



Point of View

Techy Tools to Help You at Work

The latest technology innovations have created a host of products that can actually help improve productivity in the workplace.

Feel like you could use a leg up at work? How about an arm instead? A new USB Robotic Arm is among a flood of new technological gadgets hitting the market these days. But which of these handy dandy gadgets can actually help you at work? Here are a few of the latest innovations and products for you to consider whether you've got a few or a lot of extra bucks to spend.

Can this USB?

A host of USB products are available to aid worker productivity or connectivity either at the workplace, or at home for those late-night working sessions.

- **USB Wireless Mouse.**
Whether you're pulling together the finishing touches of a project on deadline, or just want to keep up on e-mails from home, a USB wireless mouse can help you do it comfortably from your bed, couch, wherever. A company named Thanko has developed the USB Wireless Mouse EZ that can be used in the air, making a mousepad or flat surface no longer a requirement.
- **Mini USB Drives.**
Need to take some work home with you? These tiny external drives plug right into your computer's USB port making it so easy to transfer data and files from one computer to another. Available in a range of memory capacity sizes (and prices) all the way up to two gigabytes, they can even be attached to a keychain.
- **USB Comforts.**
A helping hand can be yours for less than \$80 to help pick up an out-of-reach drink or pick up your telephone receiver. A fully programmable USB Robotic Arm is now available. Or, if you're just interested in keeping your soda cold or your coffee warm, pick up an USB.brando that plugs into your USB connection and can either chill or warm your beverage. Complete with a cable so you can place it a convenient spot, you can get this "cool" device for around \$24.00.

Stay Connected.

Several brand new and next generation products are available to help people stay connected to work, no matter where they are.

- **Next-generation Cell Phones.**

This isn't your grandmother's cell phone anymore. Third-generation, or 3G, cell-phone networks are offering a range of capabilities now, in addition to the simple phone call. New services include on-demand video, built-in camcorders, still cameras, MP3 players and memory cards. These phones also come equipped with keyboards, can be Bluetooth or Wi-Fi-enabled, and some even sport GPS systems so you'll never be lost again.

- **Smarter Smartphones.**

If you like to stay connected to work no matter where you are, these combination cell phones/PDAs will deliver. With a smartphone, you can not only make phone calls but access your organizer, read, respond to and send e-mails, and even connect to the Internet. Now, these products are available with Mobile Multimedia Messaging (MMS) that allows users to send pictures, sound and video.

Technology continues to amaze us with innovative tools; tools that help us increase our productivity in many ways. What's next?