

- SiSo certified for Microsoft Authorized Refurbisher
- SiSo is the only authorized company to apply the program in Africa
- Make computers suitable for educational institutions
- Thanks to the MAR program, SiSo contributes to bridging the "digital" gap
- Affiliated with the SiSo Donation Fund in 2004

Microsoft[®]

Authorised Refurbisher

Introduction

Every year, millions of personal computers are scrapped. Despite the fact that their original owners no longer wish to use these machines, the majority of them still are in good condition.

Within the MAR program, Microsoft collaborates with refurbishment organizations in order to prolong the life span of this equipment.

Refurbishers collect surplus pc's, make them suitable for re-use and install a new Windows[®] operating system through Microsoft's MAR program. Subsequently, these computers are supplied to educational and charitable institutions who thus gain access to technological solutions in a cost-effective manner.

"The EMEA MAR program is an important initiative from Microsoft. It creates a network of qualified refurbishers, who in turn see to it that computers which have been made suitable for re-use professionally can provide an essential contribution to bridging the digital gap."

In September 2005, SiSo obtained the Microsoft Authorized Refurbisher certificate.

At the moment, SiSo is the only company authorized to apply the program in Africa.



What is a refurbished computer?

Refurbishment implies that a donated computer is examined, cleaned and updated, before it ends up with a new owner. In the course of this process, data and software still present on the computer will be removed and components are repaired, replaced or added, so that the computer functions properly. All computers that are made suitable for re-use by means of this arrangement are supplied with a full Microsoft operating system license.

Microsoft Authorized Refurbisher licensees

Microsoft Authorized Refurbishers are approved by Microsoft, which implies that these companies guarantee their donators that each single computer has been made suitable for re-use in a professional manner, and that a legal version of a Microsoft operating system has been installed.

The MAR program is open to any refurbisher in Europe, the Middle East and Africa that makes computers suitable for re-use for the sake of qualified beneficiary organizations. MAR refurbishers can be found in many countries in Europe, the Middle East and Africa. They offer computers made suitable for re-use to a wide range of countries within the regions in question.

The MAR program enables refurbishers to re-install Windows, but does not include Microsoft application software such as Word, Excel and PowerPoint ®. As a part of this program, donators can not transfer these programs to receiving users. The latter ones however, can purchase this software at reduced rates through the Education Licensing Program.

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Educational institutions reap the fruit of the MAR program

"The foundation of a new MAR program for the EMEA region has met positive reviews from many educational and charitable institutions within this region, who now reap its yield. It is a proof of Microsoft's social responsibility, and extends the reach of current technology to areas otherwise remaining behind.

As a Microsoft Authorized Refurbisher, SiSo desires to remain involved with this program and to contribute to its success."

MAR-certificate fits SiSo's Social Enterprise program

SiSo assumes social responsibility in every business activity. The main points here are social and environmental aspects. Thus we explicitly aim for protection of the environment and contribute to ICT development in Third World countries. Permanent development in the broadest sense of the word.

We make an effort to fill in our social involvement in the countries in which we operate. In 2004, we developed a new policy in the field of social involvement under the name "SiSo Donations Fund". This policy aims to provide children with better access to ICT education. For this purpose, SiSo puts a certain percentage of her purchased equipment at the disposal of charitable causes. Thanks to the MAR certificate SiSo can even better effectuate her services towards educational institutions

For these purposes, we closely collaborate with our clients. A recent example is the cooperation with KPN on the "1 Million computers for Africa" project.

The "A Fresh Start for Donated Computers" program

The "A Fresh Start for Donated Computers" program is a component of the Microsoft "Partners in Learning" initiative. The program aims to remove the license barriers that impede institutions within primary and secondary education to use donated computers. The program includes personal computers based on Pentium II or similar processors, and older models.