

GUIDING PRINCIPLES: LAPTOPS TABLETS PCs



When it comes to acquiring computer equipment, sometimes a small decision can have expensive consequences. Many brands and models of laptops, tablets, and PCs are ill-suited to business...with slow repair service, disappointingly breakable hardware, poor performance, or incompatibility with the network. Below are our guiding principles to help you make smart choices when selecting laptops, tablets, and PCs

1 Enterprise-Class Technology

Devices are designed and manufactured to be either consumer or enterprise class devices. Enterprise class machines are designed for true road warriors and all-day business use and are more dependable for long term use.

Baseline recommendations for a machine include:

- a. Professional or Enterprise operating system(s)
- b. i5 processor or better (i7, i9, etc.) – current generation or not more than 2 generations old
- c. 16 gigabytes of RAM
- d. Solid-state drive (SSD)

2 Appropriately sized device according to intended use

Choose the right device (laptop, tablet, PC) and applications to meet the needs of its intended user. The better the match, the more likely people will use it productively. To determine the best hardware / software for each user, consider the following:

- a. Processing Power
- b. Weight
- c. Cost
- d. Screen size
- e. Touch screen capabilities
- f. 10-key number pad
- g. Role-specific software (Accounting, Engineering, etc.)
- h. Additional add-ons (monitor, docks, power adapters, and others)

3 Supported and Warrantable

Laptops and tablets are built with proprietary parts that can be difficult to obtain without warranty coverage. Further, these portable devices experience shocks, bumps, drops, heat, cold, and other varying elements. When purchasing warranties for these devices, we recommend that you:

- a. Purchase warranty with the system
- b. Consider purchasing accidental damage protection (ADP). This is a business decision based on risk tolerance, but ADP coverage can be valuable especially for higher-end laptops. Screen replacement without ADP can range from \$500-\$1000+.

4 Designed for the Future

Your network and devices that connect to it can and will change over time. When planning on acquiring laptops, tablets, or PCs it is important to know what your business's technology needs are and what they will be in the future. Taking into consideration things such as growth and new technology into your personal device refresh plan will ensure your business has the necessary resources today as well as in the future.

Successful Laptops, Tablets, and PCs solutions have all these characteristics:

- ✓ Enterprise-Class Technology
- ✓ Appropriately sized device
- ✓ Supported and Warrantable
- ✓ Designed for the Future