

PC most innovative business product of last 20 years

by Vanessa Ho

When Office Depot opened up its first store in 1986, the biggest technology products out there were expensive fax machines, floppy disks and bulky word processors. To see how technology products have changed over the last couple of decades (and to celebrate its 20th anniversary), the retailer commissioned a survey to see what customers thought the most innovative products have been.

Wired products like the first generation personal computer (PC) were seen by respondents as being on the cutting edge of technology in the 1980s. Microsoft Office was listed by half of the respondents as the most innovative product released in that decade. The Internet and the World Wide Web were considered by 80 per cent of the respondents to be the "best service" that was offered in the 1990s.

"Twenty years ago, mobile devices and personal computers were beyond comprehension for most Americans. Today, these technologies have become an integral part of everyday work life," said John Lostrascio, vice-president of technology merchandising for Office Depot.

400 business professionals in corporate and small business responded to the survey and 72 per cent of them noted that the PC (both laptop and desktop) was the breakthrough product and also the most innovative one over the last 20 years.

As well, the survey noted that 67 per cent of respondents said wireless computing, such as laptops with WiFi capabilities, was named the "most ground breaking item" to be released since 2000 and beat out such tech items as GPS gadgets and mobile PDAs.

And mobility was considered by respondents as the new critical application for business professionals.

"Our societal desire to stay in-touch 24/7 will cause mobile devices to do more. Just look at the evolution of the cell phone, not just as a product, but its social acceptance. The notebook computer is another product that is gaining rapid social acceptance and is becoming a must-have product," said Lostrascio.

Additional findings of the survey include 30 per cent of respondents saying that email is the one product that has changed the way business is conducted and 40 per cent of respondents noting a USB storage device was one of the "top items to possess while traveling on business."



ONE information technology

a division of Integrated Networx Inc.

461 Dawson Avenue, Penticton, BC, V2A 8E2

Tel: 250-490-3434 Fax: 250-490-3420

Kelowna Tel: 250-762-6559 Westbank Tel: 250-768-3415 Vernon Tel: 250-542-6225

Toll Free 1-888-NET-ONLY or on the web at www.oneit.ca