Notebook PCs Instead of Desktop PCs

The bottom line is that notebooks are more expensive and less powerful. However, neither the price nor the performance gap is very big; and there are lots of other reasons to go with the notebook option.

1.   **Prices Are Very Close Between Notebooks and Desktops**: Notebooks are more expensive than desktops, but the gap is nowhere near what it was just 5 years ago. The price difference fluctuates, but a notebook PC will typically cost $150 to $350 more than a comparably equipped desktop.

2.   **Work Anywhere**: If having a notebook lets you work just one time per year under circumstances you would have been otherwise unable to work, then you've easily justified the extra $350 you paid for the notebook. In fact, if the difference were $1,000, I'd argue that it's still easily worth it.

3.   **Docking Stations Make a Notebook Feel Like a Desktop**: Docking stations are also known as "port replicators." They allow you to connect your notebook to many external devices at once. For example, when I dock my notebook, I am instantly connected to two external monitors, an external (full size) keyboard and mouse, my scanner, my external hard drive (for backup), my network, the internet, printers, and my external speakers. At the end of the day, I simply undock (push one button on the port replicator) and I'm disconnected from all of that. They make it fast and easy to connect or disconnect. They also allow me to use full-size peripherals (monitors, keyboards & mice) when I'm at the office.

4.   **Take Your Files With You**: If you use scanners to create complete digital files, you can take those digital files with you on a notebook where ever you go. Very importantly, it doesn't matter whether you have an internet connection. If you have complete digital files, then they can easily be loaded onto a laptop and taken with you. This is the ultimate in practice mobility.

5.   **Access Your Office From Anywhere**: Thanks to widespread Wi-Fi hotspots, aircards and tethering[1], you can get internet access from almost anywhere. If you have remote access options to your office (see XXII below on page **Error! Bookmark not defined.** below), then a notebook is the key element to creating an office where ever you happen to be.

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[1] Tethering is using your cell phone as a modem which allows you to connect your notebook to the internet through the cell phone connection to the web.