

Mind-Stretching Technology

Boost Productivity and Gain a Competitive Advantage

BY TERRY L. BROCK

Enhancing productivity is what much of the technology revolution is about. **When you can find the right tools to boost your productivity in business, you gain a competitive advantage.** When you can find tools that also stretch your mind, you have a viable advantage that leapfrogs over the competition. Here are some tools that can help in both areas and videos links that show them in action.

Lenovo Laptops — X61 And T61

Lenovo has some laptops which continue to dazzle and provide a solid competitive advantage. You'll find the new X61 to be very lightweight (less than 4 lbs.) and powerful. It comes with 3 USB ports, one IEEE1394, (Firewire) connector, a DVD drive, VGA output (for those PowerPoint presentations) and more.

The keyboard feels very good. As I worked with one, I found it comfortable and easy for typing. The hard drive come in various sizes up to 256GB, at speeds of 5400 or 7200.

www.Lenovo.com, \$1,499 and up, depending on configuration

See the video of this at snipurl.com/lenovo.

Franklin Speaking Spelling Bee, SSB-210

Franklin Electronics has produced a number of small, portable devices for translation, dictionary and other uses. Now they have a new device, designed for children ages 9-13, that helps them learn spelling better.

The company embraces the idea that learning should be fun. They blend this into the SSB-210 which teaches children spelling while having fun. For helping your kids or children that you know and love, this is a great gift from you and great tool for them.

Not only children in that age bracket, but anyone who wants to learn more about spelling and wants to stretch their mind can benefit from this tool. Check out the video and you'll see how it works in practice.

www.Franklin.com, Speaking Spelling Bee, SSB-210, \$99.99

You can see the video at snipurl.com/franklinsspellingbee.

Able Planet Headphones for Business Communication

Able Planet is a company that started as a hearing-aid company and extended that knowledge and expertise into high-quality headphones for business and consumers. I have used their Clear Harmony headphones on airplanes, in noisy environments and just around my condo, and love them!

Now the company has some smaller headphones that are designed for in-office phone use or VoIP (Voice Over Internet Protocol). This would be a great tool for communications via Skype, the popular service for free talking.

The headphones stand out from the competition with their use of the patented LINX AUDIO technology. This technology works with harmonics to cancel out sounds which would otherwise be present. In a noisy convention environment, I found that the headphones cut out the roar of the crowd while



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still allowing me to hear the person next to me talking. When combined with listening to music or instructional audio, these headphones can't be beat.

With the over-the-head microphone, you can use this for office communication, knowing that you will get the best possible audio, and the other person will be able to hear you as clearly as possible. This makes for better communication and enhances relationship marketing.

www.ableplanet.com, \$99-\$199

See the video at snipurl.com/ableplanet.

Spracht Speaker Phone

Mobile/cell phones are becoming the most popular way to communicate. When you need to share a conversation with several others, you might try to use the speakerphone built

into some units. However, the quality is not always as clear or as understandable as it could be.

Spracht has a speaker phone that enables you to use conference calling for several people in the room through your mobile phone. You don't have to plug in wires, since it uses the popular Bluetooth interface. The unit I received, the Aura Mobile BT™ MCP-2014 pad, came with a standard electrical charger as well as a car (cigarette lighter) charger. The sound is good and it eliminates the problem of driving and communicating over a cell phone (you still need to pay attention to the road!).

Because it's lightweight and very powerful, this is a tool for the traveling executive or salesperson who needs to stay in touch and doesn't want to compromise quality.

www.Spracht.com, Aura Mobile BT™ MCP-2014 pad, \$129.95

See the video at snipurl.com/spracht. 