

Two is Better Than One! by Optimal Networks

Optimal Networks, lifehacker.com

If monitors are "desktops" why aren't they the size of desks? That sounds absurd, but only because we're used to cramped little spaces to do all our work. An interesting paper from Optimal Networks champions the use of multiple monitors, which is a step in the right direction at least.

From release/information: Sometimes the simplest solution is the right one. Over the past five years, no advancement in software or hardware has proven as successful at increasing productivity as the addition of a second monitor to your desktop. Dual monitors have been proven to boost the productivity of heavy computer users (those who spend at least five hours a day on a computer) by as much as 30 percent!

Since the first major study on the topic was published in 2003, the evidence to support this conclusion has been mounting. The landmark study in this area, "Productivity and Multi-Screen Displays," conducted by NEC-Mitsubishi, ATI Technologies, and the University of Utah, found multi-screen desktop configurations "significantly more useful" and "preferred ... on every measure of usability when compared to standard single-screen setups. The dual monitor configuration was found to be 29 percent more effective for tasks, 24 percent more comfortable to use in tasks, and 39 percent easier for moving information around. "Respondents got on task quicker, did the work faster, and got more of the work done with fewer errors in multi-screen configurations than with a single screen," the study concluded.

Dual monitor users report that the use of multiple displays saves time because it eliminates the tasks of minimizing windows and toggling between applications; and the working public seems to be taking notice. In a study conducted by consulting firm Jon Peddie Research, 32 percent of the people surveyed said they were currently using multiple displays, and 55 percent of those who weren't said they wanted or planned to use this configuration in the very near future.

David Campbell, Director of Operations for Optimal Networks is among those championing the multiple-screen configuration. "It is the single best investment Optimal has made to help me improve my productivity and efficiency," Campbell says. "I really can't imagine life without it now."(Source: Optimal Networks, lifehacker.com)