CPA
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It's almost an annual rite for me. Just as geese and New Yorkers fly south for the

designed for enhancing workplace efficiency and even the social lives of today's professionals and their employers. And I haven't even mentioned one of the most important devices for the paperless office: the scanner.

In this year's roundup, I've found a few hardware options that may help you or your clients be more productive, perhaps more mobile and certainly more gadget savvy. Next month, I'll return with my regular column with some practical tips on social media. But for now… hardware!

Ambir Technology

www.ambir.com

When it comes to specialty scanners and signature capturing systems, Ambir has a collection of devices to fit virtually every business need. Ambir's product lines include healthcare solutions designed to streamline insurance card acceptance by scanning both sides and using OCR technology to identify patient names, account numbers and other data for retail clinics, medical practices and hospitals. The vendor uses some of the same dual-side ID card scanning capabilities for other industries, providing fast and accurate scan-based data acquisition. Ambir's more traditional scanners are exemplified by the new ImageScan Pro 490i, a professional grade system that can easily scan both sides of drivers' licenses, ID cards and documents, and comes packaged with Ambir's imaging software, which supports PDF, JPG and TIFF extensions. The systems offer ultra-compact size, USB power, high-resolution scanning and the ability to scan directly to PDF.

Barcoding, Inc.

www.barcoding.com

For businesses with workforces that are always on the go, mobile technologies are

between. For advanced fixed asset accounting and tracking, Barcoding, Inc. offers several solutions, including IntelliTrack DMS, RedBeam, epcSolutions and Savant WMS.

Buffalo Technology

www.buffalotech.com

Whether used for moving large amounts of computer data from one location to another, or as a backup system, external hard drives offer both portability and security. Buffalo Technology offers a wide collection of hard drives, as well as solutions for network storage and wireless networking, all designed to give businesses and individuals reliable digital storage capabilities. Buffalo's DriveStation line of desktop companion hard drives includes USB 3.0, 2.0 and FireWire connectivity, which enables use with PC or Mac computers. The DriveStation HD-HXU3 model is the latest from the vendor, with storage capacities of up to three terabytes and super high-speed transfer of up to five gigs per second, which is 10 times faster than USB 2.0. The system includes the Memeo backup software system, which helps automate data backup and recovery processes. Buffalo also offers more portable external hard drives, including the MiniStation and JustStore Portable, and recently debuted the Dualie, a combined data storage and docking station for the Apple iPhone and iPod.

Dell

www.Dell.com

Dell is pretty much the king of the gadget world, offering pretty much everything under the sun, including business and personal desktop and laptop computers, servers, printers, keyboards, monitors, ad infinitum. The latest geek chic offering

from the company is the Dell Streak, a brand new tablet/phone device released in

DYMO

www.dymo.com

Even in the modern paperless office, there's still paper ... and there's definitely a need for labels and scanning solutions. With solutions for professional offices, industrial applications, educational settings and even for home use, DYMO has long been a popular brand of label and postage printers. The company's sleek LabelWriter 450 Twin Turbo printer is among the coolest of their desktop tools, giving users high-speed printing of dozens of label styles and sizes and with the convenient ability to hold two different sized rolls of labels at the same time. There's also the option to use the no monthly fee DYMO Stamps postage labels service. The LabelWriter family supports Mac and PC computers via a USB connection. DYMO also offers CardScan, a handy device designed for scanning business cards and then using included software to pull the personal and business contact information from the card and integrate it into a contact management system. CardScan systems are available in Executive, Team, Personal and Mac versions.

Fujitsu

www.fujitsu.com

The Fujitsu brand has become a staple in many professional practices, due in large part to the popularity of the company's ScanSnap line of scanners, which include several models for desktop, network and mobile document imaging. For the workstation, the ScanSnap S1500 sheet-fed scanner provides a reliable, everyday use system that can help digitize client and business documents. For workgroups, the ScanSnap fi-6010N network scanner offers heavy-duty utility, with high-speed scanning and a 50-sheet feeder tray. For mobile scanning needs, the ScanSnap S1300,

a full-color, dual-side scanning device fits easily along with a laptop in a carrying

and camcorders, of course, but they also have popular lines of printers, scanners, media players, digital frames and other accessories. For the professional office, Kodak's ESP Office 6150 all-in-one printer offers easy-to-use print, copy, scan and fax options, with wireless networking capabilities and exceptional high resolution. For higher workloads, the new ScanMate i1129 Scanner gives users quick scan-and-organize functions along with bundled software that offers document management tools and the ability to save scanned documents and images into searchable PDFs, TIFF, JPG, RTF and BMP format. The Smart Touch feature adds even more usability, giving quick access to file management, e-mail, printers and integration with Microsoft SharePoint server.

Matias

www.matias.ca

Even with touch screens on monitors, iPads and other devices, sometimes you just can't beat the tactile feel of a real, full-sized keyboard. Unfortunately, it isn't always easy to take a keyboard with you on the road, which is why I've loved the Matias Folding Keyboard since the company debuted it a couple of years ago. It is exactly what its name suggests: A folding, full-sized wireless keyboard with 10-key that can fit easily in a computer case, thereby freeing the user from cramped laptop QWERTYs. Matias also makes several other products for the mobile professional, including a folding laptop stand and a full-size optical mouse with a retractable cord. Also available are a keyboard with a built-in USB 2.0 port, a keyboard with smartphone stand, and the Optimizer keyboard, which is designed to give accountants and similar professionals quicker access to frequent actions. All of Matias' products are PC and Mac compatible.

Matrox

www.matrox.com

Sutus, Inc.

www.sutus.com

With integrated phone and data lines, servers, point-of-sale systems, remote locations and numerous networked devices, maintaining an IT infrastructure can quickly become more than even most small businesses can manage. That's where the Business Central 200 system from Sutus, Inc. comes in, helping to streamline and simplify many of these functions. With the ability to integrate router, wireless, file storage, VPN and VoIP, the system provides a unified and highly customizable approach to business IT management.

Hardware • Technology