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White Paper

De-Cluttering the Hybrid Workspace

Simplify and integrate your team's devices to boost productivity.



The New Way of Working

Back in the day, the typical information worker did their work in one place – the office. Almost everyone reported to the office every day, and each person had a permanent desk or private office.

YES – giving everyone their own personal workspace was expensive. And YES – having an office or desk for each employee was real-estate intensive.

But that was the norm, and having a space earmarked for you showed that you were a part of the company. And most of all, this status quo was accepted by the workers and the company.

There were, of course, exceptions to the "we work in the office" rule. For example:

- In some companies, a few people worked from home a few days a week. But those folks still had a workspace in the office.
- Sometimes people worked from home for a day or two to deal with a personal issue or an emergency. But these were short-term interruptions. We all just accepted that this person would get less done for a few days.
- Some forward-thinking companies let a handful of their most valuable employees work from home full time. But usually, there weren't enough of these people to justify an actual work-at-home policy or strategic investments in home office technology.

But that was then – and this is now.

Today, real work happens both in the office and at home. And employees are expected to be fully productive, no matter where they're working.

We're talking about hybrid working at its best - working where you want (and potentially when you want, how you want, and with the tools you want), as long as you get the job done.

And it makes sense for the workers and the company.

Your Personal Workspace

For many hybrid workers, their laptop is their lifeline. At home or in the office, their workday begins when they open their laptop.

But even uber-flexible, location-independent information workers need more than a laptop on a desk or table to get real work done.

First, they need a proper workspace with a comfortable chair, adequate desk space, and adequate lighting.

Next, they need the right business technology to address the many compromises associated with laptops (e.g., small screens, cramped keyboards, mediocre mics, speakers and cameras, finicky trackpads and pointers, etc.).

Today's home and office workers depend on a wide variety of business technology, such as external display(s), external keyboards and mice, wired or wireless headsets, USB webcams, USB speakerphones, high-quality audio speakers, mobile device chargers, and more.

So, what's the problem?

So many devices, cables, connectors, adapters, dongles, and power supplies in a small space create technology chaos. This disorder can easily distract the worker, impact creativity, and make the work environment less pleasant.



Also, having so many connections makes disconnecting the laptop inconvenient and time-consuming.

Taming the Technology Beast

For decades, workers have turned to "docks" to solve this problem. In general, there are three types of laptop docks available:

Docking Stations – these proprietary devices make a mechanical and electrical connection to the laptop and provide many connection ports, including high-bandwidth video ports. Also, they help resolve cable management issues, allowing users to create a tidy workspace.

However, docking stations have an old-school look and feel and are typically vendor- and often laptop-specific. And over time, many vendors have moved away from proprietary docking stations in favor of universal docks (see below).



Brick Docks – named for their brick-like shape, these docks connect to the laptop using a USB 3 cable (making them compatible with a wide range of laptops) or a proprietary connection.

Brick docks are available in many configurations, typically offer many ports, and may even power the laptop.

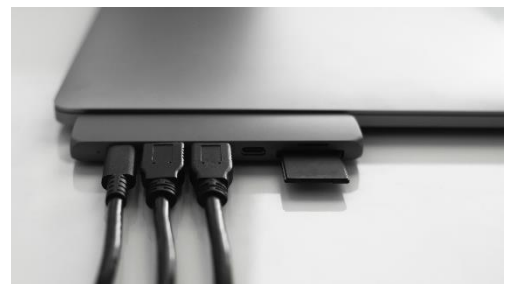


However, brick docks are relatively expensive, often use a utilitarian design, and offer no additional benefits other than expanding the available wired connections (USB, HDMI, etc.) to the laptop.

Dongle Docks – like the brick docks, these devices are available in many different configurations. However, these docks are smaller, portable, and less expensive than brick docks.

Some dongle docks are designed for use with specific laptops (see image at right), while others use standard USB connection(s) and can be used with almost any laptop.

However, dongle docks are optimized for portability and often add to the cable clutter instead of solving it.



Each of these dock types offers benefits for the personal workspace. However, they all suffer from the same fundamental weakness --- they are just docks. They help with cable management and provide additional connection ports, but they don't do anything else.

Traditional docks suffer from the same fundamental weakness - they are just docks. Nothing more.

Specifically, they don't eliminate devices on the user's desk, simplify the user's workflow, or provide the monitoring or management capabilities coveted by many enterprises.

Solution Spotlight

The sponsor of this study, Logitech, offers an all-in-one docking station, Logi Dock, that addresses many of the weaknesses of other laptop dock solutions.

First, true to its name, Logi Dock is a highly capable laptop dock offering a wide array of ports. Thanks to its built-in DisplayPort functionality, Logi Dock requires only a single USB-C connection to the laptop.

But unlike typical brick docks, Logi Dock sports an attractive and modern look and feel (see images below) that would be welcomed on even the most discerning user's desk at home or in the office.



Logi Dock - Front (L) and Rear (R)

Next, Logi Dock includes an integrated speakerphone with a 6-element beamforming mic array and high-performance speaker suitable for both conference calls and music playback. The integrated speakerphone eliminates the cost and footprint of an external speakerphone. Also, Logi Dock's *Bluetooth®* support means its built-in speakerphone can be used with mobile phones and tablets.

Logi Dock offers native connectivity (pairing) with Logitech headsets, which leaves USB ports available for other devices (like a webcam).¹

Furthermore, Logi Dock allows users to power their laptops (PC or Mac) and mobile devices, eliminating the need for laptop power adapters and mobile phone chargers.

But Logi Dock takes things a step further, offering additional user benefits including:

- Soft buttons for audio mute, video mute, volume up/down, and one-touch meeting join
- LED indicators and ambient lighting providing video and audio mute status and call status
- Automatic switching between the integrated speakerphone and headset ¹
- Calendar integration using Logi Tune software enables one-touch meeting join and helps users keep their device up-to-date
- Enterprise device management using Logitech Sync allows IT administrators to remotely monitor and manage (e.g., deploy firmware updates) the deployed devices at scale

Conclusion

The plethora of electronic devices on an information worker's desk can cause distraction and chaos. While many laptop dock solutions are available today, their benefits are usually limited to tidier cabling and providing additional connection ports.

Logi Dock is a next-gen universal dock that goes beyond the limitations of traditional dock solutions by decluttering the workspace, eliminating the need for some commonly used devices, and enhancing the user's workflow.

¹ Currently available for Logitech Zone Wireless (Plus) headsets and Logitech Zone True Wireless earbuds.

About Logitech



(Information below provided by Logitech)

Logitech designs products that have an everyday place in people's lives, connecting them to the digital experiences they care about. More than 35 years ago, Logitech started connecting people through computers, and now it's a multi-brand company designing products that bring people together through video, music, gaming, and computing.

The Logitech Video Collaboration group supports a lasting shift to working from anywhere by helping people across organizations connect face-to-face, wherever they are - without compromising on the quality, productivity or the creativity that comes from collaboration. Learn more about Logitech Video Collaboration products at www.logitech.com/vc, www.linkedin.com/showcase/logitech-video-collaboration or [@LogitechVC](https://twitter.com/LogitechVC).

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