

## **My post in Response to Deirdre Bergeron:**

A great tool for elementary schools is the Chromebook. It's small, simple, and cheap machine that has web access so that students can get to a lot of what they would do on a desktop or laptop. It's particularly useful for elementary because of the many interactive learning opportunities on the web. In addition, I think it's very important for kids to learn the web at a very young age and using a device that limits them to the web is a great way to do that. If a student is comfortable using the Chrome browser then they are essentially platform-agnostic and can use any computer. iPads are a decent solution as they are easy to use. However, they are costly and most elementary students don't understand the real consequence of mistreating the device. Also, there may not be as many activities available because many educational tools for that age group are flash based and the iPad can't handle that. Sure, the internet is moving away from flash, but for half the price, a physical keyboard, and a sturdier machine, I'd say that having flash is just a small benefit over the iPad.

## **My Discussion Post**

The MOST important tool is internet access. Having internet access is crucial to my learning environment because I am working with remote teams. So Being able to communicate and collaborate with them online is really important.

If I could take a corporate spin on BYOD given my situation I would say that it is in some ways similar to education but in others very different. The advantage of BYOD in the workplace is very much the same as the advantage in education. That is, the ability to use a device the worker is comfortable and familiar with. If I am familiar with Android devices, and get an iPad from work I am going to waste a lot of time learning the device rather than working. If I'm able to use an Android device then there's no need to spend time learning, I can spend all of my time doing.

The disadvantages are similar as well in that security is an issue, technical support is more difficult, and collaboration can often be hindered by different platforms though that gap is closing. I have seen BYOD from both an IT perspective and from a user perspective. HBS was completely BYOD, even to the point of the Level 1 help desk having to support whatever faculty brought in. McGraw Hill is BYOD to a point, but nothing is supported. You can use your own laptop, but they won't pay for any software for it, or support any issues you have. You can request a Mac or PC when you start and software compatibility isn't really an issue, but what I've found is that the configurations that they offer for computers are often not enough to support the work I am doing. i.e. not enough memory, hard drive space, processor speed, etc. So I am forced to work on my own machine without the compensation for the inevitable wear and tear.

It's not as serious of a problem as in education, but it can often be a challenge. Overall I think BYOD offers any learner to learn on his/her most efficient platform and in his/her own unique

way. It poses significant technical hurdles and costs quite a bit to run efficiently, but if we are looking at the problem in the eye of the student, BYOD is a great solution.