

# Pi 2s Power the Book Festival Box Office

## Background

The world-renowned Edinburgh International Book Festival (EIBF) began in 1983 and is now a key event in the August Festival season, celebrated annually in Scotland's capital city. Biennial at first, the Book Festival became a yearly celebration in 1997.

Throughout its history, the Book Festival has grown rapidly in size and scope to become the largest and most dynamic festival of its kind in the world.

In its first year the Book Festival played host to just 30 'Meet the Author' events. Today, the Festival programmes over 700 events, which are enjoyed by people of all ages.

## The Challenge

Since its inception, the Book Festival's home has been the beautiful and historic Charlotte Square Gardens, centrally located in Edinburgh's world heritage listed Georgian New Town. Each year the gardens are transformed into a magical tented village, which welcome around 220,000 visitors.

Space is at a premium in the temporary box office that comprises part of the tented village and with the large amount of visitor footfall they experience the EIBF's IT and Systems Manager Steve O'Connor was keen to look at how **Red61** technology could help.

## Our Solution

The Raspberry Pi is an amazing low cost, credit card-sized computer that plugs into a computer monitor or TV, and uses a standard keyboard and mouse. The Raspberry Pi itself costs less than £30 allowing organisations to equip box office counters for less than £100 per station.

At **Red61** we have been keeping a close eye on this exciting new platform since the original Raspberry Pi were released in 2012. Although the first generation of Pis lacked processing power, the

new Raspberry Pi 2 Model B is over six times more powerful, but for the same amazingly low price.

**Red61** have developed a custom software image that can be easily loaded onto the Pi 2. It's a quick and easy way to provide a fully PCI:DSS-compliant working environment containing both a fully-featured copy of **VIA** and the AndersonZaks RedCard payment processing system.

The Edinburgh International Book Festival saw an immediate application for this ground-breaking technology in their temporary box office.



## The Outcome

The implementation of the Raspberry Pi 2 with **VIA** resulted in the EIBF successfully running two self-service collection kiosks and a counter sales point using this solution.

Whilst the Pi 2 offers a cost-effective option, EIBF's Steve O'Connor was also quick to point out that another major benefit of the solution was its reliability with the Pi 2 proving itself more than robust enough to deal with the demands of a major festival.

Based on this success the EIBF will be looking to expand their usage of this amazing solution for future festivals.