SETTING UP REMOTE EMPLOYEES
FOR SUCCESS

INTRODUCTION

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic and resulting CDC guidelines for businesses, many companies have had to immediately pivot to working from home without any instructions or time to prepare.

For employers this means plenty of time and resources must go into finding the right platforms, technology and hardware to set the business up for continued success. Obstacles can include connecting remote users securely with the equipment, applications and data they need, managing configuration, and ensuring ongoing support for devices outside the company perimeter. For employees, obstacles can include adapting to the 'new normal' and maintaining a seamless workflow, and learning new systems and technologies that may slow down productivity.

How can employers better prepare and provide for remote employees today and into the future?

HIGH-PERFORMANCE BUSINESS LAPTOPS

Many of today's professionals are computer 'power users,' and equipped with sophisticated high-performance desktop systems at work. But when employers are tasked with enabling power users to work productively at home, or in a staggered schedule between home and office, the solution can turn to laptops.

Remote power users ideally need a high-performance laptop that's built and bundled for business. Look for a business-grade operating system like Windows 10 Professional, plus quad-core processors to breeze through job-specific software, and look for high-level graphics for UHD content production or graphic design. To keep up with heavy multitasking a minimum 8GB RAM is recommended, and 16GB is better. Unless everything is stored in the cloud, look for a high-capacity SSD at 512GB or more.

Laptops with a Full HD or higher resolution, with a display 14-inches or larger, will generally deliver precise, clear imagery and comfortable viewing, and an HD webcam will accommodate video conference meetings. Long battery life should be a priority, with top models rated for as much as 20 hours – allowing users to finish reports, work on spreadsheets or create presentations with the freedom to move about throughout the day. Finally, a laptop with an array of dedicated ports, including HDMI, USB-C, Thunderbolt™ 3 and more, can make life a lot less complicated.

Ultra-lightweight LG gram for business laptops, for example, offer strong options to power a wide range of power users. With a MIL-STD-810G certified design (1) in 14- to 17-inch sizes, they pack a potent combination of durability, versatility and performance at less than three pounds.
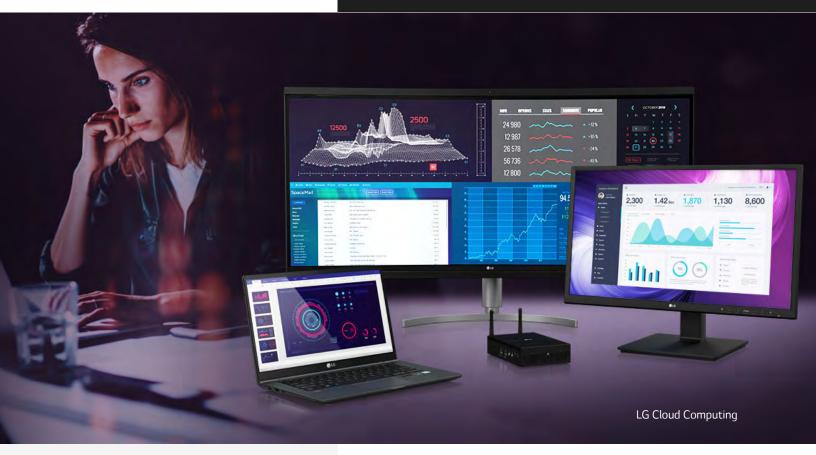
LG gram for business 2-in-1 touch laptop

WIDESCREEN DESKTOP MONITORS

Graphic designers, artists, security professionals and others often work with multiple monitors on their desks. For a home workstation, a single widescreen monitor with ergonomic stand can eliminate the need for multiple monitors and the associated energy consumption, reduce hardware-related issues, and provide a clean workspace where the user can multitask with several programs or view multiple images/documents on one screen at the same time.

For Mac OS X users, widescreen monitors can provide selectable screen ratios, changeable by a single click, to increase ease of use and productivity. A monitor with a 21:9 wide aspect ratio, for example, can enable the user to open and run an editing program and its source-clip folder without minimizing other programs. In addition, monitors with a four-screen split function can divide the screen from two to four customizable subscreens of the user's preferred size, without overlapping windows. Widescreen monitors with IPS technology can deliver superior color expression for critical image evaluation.

For content creators, monitors with dual link-up capability allow two portable devices, such as a computer, camera or phone, to be connected to the monitor and used on a single screen simultaneously, controlled by just one keyboard and mouse.

With immersive viewing and crystal-clear FHD or QHD resolution, LG's state-of-the-art UltraWide® and Curved UltraWide™ 21:9 and 32:9 monitors with IPS technology can be highly effective home workstation solutions for professionals, gamers and everyone in-between.

LG UltraWide™ Monitor

LG Cloud Computing

REMOTE BUSINESS TECHNOLOGY IN ACTION

Today's advanced computing and display technologies for business can ease the burden of transition for both employer and employee. This paper will highlight ideal solutions and their advantages for companies with remote workforces.

SECURE CLOUD COMPUTING DEVICES

Thin Client and Zero Client cloud computing endpoints in a Virtual Desktop Infrastructure (VDI) provide a powerful and cost-effective advantage for virtually any business where the utmost security of highly confidential data is crucial. They are also ideal for businesses with numerous employees working in remote locations. Cloud endpoints act as a secure interface for a company's data center on-premises or in the cloud, where the files, data, applications, controlled functions and real computing power reside.

A VDI with Thin Clients or Zero Clients greatly reduces the burden on IT departments, as every device on the network, whether on-premises or in remote locations, can be configured, managed and monitored from a central location. What's more, a damaged, lost or stolen device can be replaced with a preconfigured device that is up and running quickly, saving valuable time and productivity.

For the end users, the computing experience on a Thin Client or Zero Client can be similar or nearly identical to what they're used to on their PCs. For today's employees suddenly challenged with working from home, cloud endpoints are a plug-and-play win.

Look for all-in-one (AIO) Thin or Zero Clients like those offered by LG, which include the client, monitor, keyboard and mouse. These products also feature LG's In-Plane Switching (IPS) technology, which provides excellent image quality with a wide viewing angle. Thin Clients are also available in durable, slim and ultra-lightweight laptops, making for superb ease of use when staggering work time between home and office in a VDI environment.

COLLABORATION & CONFERENCING SOLUTIONS

As companies strive to reduce daily in-office capacity by implementing work-from-home schedules, the need to maximize engagement and foster collaboration remains. An Interactive Digital Board (IDB) with a web-based platform can transform team meetings into smarter meetings that facilitate both on-site and remote participation. On-site, IDBs with IPS technology accommodate 'social distancing' with wide viewing angles, and attendees can connect their own devices wirelessly to the IDB for sharing files. Remote employee participation can be increased by sharing and mirroring to participants' laptops. Annotations made on the IDB with multi-touch and stylus writing functionality can be saved and shared with all attendees.

For presentations, training and videoconferencing applications, employers are equipping their remote workforce with high-quality, web-based audio and video communication tools to do their jobs professionally from home. On the receiving end, large format 4K UHD digital signage displays in conference rooms are the ideal solution, especially when combined with unified communications solutions from Cisco, Crestron, Zoom and Barco. 4K UHD resolution is important for videoconferencing applications, as corporations are sharing their branding elements, product images, marketing materials and other information, and the 4K UHD color gamut provides a major advantage in more faithful reproduction of custom colors.

For conference rooms of all sizes, look for commercial-grade displays from an industry leader such as LG that offers a range of 4K UHD solutions that can be scaled up or down depending on a business's needs.

CONCLUSION

As businesses move to a remote workforce or staggered home/office schedules, today's advanced computing and display technologies can equip employees for high productivity and virtually seamless connectivity no matter where they work. Businesses of all sizes across numerous industries can trust LG Business Solutions to provide the commercial-grade tools they need when the goal is continued, and even greater, success.

1). Passed 7 different MIL-STD 810G Tests for durability conducted by KOLAS Labs that conforms to U.S. military standards. Compliant with the following methods for MIL-STD-810G: 500.6 Procedures I and II - Low pressure (altitude); 501.6 and 502.6 Procedures I and II - Temperature; 509.6 - Salt fog; 514.7 - Vibration; 516.7 - Shock; 516.7 - Drop; 510.6 - Dust. Device may not perform as tested in all conditions. Test performed in controlled environment. Do not attempt.