

Monthly Newsletter

Welcome to our monthly newswire. We hope you enjoy reading this newsletter and find it useful.

December 2018

The New iPad Pro - Good Enough For Business?

Apple has just released its new iPad Pro, which it refers to as "the future of computing". So, is Apple's latest and greatest tablet good enough to replace your business laptop with?

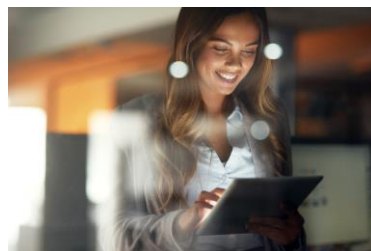
The new 2018 iPad Pro has a sleek new design and is available in 11-inch and 12.9-inch screen sizes. There is no home button and, like the latest iPhones, you can unlock the device using facial recognition or by typing in a pin code on screen.

This new iPad Pro features Apple's latest A12X Bionic processor which makes it as powerful as most business laptop computers. With this amount of power you might imagine that battery life is reduced. However the new iPad Pro offers battery life of up to about 12 hours.

The screen offers Apple's latest "Liquid Retina" technology and has a very high resolution of 2,732 x 2,048 pixels. The display has a high refresh rate which makes on screen motion look very smooth indeed. This is great if you use your device for video conferencing or you work with video editing tools.

A major change on the new iPad Pro is the switch to a standard USB-C connector in place of the standard Apple Lightning connector.

This makes the new iPad Pro directly compatible with a wider range of external accessories and peripherals such as digital cameras, card readers, etc. New accessories include the Smart Keyboard Folio - a keyboard that doubles as a cover which attaches to the iPad Pro magnetically and wraps around the iPad Pro entirely. This offers additional protection to the device but it isn't cheap at £179 for the 11-inch version and £199 for the 12.9-inch.



There is also a new version of the Apple Pencil available, which attaches to the side of the new iPad Pro magnetically and charges when attached. It costs an additional £119, so you should be sure you are going to use it before investing the extra money. The iPad Pro starts from £769 (including VAT) for the basic 64GB WiFi only version with the smaller 11-inch screen, and goes up to £1,869 (including VAT) for the top of the range 12.9-inch version with WiFi, Cellular and 1TB of storage. It isn't cheap, but it is one of the best tablets that money can buy.

Building a sustainable business

There is a trend towards businesses that seek to be more sustainable.

These firms seek to have a minimal negative impact on the global and local environment, the economy, society and the communities in which they operate.

Sustainable businesses are focused on the long term. They seek to make a positive impact through doing their bit about climate change, recycling, human rights, ethical supply chain management and so on. This is fine if you are a global firm with thousands of staff and vast resources, but how do you create a sustainable small or medium sized business?

Small and medium sized business owners are starting to recognise that consumers and clients respond favourably to companies that place value on people and the planet, as well as profits. For example, millennials won't just buy anything. They seek to buy products and services that come from businesses that are seen as authentic, that make a meaningful and positive impact and that are linked to important causes.

Small and medium sized businesses can tap into this by getting involved in corporate social responsibility (CSR), charity work, buying from fair-trade or ethical suppliers, hiring a more diverse workforce and so forth.

For example, if your firm uses lots of packaging then you can start to make a positive impact by only using recycled / recyclable packaging. You can promote this fact in your marketing materials, corporate communications, website and so forth so that people know that you are making a positive impact.

Please contact a member of our team if you would like to discuss any of the issues raised.

Call: 01454 417 300 Email: info@mensis.co.uk

Dealing with Imposter Syndrome

"Imposter Syndrome" can be described as a pattern of thinking that leads people to lose confidence in themselves, in their accomplishments and in their ability to do their job. This results in individuals becoming stressed about being "discovered as a fraud" by their peers.

Imposter syndrome can be a very destructive disorder if left unchecked. It can turn positive moments into negatives and put a dampener on an individual's work related accomplishments. It can present itself as severe anxiety and self-doubt which can inhibit an individual's ability to perform at the level that they are capable of.

Most people suffer from a degree of imposter syndrome at some point in their career. Perhaps it might happen to you when you take on a more senior position, and you wonder if you have the ability to deliver in your new role. For others, it can seemingly appear from nowhere.

The important thing is to recognise that it is imposter syndrome and to take control of the situation in order to move forward. Although imposter syndrome is not considered to be an official "psychological disorder", it is a real occurrence and can often be identified as work-related anxiety or stress.

Like any other pattern of thinking, it is learned and reinforced in the individual's mind. Therefore it can be addressed through retraining yourself to adopt healthier patterns of thinking.

A good method of helping to deal with imposter syndrome is to track every accomplishment. Doing so in a way that is visible (in a notepad or on a whiteboard on your wall), can help you to remind yourself that you are doing well.

Another way to flex your skills and make a positive impact is to reach out and help others in your firm. You could mentor and develop junior colleagues. This can reinforce in your mind that you know a lot about your specific subject matter. An additional benefit is the feel-good factor associated with bringing people on and making a difference.

If you are suffering badly with imposter syndrome (to the extent that it is keeping you awake at night, for example), it may be time to seek help from a professional coach or therapist. The idea is to discuss the root cause(s) of the anxiety with a professional who can help you to create an effective coping mechanism. They can help you to move forward by finding ways to assist you in changing your pattern of thinking.

Keeping Your Firm's Mobile Devices Safe From Malware Attacks

Recent industry reports from cyber security firms such as McAfee and Kaspersky Lab have identified that mobile malware attacks are becoming increasingly widespread and more sophisticated.

Most business professionals use smartphones these days. These devices are basically small computers and can be infected with malware in a similar way to a PC - usually through malicious links or attachments sent via email. As people are now using smartphones to access corporate email accounts, make online

payments, etc. there is an increased risk for businesses. Another risk exists where an employee's device is hacked and the firm's passwords and remote access logins are stolen. This can allow hackers to get inside a businesses' firewall and spread malware to computers across the company network.

So, what should businesses do to protect themselves? Mobile antivirus tools can help to a degree and all company data should be backed up regularly. That said, it is more important to teach your employees the basics of mobile security to eliminate putting themselves or the firm at risk in the first place. Basic training can involve teaching your employees how to identify suspicious emails and to avoid clicking on potentially dangerous links on their smartphones.



Fake apps are another serious risk. Cyber criminals often design apps that imitate legitimate apps or they might offer a game or utility app for free. In order to minimise this risk, your firm should create and publish an internal list of approved apps. All employees that use company devices should receive regular communication regarding which apps are approved for use on company devices. It should also be made clear that no other apps can be installed on a company device without express permission from the relevant person(s).

Finally, your firm should have monitoring tools in place, which check for signs of unusual activity on the network, such as remote logins from unfamiliar IP addresses, large files moving out of the network over email, etc.

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