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YOU USE GOOGLE APPS AND I'LL USE WINDOWS OFFICE 365 AND WE'LL SEE WHO'S THE QUICKEST!

Office 365: Microsoft's Way Forward

The computer software industry is moving away from a "one-time purchase" model, to an ongoing (typically monthly) subscription fee model.

Why? Here are a few important reasons:

Cost: As an example, the full Adobe Creative Suite used to cost upwards of $2,000 as a one-time purchase. It can now be had for as low as $30 per month, making it much more accessible.

Upgrades: You always have access to the latest version of the software. By contrast, the one-time purchase model requires you to pay for every major upgrade, often at a **hefty price**. A lot of users don't bother, which leaves them running **obsolete software**.

Persistent Access: With a cloud-based subscription service, you can access your files and data from **any computer, at any location.**

When Microsoft released **Office 365** back in June, 2011 the intent was to create a product that would provide all the same features, but with complete integration with the cloud **and** the ability to access it from anywhere at any time. Most versions of Office 365 even allow you to install the software on up to **five** separate computers, plus **five** mobile devices.
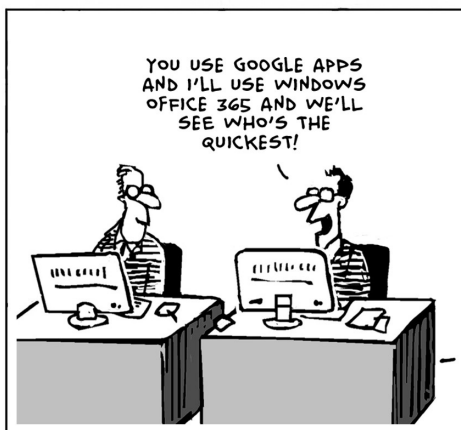
Today, Office 365 and Office 2013 (the "for-sale" version) have pretty much the same features. So why would you choose one over the other?

Choose Office 2013 if:
- You plan to keep your computer longer than 3 years
- You don't care about running the latest software
- You don't need to access the software on multiple computers or multiple locations
- You'd rather pay just once

Choose Office 365 if:
- You have multiple computers or regularly use public computers
- You want to make sure you always have the latest software
- You'd prefer to spread out your costs
- You frequently replace your computer(s)

Why Should You Choose Lenovo?
A Consumer's Guide To Hardware Purchases

When you buy a new computer, what matters most?

Is it performance? Or perhaps it's design? Or energy efficiency?

We're not saying those things are unimportant. But if you can't depend on your computer to work when you need it, **every time you need it**, then the fastest computer in the world, or the best looking one, or the most energy-efficient won't do you much good.

That's why **Lenovo** is Connectability's first choice for hardware.

After buying IBM's PC business in 2005, Lenovo has become the **largest** manufacturer of PCs, tablets and phones in the world. They are ranked 286 on the **Fortune Global 500**, ahead of companies like Oracle, Morgan Stanley, DuPont, American Express and other giants.

There are plenty of large PC manufacturers, and over the years we have also sold some of those competing products. So why is Lenovo our brand of choice?

Let's start with a simple assumption: computers are all pretty much alike. They use the same basic components and run the same software and operating systems. So **what differentiates one manufacturer from another?**

The only thing that really matters is **reliability** and **responsiveness**. Over the **19 years** we've been selling Lenovo products, we have had **very few problems**. Many Lenovo computers that we've sold are **still operating perfectly** 4, 5 and even 8 years later. In our experience, that's not something we can say about many of their competitors.

J**ust as important**, when we **do** have problems, support is provided **immediately** and effectively by IBM's worldwide, class-leading service and maintenance organization. No hassles, no arguments; **just professional, expert service**.

Unfortunately, we can't say the same thing about some of Lenovo's competitors. Without naming names, there are a few hardware manufacturers we no longer do business with, precisely because they failed to take our customers' concerns seriously.

The most important factor when choosing a business technology company is not whether it's the cheapest, or the most cutting-edge. It is choosing **technology that works**, day-in and day-out. And while Lenovo **is** a great innovator, it's their **rock-solid** reliability and their commitment to customer service excellence that makes them stand out.

That's why they've been our **go-to** technology supplier for 19 years!

Connectability
Putting the pieces together

Gadget of the Month: Charge Hub

We've all been there: you have multiple devices that need charging, but only a couple of wall chargers. Or maybe you have multiple chargers, but you don't want to **clutter** your home or office with extra cables and power bars.

That's where the **ChargeHub** shines. It comes in either square or circular configurations, with a number of different colour options. And it allows you to charge up to seven devices simultaneously with **one power supply**, and costs only $60.

We've seen and used other devices that charge up to four devices at once, unfortunately most of these devices are plugged directly into the wall.

The ChargeHub on the other hand has an extension cord of sorts that allows you to place it in convenient locations like the boardroom table, your office, or your kitchen.

If you're worried about its appearance, it can even be **customized** through ChargeHub's "DesignStudio" web application to include photos, text, logos, or graphics, so it's always tailored to you.

Considering our focus on protecting your business-critical data and hardware, we are especially fond of this product because it has built in safety features to assist in the security of all connected devices.

We believe the ChargeHub offers a lot of useful functionality, especially for business users.

We've Moved Offices

As many of you may already know, Connectability recently moved offices!
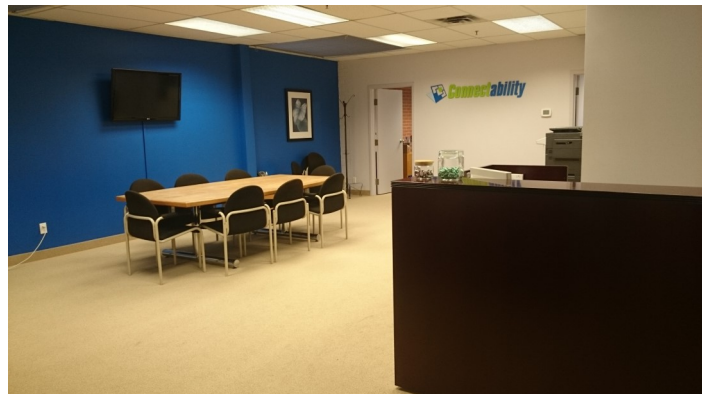
We've been steadily growing our business over the last year, and given our space constraints, we didn't feel that growth was possible in our old space at 20 Eglinton West.

We're now located near Dufferin and Lawrence at 1020 Lawrence Avenue West, Suite 305, the same building as Taps Bath Centre. If you'd like to visit us, please stop by any time. We'd love to welcome you!

Our new office is more spacious, open concept, and considerably brighter with large skylights that make the winter a little more tolerable. It's also quiet, not something we experienced in our old office (no more endless construction).

The added space has made it possible to expand our test lab and staging area so we can more effectively keep up on, and test, the latest hardware and software products for our customers. Because of the larger test lab, we've become more efficient as more devices can be managed at a given time, helping to keep our customers' systems running smoothly.

While we continue to provide class-leading, responsive, efficient and high-quality support services, we'll simply be **"Putting The Pieces Together"** in a different location.

Connectability's Referral Program
Help us help you!

As many of you know, we get most of our customers through referrals and we're always looking for ways to grow our business.

To entice you to spread the word to friends, family, and business contacts we'd like to offer **$100** for simply making an introduction with a bona fide business prospect. If they sign up you'll get **$1,000** as a thank-you for putting us in touch! Simply by helping us you can reduce your IT costs!

For details about what constitutes a business prospect please go to our website at **www.connectability.com/referrals**

Connectability
Putting the pieces together

Windows 10 is Coming

A Guide to New Features and Improvements on Windows 8

Windows 8 was a less-than-successful progression from Windows 7. Unfortunately, many of the improvements focused more on the design and interface than on performance and features.

Regrettably, a lot of users (especially those without touchscreen devices) found the new design and interface **confusingly different** from Windows 7 or Windows XP, making the transition a difficult one.

Fortunately, Windows 10 seems to have righted that wrong. The new interface is still reminiscent of Windows 8, but **luckily** it no longer includes the full "tiled" start menu, which frustrated so many users.

Another key feature is **"Scheduled Windows Update Restarts."** How many times have you left your computer and come back to find that it's in the process of **restarting**, undoubtedly while working on an important unsaved document? Now you can set **a schedule** for running computer updates **without disrupting** your essential work!

Windows 10 also helps you **work more efficiently** with its virtual desktop feature. Like a Mac or Linux machine you can now set up **different "screens"** on your computer.

If you're working on a proposal you can put all the relevant materials in **one distinct pane**, separate from the research you're doing for your upcoming vacation, or your current gaming session. This feature has been present on Mac devices for some time, but Microsoft has caught up and is taking note of the unique needs of business users.

Windows has even developed a **device-specific interface** depending on which product you are using and how. For example, if you have the **Surface Pro 3** and you remove its keyboard base it will ask you if you'd like to switch to "tablet mode", at which point all of your apps will be tablet optimized.

Windows 10, like Apple phones, now includes a **virtual assistant named "Cortana"** that can help you search for files, set reminders, and do a number of other routine tasks. As you use Cortana on your different devices it will get to know you and your habits. You have the ability to mess with these preferences, so nothing is set in stone.

Although this is just a glimpse at what Microsoft has in store for the release of Windows 10, it seems like a **massive improvement** on Windows 8, with more focus on **actual functionality** and less on design and interface. Although not all of these updates will be useful for all users it's likely that they will allow most users to do their work (or play) more effectively.

Joke of the Month

Here's some computer-related humour that we found online. We hope it will put a smile on your face:

"A young Programmer and his Project Manager board a train headed through the mountains on its way to Wichita. They can find no place to sit except for two seats right across the aisle from a young woman and her grandmother.

After a while, it is obvious that the young woman and the young programmer are interested in each other, because they are giving each other looks.

Soon the train passes into a tunnel and it is pitch black. There is a sound of a kiss followed by the sound of a slap. When the train emerges from the tunnel, the four sit there without saying a word.

The grandmother is thinking to herself, "It was very brash for that young man to kiss my granddaughter, but I'm glad she slapped him."

The Project manager is sitting there thinking, "I didn't know the young tech was brave enough to kiss the girl, but I sure wish she hadn't missed him when she slapped me!"

The young woman was sitting and thinking, "I'm glad the guy kissed me, but I wish my grandmother had not slapped him!"

The young programmer sat there with a satisfied smile on his face. He thought to himself, "Life is good. How often does a guy have the chance to kiss a beautiful girl and slap his Project manager all at the same time!"

Connectability to the Rescue!

Just a few days ago we had a call from a new customer. He explained that he'd been having endless troubles with his wireless network and was fed up.

One of our technicians got on the phone with him right away and reviewed his environment. The very next day, we installed a **Dell SonicWALL** Firewall / UTM, with built-in wireless networking. Problems solved!

Who says IT support has to be slow and painful? If you're dealing with an IT problem that's giving you grief, give us a call and find out how **easy** the solution can be.