



# Work From Anywhere: Mobile Technology Makes the Dream a Reality

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Once upon a time, not that many years ago, people dreamed of a day when they could carry out their work responsibilities from just about anywhere. For many people, that dream is now a reality. Mobile technology has advanced to the point that, with some kind of reliable access to the Internet, many jobs can be carried out from anywhere in the world, through the use of a tablet, laptop and/or phone and cloud computing.

## **The Three Prongs of Mobile Technology**

For many years, the impediment to making the idea of working from anywhere a

reality was that the technology needed to perform many work tasks was immobile. Ready access to communication meant relying on a hard-wired telephone. The production of output required a big, bulky desktop computer with enough processing power and storage space to run demanding programs and retrieve large amounts of data. All of these stumbling blocks have been overcome as the mobile phone, tablet and cloud computing have come of age.

1. Today's smart phones are essentially miniature computers, powerful enough to run applications to perform all kinds of basic work functions, versatile enough to serve as a full-fledged communications center—voice, text, e-mail and Web browsing—and portable enough to fit in a small pocket. Depending upon how detailed your data processing needs are, it may be possible



to run an entire small business using your smart phone, and given the portability of the device, you can do so anywhere that reliable cellular service exists. The smart phone is a must for voice communication and makes all the other forms of basic communication simple and easy to utilize.

2. The tablet isn't as small as the smart phone, but it's still light and portable and can do most of what the smart phone can do as well as some things a phone can't, and is a strong complementary device. The tablet has more accessible storage space than a phone, a much larger and better display and a full-fledged keyboard, so for applications that need significant direct input from the user, it's a bit more functional. The added power of the tablet, along with its portability, makes it a perfect choice for many business-related applications, such as word processing, data processing, presentations and some advanced forms of communications such as videoconferencing. Even more targeted applications—graphic design, for instance—have powerful tablet versions available. Tablets have one—and sometimes two—built-in cameras, so images can be made and immediately shared, as they can with smart phones. Also like the smart phone, Internet access can be obtained through a Wi-Fi hotspot or through a cellular data plan.
  
3. The cloud is the third pillar of the work-anywhere structure. The data storage limitations of the tablet are overcome with ready access to unlimited space to store and backup data on the cloud. Additionally, the cloud allows for the ability to access shared data using your smart phone or tablet or any other synced device. In fact, using any device that can access the Internet, you can access all of your data and applications, adding yet another layer of portability to the work from anywhere equation.

## All Together

By utilizing all three prongs together—smart phone, tablet, cloud—you can perform just about any work-related function anywhere you can connect to the Internet. Keep in touch with colleagues by voice, text or e-mail, participate in video conference, access and work on your data with powerful business applications, share that data (and access the shared data of others), back up your digital assets, schedule appointments, carry out billing and more. The days of being able to work from anywhere are here now.



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