

NOTEBOOK PCS INSTEAD OF DESKTOP PCS

The bottom line is that notebooks are more expensive and less powerful than desktops. However, neither the price nor the performance gap is significant, and there are many reasons to choose the notebook option.

PRICES ARE VERY CLOSE BETWEEN NOTEBOOKS AND DESKTOPS

Notebooks are more expensive than desktops, but the gap is nowhere near what it was just a few years ago. The price difference fluctuates, but a notebook PC typically costs a few hundred more than a comparably equipped desktop.

WORK ANYWHERE

If having a notebook lets you work *just one time per year* under circumstances you would have been otherwise unable to work, then you've easily justified the extra money you paid for the notebook. If the difference were \$1,000, it's still worth it.

DOCKING STATIONS MAKE A NOTEBOOK FEEL LIKE A DESKTOP

Docking stations are also known as "port replicators." They allow you to connect your notebook to many external devices at once. For example, when I dock my notebook, I am instantly connected to two external monitors, an external (full-size) keyboard and mouse, my scanner, my network, the internet, and printers. When leaving the office, I simply undock by unplugging the Thunderbolt cable, which provides both data and charging connections, and I'm disconnected from all that. Thunderbolt docks make connecting and disconnecting fast and easy. They also permit full-size peripherals (monitors, keyboards & mice) at the office.

TAKE YOUR FILES WITH YOU

If you use scanners to create complete digital files, you can [take those digital files with you](#) on a notebook or tablet wherever you go. Very importantly, it doesn't matter whether you have an internet connection. If you have complete digital files, they can quickly be loaded onto a laptop or copied to cloud storage, and thus always with you. If you store these digital files with a cloud provider, they are accessible anywhere, no matter which device you have handy. This is the ultimate in practice mobility.

You might say that an iPad or other tablet could fulfill the "laptop role" while being more portable with better battery life. Perhaps. The remaining gap lies in the limitations of tablet apps. Microsoft makes iPad versions of its eponymous Office suite. Adobe does the same for Acrobat. However, the iPad apps lack many features of their Windows and Mac "big brothers." Having said that, the iPad truly shines in specific relevant capabilities. Track changes in Word for iPad is excellent; every bit the peer of "real" Word. And reviewing and commenting on PDFs with an Apple Pencil in a comfortable lounge chair sure beats hunching over a laptop screen. If you know to a high degree of certainty what work you'll do on the go, feel free to grab the best tool for the job.

ACCESS YOUR OFFICE FROM ANYWHERE

Thanks to widespread Wi-Fi and cellphone hotspots¹, you can get internet access from almost anywhere. If you have remote access options to your office or to the cloud services and internet platforms you need, then a notebook or iPad is crucial to creating an office wherever you happen to be.

¹ Cellular hotspots, also known as tethering, use your smartphone as a modem which allows you to connect your laptop to the internet through the cellular network.

If you need help with specs and tech, see [this guide on laptops](#) and this [general tech buying guide](#) from [Lawyerist](#).