



Why is Apple Associated with High Business Productivity?

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Biography

It all began with Andrew, and his brother Philip, creating the game 'Movie Producer' for the Dragon 32 computer in 1983. From there they started a mail order games business and then progressed to custom building PCs for their customers. Following a meeting with a local car leasing company, Andrew and Philip couldn't understand why there wasn't anyone using this concept for computers. After testing interest with an advert placed in Computer Shopper, they were inundated with enquiries from businesses who wanted to lease their computer equipment – and so HardSoft Computers (<https://www.hardsoftcomputers.co.uk/>) was born.

Around ten years ago, Andrew and Philip saw a shift towards Mac and became one of around 50 Apple Authorized Resellers in the UK. HardSoft now has a mix of Mac and PC customers and recently re-launched their custom built PCs.

Keywords Productivity, Employee engagement, Apple Business Manager (ABM), Mobile Device Management (MDM)
Paper type Research, Opinion

Abstract

New technologies and changing employee expectations are challenging the traditional idea of what constitutes productivity in the workplace. The impact of WFH during the pandemic has, in many ways, created the 'always on' workforce and never has the term 'out-of-office' had such little meaning. Improvements to mobile connectivity, the rise of cloud-based applications and changing demands and expectations from employees mean the workplace is no longer a location, but a concept. But to ensure that all employees are as productive as possible regardless of the location, it is important to choose the right hardware, explains the author of this article.

Introduction

Staff productivity is one of the biggest impacts on business revenue. It is widely recognized that productive employees perform tasks more quickly and to a higher degree of quality. This frees up more time for additional tasks, making a company's output greater.

With all other factors being equal, studies show that highly engaged, for instance, productive workers, can make businesses approximately 21% more profitable¹. Increasing workplace productivity isn't just down to the skills and attitude of your staff. The tools that you offer to employees can have a massive impact. When it comes to choosing which hardware to purchase for in-office and remote workers, Apple devices continue to be the top performer².



Do Apple devices really boost productivity?

The choice of which hardware to invest in does come down to personal choice and individual needs. PCs have many advantages too, and, naturally, whichever devices are best might depend on your industry.

Some workplaces can require specialist software and machinery integrated with their computers. However, for the vast majority of companies, sectors and office workers, Apple is the clear winner if you desire effective and efficient staff.



Entrepreneurs and modern businesses love Apple and with good reason; it really does boost work productivity. Research conducted for Jamf by third parties revealed that 97% of Apple Mac users are more productive after making the switch from Windows PCs³. Whilst a study at IBM showed that their Apple Mac employees were both happier and more productive⁴ with 22% saying that by using Apple technology users exceeded expectations in performance reviews, compared to Windows users. When IBM began its widely reported move to integrate Mac (and other Apple systems) across its business with the Mac@IBM scheme in 2015, the company discovered that tech support costs were much, much lower.

How do Apple devices increase productivity?

Entrepreneurs and Apple devotees repeatedly report that MAC desktops, laptops, iPads, and iPhones are superior for getting tasks done with less downtime.



This is likely down to several factors:

- **Apple has excellent apps** – Many applications on the market are developed especially for Apple products. Due to PCs always being more prolific, Apple had to invest heavily in developing incredible software tools over the years to remain competitive. These useful work-orientated apps designed to work with Apple are a major part of why Apple has its reputation for productive workforces.
- **Apple has numerous high quality productivity apps** – In addition to apps for almost any function you can imagine, Apple boasts a phenomenal selection of apps purely dedicated to enhancing productivity⁵.



- **Apple is the hardware of designers and creatives** – Not only are there tons of great apps designed for Apple systems and devices, but many of these are related to superior work, design, and attractive presentation. Apple has long been the go-to hardware and software of creative designers. Their interest in Apple has also engendered complimentary apps for these sectors.
- **Apple has created a connected ecosystem of technology** – We all know iPhones and iPads are extremely popular. Their portability and ever-increasing functionality (which almost rivals a computer) make them continually more of a feature in work versus just a personal item.



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Apple laptops and desktops obviously integrate and communicate seamlessly with their fellow Apple products. Apple has successfully created an entire hardware and software ecosystem, so it saves time and worry about compatibility to go fully with Apple. The simplicity of the Cloud and automated syncing with other devices works in a way in which PCs cannot compare.

With even more complementary business services like Apple Business Manager, it's easy to see how Apple earned its productivity reputation.

- **Apple devices are more secure** – Having far fewer Apple MACs⁶ out in the market and in use has led to less threat from attack. Apple products have better in-built security and are less vulnerable to virus attacks and malware. This is not to say they are immune, and you shouldn't neglect cyber security awareness in business, but they certainly are a great deal more secure than PCs.
- **Excellent business software integrations** – Apple has focused much energy in creating superb integrations with business software. You will find there are seamless integrations with products like GSuite, which is ideal for businesses.
- **Intuitive interfaces** – Most of those who balk at switching to Apple do so because they are simply so used to using PC hardware. However, comparatively the Apple interfaces are far easier to learn and are more streamlined for all users. If we look at how popular and simple-to-use iPhones⁷ are this soon becomes apparent.





- **Regular patches and updates** – The Apple IOS operating systems receive regular software updates and patches to help them perform competitively over time. This makes even older Apple devices high performing.
- **Reliably high-quality machines** – Apple devices may come with a heftier price tag, yet they are usually well worth the cost. The systems' hardware is sound and most last a very long time. Not only that but they are also known to have superior battery life.

With PCs you may get a quality device more cheaply, though the quality and performance is far more hit and miss.

Conclusion – How Apple Business Manager can take productivity to the next level

Having all your in-house and remote staff utilizing the latest Apple products is an excellent tactic for boosting productivity, but you can go even further.

By enrolling in the free Apple Business Manager⁸ portal and syncing it to your MDM solution⁹, you can make it easier for your staff to be productive. Whether they are working in an office, or remotely, Apple Business Manager will help them work more effectively¹⁰. Research by Finder.com reveals that during the pandemic 60% of the UK's adult population were WFH, and over 25% plan to continue to work from home permanently or occasionally after lockdown following the introduction of vaccines¹¹.





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Therefore by using the ABM portal¹², you can bulk order and send Apple devices direct to their home. Best of all, you can remotely configure and set up their device while it is on route.

The result is that all staff can receive state-of-the-art Apple hardware at home and start using it straight away. The remote set up of applications and accounts enables them to have an out-of-the-box device that is ready to go with all the specific tools that the user requires. This saves hours of confusing set up time while your workers attune to the new devices with little or no downtime, and helping to create agile and highly productive teams which foster performance across the entire organization.

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