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Selecting the right PC accessories for the new era of work

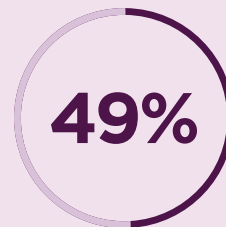
Evolving work models and digital landscapes have brought technology accessories to the forefront.

The office isn't what it used to be

The new era of work represents a paradigm shift. Workspace flexibility has taken center stage, and deploying the right technology is imperative for keeping teams productive and collaborative.

The evolution of physically dispersed organizations required IT teams to invest in technology and processes that enable work from anywhere while ensuring equitable experiences for every member of the team. Remote, hybrid, and in-office digital environments have faced a major impact in their wake.

If these evolving workspaces aren't set up for success, they run the risk of contributing to wasteful downtime.



Nearly half of employees (49%) are already **losing one to five hours of productivity per week** dealing with IT issues.¹

\$7,980

The equivalent amount lost **per employee, per year.**²



PC accessories are powerful tools that employees have come to expect and that businesses can use to achieve their goals faster — wherever work happens.

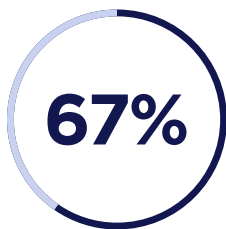
Here are the **business benefits and technology features** IT leaders should look for when selecting the best PC accessories for their teams.

Drive employee productivity

A seamless and efficient technological infrastructure is crucial for maximizing productivity in today's dynamic work environment.

If technology doesn't work or causes unforeseen issues, employee productivity can take an unsuspected hit.

Audio and video technology bridge the geographical divide between in-office and offsite team members, driving effective hybrid collaboration and nurturing interpersonal connections that are crucial for effective teamwork.



of remote workers say they prefer to be on camera during calls because it's easier to communicate when they can see someone's facial expression.³

Accessories with high-quality audio technology like **active and environmental noise cancellation** (ANC and ENC) ensure that conversations are free and clear of noisy disruptions, while advanced webcam technology like **4K resolution** helps employees read visual cues for enhanced understanding and facilitates professional content sharing and presentations. These tools eliminate physical and technological barriers and establish a culture of equitable meetings, which drives productivity.

Docking stations are similarly indispensable for today's employees who need more than one peripheral connection. Docks allow employees to easily transition from a simple laptop workspace to a **more productive desktop** setup and **quickly connect** the tools they need without missing a beat. This improves an employee's ability to multitask and manage complex assignments.



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Docks and hubs can also lead to a more organized workspace. By centralizing cable management and reducing clutter, these tools help employees sustain a tidy, distraction-free environment. A **one-cable dock connection** can directly impact focus and efficiency because it eliminates time wasted cable hunting or dealing with a tangle of wires. The benefits serve end-user and IT team productivity alike.



Using a Lenovo docking station's single cable connection and port expansion can **save end users an estimated one day's worth of productivity a year**.⁴ That's equivalent to \$244 per employee per year.²



Using a Lenovo ThinkPad Universal Smart Dock that requires no manual firmware update can **save an estimated 8 hours and \$244 per IT leader per year**, compared to using a dock with traditional firmware updates per model.^{2,4}

Key considerations

- Plug-and-play ready**
- Quick connection to any workspace**
- Easy to use**
- Multi-device usability**

Support C-suite goals

A seamless work environment makes for more satisfied employees. Studies show an ill-equipped workplace can lead employees to quit, and high turnover can be costly. Replacing an individual employee can cost a business up to two times that employee's annual salary.⁵

Improved employee experience and well-being is seen by many human resources leaders as a direct route to lessening the blow, and technology accessories can contribute to both initiatives.



of employees say flexibility in where they work has made them more satisfied with their jobs,⁶ and the right-fit peripheral devices designed for seamless integration help make that flexibility possible.

Reliable accessories that simply work — when employees need them to, how they need them to, and for as long as they need them to — are key. And PC accessories with **ergonomic design, accessibility options, and preventive health benefits** (such as blue light blocking features) are important factors for improving employee well-being.

Mice and keyboards can play a pivotal role by offering ergonomic comfort and streamlining workflow efficiency. Keyboards designed with adjustable angles and tactile keys help reduce the risk of repetitive strain injuries like carpal tunnel syndrome. A reliable mouse with customizable features and precision tracking improves an employee's ability to navigate through digital tasks swiftly.

The right technology can also sway talented prospective employees to join a company's ranks.

+70% of workers and those looking for work are interested in working for environmentally sustainable employers.⁷ Accessories made of **sustainable materials** like recycled post-consumer plastic are an easy win.



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By choosing accessories that have been built, packaged, and sourced with **sustainability practices** in mind, IT organizations demonstrate their commitment to responsible business practices. This not only resonates with ESG-minded internal stakeholders but also helps meet increasingly stringent regulatory requirements.



Moreover, technology accessories made with **energy-efficient features** and in factories with science-based targets, water reduction goals, or renewable energy sources can contribute to cost savings in the long run. Adding them to a company's digital ecosystem can help contribute to a business's long-term bottom line.

Key considerations

- Reliable, high-quality technology tested in real-world environments**
- Comfortable design built for long working hours**
- Made and packaged with sustainable materials**

Secure devices and data

A staple characteristic of the hybrid workforce is that it's frequently on the move. This can pose significant security threats to employers.

If an employee's laptop is stolen or lost during transit and thieves get their hands on sensitive company information, organizations are vulnerable to data breaches, reputational damage, and financial loss.

The global average cost of a data breach in 2023 was \$4.45 million, a 15% increase over three years.⁸

PC accessories like **carbon steel security locks** that anchor a laptop to a desk, cafe table, or other attachment point can go a long way toward minimizing the risks.

It's also important to effectively prevent information and data from being viewed in person by anyone other than the laptop's user. **Privacy filters** transmit just enough light to provide a clear viewing experience for the immediate user while hiding the screen from anyone who might be looking over their shoulder.

Finally, accessories engineered with **remote management capabilities** help IT teams save time while meeting security best practices.

Lenovo ThinkPad Universal Smart Dock solutions enabled with Microsoft Azure Sphere, an IoT platform secured from OS to the cloud, can be remotely managed and updated.




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PCs on the move mean more threats

61% of IT organizations have had an employee laptop or tablet lost or stolen in the past.⁹

 One laptop is stolen every 53 seconds.¹⁰

74% of laptop thefts occur in public spaces or during travel.¹¹

Key considerations

- Laptop security locks made of cut-proof materials
- Screen protectors and privacy filters
- Remote IT management capabilities for connected peripheral devices

Simplify IT management

The evolution of modern work will continue at a rapid pace. The best way for IT leaders to maximize value and impact while balancing limited resources is to reduce complexity and increase efficiency across your technology landscape.



Lenovo Accessories delivers.



Our **broad portfolio of solutions** is engineered to be flexible in a mixed-device tech kit and is compatible with most operating systems and device form factors. We can also provide solutions for your unique use cases, making it easier for IT organizations to purchase with the simplicity of a single vendor.



Extended end-to-end capabilities and a **dedicated third-party option (3PO)** portfolio connects us to trusted global hardware brands and manufacturers and includes a breadth of essential tools for modern work, from charging carts and printers to interactive whiteboards and ergonomic office chairs.

Lenovo ensures IT leaders can find full solutions to meet the unique needs of anyone they're tasked to equip in the new era of hybrid work.

Key considerations

- Diverse product categories**
- A one-stop solution**
- Simple ordering processes**
- IT manageability, update capabilities, and visibility**
- Compatible and device-agnostic**
- User preference software included**

To learn more about how Lenovo Accessories help employees feel productive, collaborative, and engaged, contact your local Lenovo sales rep.

Sources

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