut it down. This feature uses an on-screen button that locks the screen during cleaning, so it is not possible to accidentally enter a command.

> Frequent cleaning is fundamental to battle the spread of infectious diseases. This includes computers that can be accessed more than **1,000 times** a day. Using hygienically-designed computers can help ensure zero incidences of virus transmission in the hospit al.
>
> **Dr. Chien-Hua Huang**
> chairman and clinical professor of Department of Emergency Medicine at NTUH



1. Statistica, April 25, 2021, https://www.statista.com/statistics/1108537/taiwan-novel-coronavirus-covid19-confirmed-death-recovered-trend.