The ThinkPad® X1 Carbon is powered by Intel vPro,® An Intel® Evo™ Design, for business-class stability and reliability

ThinkReality

Enter a new reality of hybrid work

Augmented reality (AR) is rapidly becoming an innovative business tool that IT leaders should start leveraging now.

Not all heroes wear capes. But they do wear smart glasses.

Superhero and science fiction characters have long enjoyed the benefits of smart glasses — especially the ability to access screens of data that only they can see and quickly collaborate with other teams to seamlessly coordinate action.

Now, the real-world capability to pull up multiple private screens of information and connect with teammates anywhere — from the cab to the café to everywhere in between — has arrived. All it took was a perfect storm. One in which a global upheaval of where work happens collided with a tidal wave of transformation in augmented reality (AR) technology.

Today, IT heroes equip knowledge workers with AR tech that provides multiple monitors on the go. Lenovo ThinkReality A3 smart glasses allow users to arrange and configure multiple 1080p virtual screens or render design images in 3D to meet their needs.

When connected to a Lenovo ThinkPad® powered by Intel vPro®, An Intel® Evo™ Design with 12th Gen Intel® Core™ processors and running Windows 11 Pro for business, successful hybrid performance takes on a brand-new dimension.

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The business potential of AR in a hybrid world

Working remotely has transformed employee expectations of their work-provided tech. Hybrid knowledge workers in particular are driving a demand for innovative technology to improve their performance and productivity. Their work life depends on it.

The majority of employees value flexibility over salary and other benefits, and a generational mindset shift of what comprises an office is changing too. A growing number of employees consider their office to be a laptop, headset, and anywhere they can get a strong internet connection, including over 60% of Gen Z and Millennial workers.[1]

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Technology is no longer something that goes *in* the office. It *is* the office.

At the same time, augmented and virtual reality technologies have surged in popularity as potential business solutions. Extended reality use cases are expanding for industrial and knowledge workers across the enterprise.
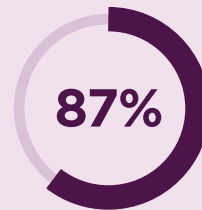
Research shows 88% of mid-market companies are using or testing AR/VR for business purposes.[2] AR/VR has proven to deliver training success and retention,[3] reduce timelines, and improve quality in product engineering for a majority of organizations.[4]

AR/VR is also a secret weapon for attracting and retaining top talent — professionals who want to work with the latest innovations and for the companies who adopt such technologies.

A global survey of more than 12,000 workers found that a whopping 87% of employees whose companies are considered leaders in technology adoption had positive things to say about their employers. The reverse was true for companies considered "technology laggards": 70% of their employees had negative things to say about working for them.[5]

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Conquering an unsolved hybrid challenge

But what about when a user's time is divided between the office and remote work? Maintaining productivity in this scenario is a challenge, especially without the benefit of multiple screens on the go.

It's even harder to work beyond the boundaries of a laptop screen in a coffee shop, airport, or on the patio. Employees likely have a PC, but the potential downside of portability is the small-sized or singular screen.

Multimonitor setups have become standard for many knowledge workers. They feel more comfortable working with more than one screen — and they're more productive too. Studies show that employees are up to 42% more productive in a multimonitor environment,[6] and 80% of employees believe a larger display monitor positively affects their work performance.[7]

With all the AR-related transformations happening in business today, could this technology possibly solve the problem of a portable workspace?

42% of knowledge workers are more productive in a multimonitor environment

80% of employees believe a larger display monitor positively affects their work performance

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AR smart glasses save the day

Indeed, AR technology is beginning to address these demands and deliver a more flexible workspace model by bringing not only multiple but *configurable* screens to the laptop experience.

Having access to multiple screens anywhere, for any knowledge worker, offers immense value.

- Hybrid workers gain sustained productivity as they divide their time between the office and remote workspaces.

- Mobile users gain total privacy from spying eyes and bad actors behind the scenes (e.g., malware, hackers).

- Road warriors capture the same productivity advantages of their office counterparts for the first time.

- Power users previously tied to physical multimonitor environments (e.g., scientists, financial analysts, developers, designers) gain workspace flexibility without compromising security.

ThinkReality A3
PC Edition smart glasses

From financial analysts monitoring stock futures, software developers scanning lines of code, engineers and architects rendering their visions in 3D space, and even everyday office workers who want the expanded visual real estate to spread out multiple documents at once — the disruptive opportunities are endless.

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Expand your view of what's possible

AR smart glasses like Lenovo's ThinkReality A3 PC Edition empower users with an expanded workspace that fits in the palm of their hand and is as lightweight as their favorite pair of sunglasses. Wearers can configure, arrange, and rearrange up to five virtual displays however they like. Advanced optics technology ensures only the wearer can see what is on the glasses' virtual screens.

When connected to ThinkPad® devices, the A3's benefits for hybrid workers skyrocket. Systems with Intel vPro®, An Intel® Evo™ Design with 12th Gen Intel® Core™ processors, intelligently allocate workloads to the right thread on the right core based on real-time analysis.

Meanwhile, Windows 11 Pro for business provides deeper integration with Microsoft Teams and other collaboration and communication apps to streamline the UX, and the Zero Trust-ready OS helps protect data and access anywhere.

ThinkReality A3 PC Edition smart glasses and ThinkPad® P1 Mobile Workstation

If connected to a ThinkPad® P Series workstation with 12th Gen Intel® Core™ i7 processors, users also get the demanding performance necessary to team up with the A3 and ThinkViz Share&Viz software. Now CAD users can switch from viewing a 2D model on the PC screen to a 3D replica on the glasses in real time.

Together, this team of smarter technology ensures nothing holds business back.

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To learn how to choose the best AR smart glasses for your knowledge workers, download our checklist.

Lead your business into the future

It's safe to say the age of AR smart glasses for work is officially here. The worldwide market for AR/VR headsets grew 92.1% year over year in 2021 with shipments reaching 11.2 million units, according to new data from the International Data Corporation (IDC).[8]

IT leaders and innovative businesses will be at the forefront of adopting this technology and equipping employees with it for everyday use.

Next up: An iron business suit?

Visit www.lenovo.com/ThinkReality

Sources

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