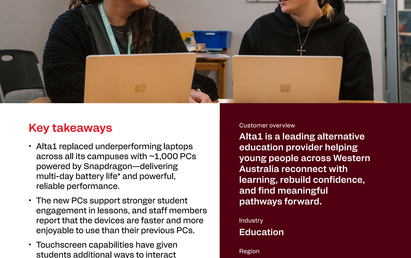
Snapdragon | alta1

Behind the breakthrough

Helping students reconnect with learning through better PCs



Key takeaways

- Alta1 replaced underperforming laptops across all its campuses with ~1,000 PCs powered by Snapdragon—delivering multi-day battery life* and powerful, reliable performance.
- The new PCs support stronger student engagement in lessons, and staff members report that the devices are faster and more enjoyable to use than their previous PCs.
- Touchscreen capabilities have given students additional ways to interact with tech.

Key benefits

- **Greater student focus** with long battery life that lasts through—and beyond—the school day
- **Uninterrupted lessons** supported by fast, responsive PC performance
- **More engaging learning experiences** through touchscreen interaction
- **Workplace preparation** through Windows platform

Customer overview

Alta1 is a leading alternative education provider helping young people across Western Australia reconnect with learning, rebuild confidence, and find meaningful pathways forward.

Industry

Education

Region

Western Australia

Processors

Snapdragon® X Plus

Key apps

Devices

Microsoft Surface Laptop
Microsoft Surface Pro

Microsoft Surface

When technology became a barrier to engagement

For students working hard to reconnect with learning, a freezing laptop or a dying battery is more than a technical problem. It can bring learning to a **jarring halt.**

Alta1 knows this well. Across Western Australia, Alta1 supports young people who need a different kind of school environment, helping them re-engage with education and move toward their future with confidence.

Laptops are central to how students participate in learning and how staff members teach across Alta1's 20 campuses. They support everything from coursework and research to creative projects and vocational training.

But the devices students and staff relied on were causing problems no curriculum could fix—**from short battery life to spinning wheels of doom.**

Alta1 began looking for a better way forward.

> If students' laptops are dying or they're not able to do things on their PCs, it becomes much harder to engage them in education.
>
> — SIMON GRANT
> Head of ICT, Alta1

The search for the right devices

The search for better devices led Alta1 to PCs powered by **Snapdragon X Plus processors**. But getting there took time.

For years, Alta1 had equipped students with Apple devices. While those PCs met basic needs, the school wanted students to gain experience with Windows.

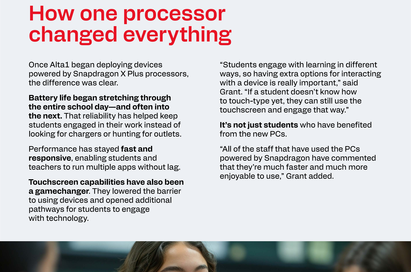
"Students are more likely to use a Windows device when they enter the workplace," said Simon Grant, head of Information and Communications Technology (ICT) at Alta1. "Plus, we were already heavily involved in the Microsoft 365 stack."

So Alta1 switched to Windows laptops. But while the platform made sense, the selected devices brought a different set of frustrations.

Battery life was painfully short, often lasting only four hours into the school day. Low processing power led to frozen screens that would grind lessons to a halt. Even a virus scan could render PCs unusable for an entire day.

Grant and his team realized the issue wasn't just the operating system. It was the hardware powering their devices.

That realization led Alta1 to adopt PCs powered by Snapdragon processors.



Putting the right plan into place

To help ensure a smooth transition to the new devices, Alta1 partnered with Solutions IT, a trusted managed service provider and the institution's longtime IT partner.

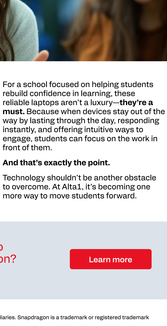
"Alta1 works with complex young people, so they are very mindful of how change is implemented," said Shelley Forbes, the Alta1 College Network Principal. **"The rollout of new devices had to be strategic and carefully managed."**

Working closely with Solutions IT, Alta1 transitioned to the Microsoft ecosystem, including Microsoft Surface Laptop and Surface Pro devices powered by Snapdragon X Plus processors.

Solutions IT proposed a tailored deployment consisting of 800 student laptops, 180 staff laptops, and additional Surface Pros for mobile staff members.

The goal was to create a more integrated and reliable technology experience that enhanced educational outcomes and empowered students and staff alike.

> The main reason for our jump to Snapdragon was the battery life and performance.
>
> — SIMON GRANT
> Head of ICT, Alta1



How one processor changed everything

Once Alta1 began deploying devices powered by Snapdragon X Plus processors, the difference was clear.

Battery life began stretching through the entire school day—and often into the next. That reliability has helped keep students engaged in their work instead of looking for chargers or hunting for outlets.

Performance has stayed **fast and responsive**, enabling students and teachers to run multiple apps without lag.

Touchscreen capabilities have also been a gamechanger. They lowered the barrier to using devices and opened additional pathways for students to engage with technology.

"Students engage with learning in different ways, so having extra options for interacting with a device is really important," said Grant. "If a student doesn't know how to touch-type yet, they can still use the touchscreen and engage that way."

It's not just students who have benefited from the new PCs.

"All of the staff that have used the PCs powered by Snapdragon have commented that they're much faster and much more enjoyable to use," Grant added.

A thousand ways to drive engagement

Alta1 has deployed approximately **1,000 PCs powered by Snapdragon processors** across all its campuses, working with Solutions IT to support both students and staff.

For a school focused on helping students rebuild confidence in learning, these reliable laptops aren't a luxury—**they're a must.** Because when devices stay out of the way by lasting through the day, responding instantly, and offering intuitive ways to engage, students can focus on the work in front of them.

And that's exactly the point.

Technology shouldn't be another obstacle to overcome. At Alta1, it's becoming one more way to move students forward.

*Battery life varies significantly with device, settings, usage, and other factors.