

MOBILE HARDWARE STRATEGY

NO DESKTOP COMPUTERS

Desktop computers are a bit less expensive than laptops, but their lack of portability makes them a liability in a disaster avoidance plan. If your employees have laptops and take them home every day and something happens at the office over-night (or over the weekend), everyone will still have their primary work tools with them. If you're going to invest in laptops, then you should insist that people take them home. Of course, this increases the possibility that they may be lost or stolen. However, it's not difficult to encrypt the laptops so that only authorized users can use them (see next paragraph).

An additional benefit of having laptops is that it creates the opportunity for additional productivity. They allow people to work in circumstances they would otherwise have been unable to work. For example, let's say one of your employees wakes up on a Monday morning and her daughter is sick and can't go to school. Now your employee may have to stay home to take care of her daughter. She may WANT to work but can't come into the office. If she took her laptop home over the weekend, then when her daughter goes back to bed, she can work if she wants to. That's what I mean by creating the opportunity for someone to work if they want to. Sometimes, employees are coughing (for example) but don't otherwise feel bad. However, they may not want to come to the office and possibly get someone sick or annoy people with their coughing. So they have to stay home, but they still feel fine to work. Having a laptop might make that possible. If this kind of thing happens just once a year, you've easily cost-justified the additional amount a laptop costs over a desktop.