



Warp It  
“Waste less. Save more.”

## Introduction

Warp It is a software solution that simplifies the re-use of items within complex organisations. Such organisations often have surplus resources in good condition, but the challenges of identifying varied and distributed unwanted assets and matching them to new users generally act as insurmountable barriers to re-use. With Warp It, whenever a member of staff needs to buy items such as furniture or office materials, they can search to find out whether the item is already available in a different department.

## Opportunities and Drivers

Warp It was set up in 2011 by Daniel O'Connor, who was driven by the frustration of seeing perfectly functioning products sent to landfill during his career in waste management. O'Connor's mission for the last 15 years has been to make the re-use of assets easy. He has saved organisations £16M in avoided waste and procurement charges by developing waste reduction programmes – and says his ultimate vision is for re-use and repair to become so convenient and desirable that staff do not throw anything away or buy anything new.

*"My ultimate vision is where reuse and repair is so convenient and desirable, that staff do not throw anything away or buy anything new".*

### Opportunity

- Organisations often have surplus resources in good condition and dispose of items that could be reused
- Reusing an office desk can generate over £80 net revenue <sup>1</sup>

### Approach

- Warp It's mission is to make reuse so convenient and desirable that staff do not want or need to buy anything new
- Warp It's simple to use software platform takes the hassle out of re-use whilst also reporting back the benefits

### Impact

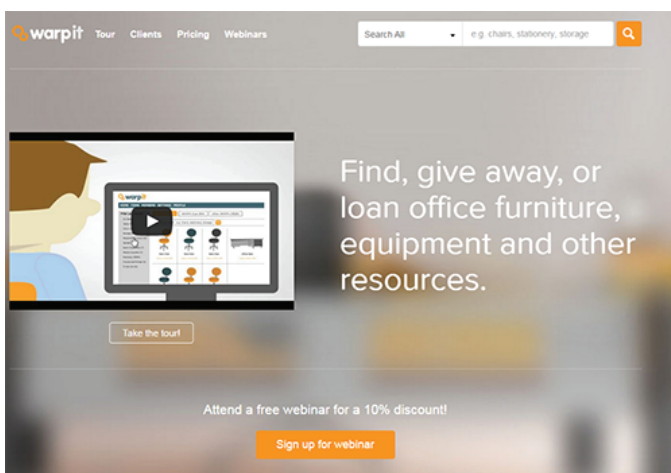
- By facilitating re-use, Warp It has saved clients almost £8M in unnecessary procurement costs
- Environmental benefits include 959,631 kg of waste being diverted from landfill and 2.7M kg CO<sub>2</sub> savings

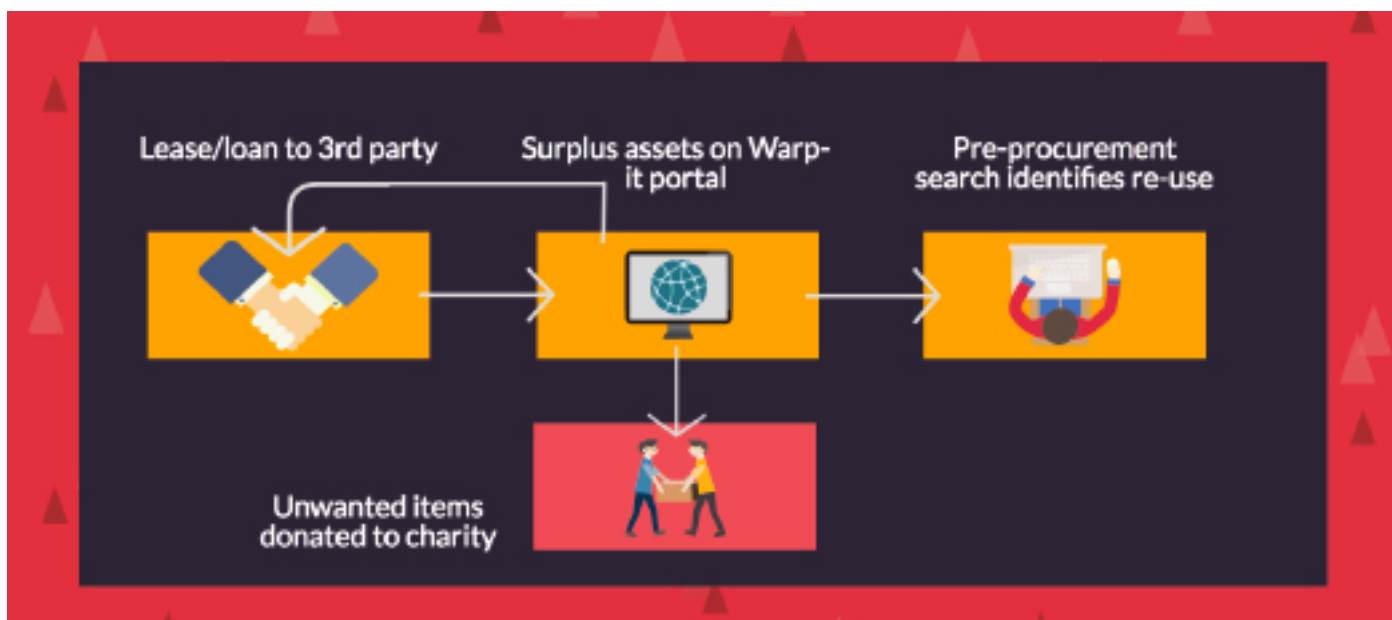
## Approach

The Warp It system is designed for simplicity. Essentially, it makes re-use more convenient than disposal. Designing the platform so that different stakeholders in the organisation all share in the benefits was critical. For the original user, the platform makes posting an unwanted item quicker than a phone call to estates management. The new user reaps the benefits of costs saving by avoiding procuring new items, and the workload of procurement is reduced.

Estates management also benefits, as matching items directly between the disposer and the new owner reduces the need to store items and reduces movement. Disposing of fewer items means fewer skips and time spent dismantling items – all increasing the cost savings and benefits.

Clever features make the system even more efficient: for example, if assets will become available on a known date, they can be posted and booked by others. This allows for a quick turnaround when the vacancy date arrives. If a new owner can't be found, there are options to donate to charities or schools. These organisations are generally willing to collect items, further reducing waste disposal costs. Warp It has also demonstrated the appetite for city level trading. The Sunderland Partnership, a network of over 300 schools, the local NHS Foundation Trust, Sunderland University and 300+ Voluntary and Community Action Sunderland members, have realised the benefits of a new collaborative consumption model using Warp It.





## Benefits and Impact

The economic benefits of this approach are clear: Northumberland County Council saved £68,000 on internal purchasing in the first four months of implementation. Warp It has been adopted in a variety of mainly public sector clients such as health authorities, local councils and universities – although the model would work equally in the private sector.

Re-use also delivers significant environmental and social benefits: Warp It automatically collects data so the benefits of re-use can be readily communicated and reported.



Warp It promotes circular economy approaches by enabling the re-use of assets – ensuring that they have a long service life and avoiding disposal before the end of their productive life. With Warp It, there is no direct link to the product manufacturers or retailers so they may not initially share in the benefits of this circular system.

Perhaps over time organisations successfully implementing Warp It will increasingly procure more durable products - having the confidence to invest in more expensive, quality products knowing that their organisation has the systems in place to realise the value of that investment over a long period through reuse. Then the manufacturers of such products would benefit.

Warp It is also exploring how it can support its customers to further extend the lifetime of their inventory through approaches such as refurbishment, remanufacturing and remodelling by partnering with specialist service providers such as Premier Sustain.

### View Items : Active

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Item Name	Item Ref	User	Location	Available	Expires
2 Drawer Unit	84/13539/1	Admin	Darwin annexe ref s/u 108	28 Aug 2014	10 Oct 2014
2 Drawer Unit	84/13540/1	Admin	Darwin annexe ref s/u 109	28 Aug 2014	10 Oct 2014
Easy chair	84/13545/1	Admin	Darwin annexe ref s/u 114	28 Aug 2014	10 Oct 2014
Cabinet	84/13546/1	Admin	Darwin annexe ref s/u 115	28 Aug 2014	10 Oct 2014
Display Panel / case	84/13584/3	Admin	Darwin annexe ref s/u 107 x 1. ref s/u 044 x 2.	29 Aug 2014	10 Oct 2014
Table	84/13719/1	Admin	darwin annexe s/land uni ref s/u 116	4 Sep 2014	10 Oct 2014
Computer desk	84/13725/1	Admin	darwin annexe s/land uni ref s/u 122	4 Sep 2014	10 Oct 2014



<sup>i</sup> [http://www.wrap.org.uk/sites/files/wrap/Office%20Furniture\\_final.pdf](http://www.wrap.org.uk/sites/files/wrap/Office%20Furniture_final.pdf)

Image Sources: [www.warp-it.co.uk](http://www.warp-it.co.uk)

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