

Docs. Google's iPhone app lets Hyndman review and update that index. Toronto-based FreshBooks contains Hyndman's billing and timekeeping on their servers, while the iPhone app lets him track and record time spent on specific projects and tasks.

As enthusiastic as Hyndman is about the iPhone, he's just as blunt about its shortcomings. Inadequate battery life tops the list. "If I use it intensively to access the web, I get two or three hours," he says. And for some reason, Apple omitted tasks, universal search, copy-and-paste and the ability to type an email while holding the phone on its side....

By **Luigi Benetton**. Read the complete article at www.cba.org/practicelink/mobiletech.

Don't leave home without it

Laptops are becoming indispensable for lawyers on the go.



Laptop computers are nearly ubiquitous in the business world, and even in the legal profession, they're well on their way there. But many lawyers don't make full use of all the laptop's features and benefits. Dominic Jaar, Montreal-based principal of Ledjit Consulting, provides a snapshot view of laptops' possibilities.

Before flying to Victoria recently to address a meeting of the National Judicial Institute, Jaar backed up his conference PowerPoint presentation files to a hard drive. "Both my notebook drive and the backup drive are encrypted," he says, adding that his notebook sports a fingerprint reader.

During his cross-country flight, Jaar revised, polished and practised his presentation. He also spent time in Microsoft Outlook to answer emails he had downloaded prior to takeoff and worked on litigation files in Summation. Since both programs function offline, all this work carried out in the air automatically synchronizes when he next connects to the web.

"At first, I didn't like working in an

airplane," he notes. "Now, it's the place I like best. I'm never disturbed. I never receive any email. I can't make or receive phone calls. I can focus on what I need to do." And while three-hour layovers annoy most people, not Jaar. "I love Vancouver's airport! It's one of the rare airports that offer free wireless Internet access."

While in Vancouver, Jaar synchronized Outlook and Summation, replied to email, downloaded more pictures for his presentation that he thought of while in the air, and participated in a conference call using Skype. "My office can be anywhere," he says, "and my clients think I'm always connected."

Meanwhile, his notebook started a background backup that it performs whenever it connects to the Net. Jaar uses a "cloud" application called Mozy that automatically backs up all changes to data files, like his PowerPoint presentation, to a server on the Internet. "If I'm on a trip and I can't access files on my computer, I can connect remotely to Mozy and get what I need," he says.

During the presentation itself, Jaar used a display switch to run two screens from his laptop: the PowerPoint presentation and his Windows desktop. Rounding out his travel equipment list are a MicroSD card reader to transfer files between his BlackBerry and his notebook, noise-cancelling earphones to help him concentrate when working on planes, a USB memory stick, and a USB conversion cable that attaches many types of hardware to his notebook.

On his chiropractor's advice, Jaar no longer tows a laptop case on wheels — he's switched to a backpack.

— Luigi Benetton

• Mobile broadband wireless

Mobile broadband wireless is a technology that provides mobile access to the internet using laptops and smartphones via wireless cellular phone networks. The range of mobile broadband wireless is much greater than the limited range of WiFi hotspots that have traditionally been used for wireless internet access.

This increased range enables users to roam without having to worry about finding internet access in a hotel, library or café, even allowing continuous access in moving vehicles such as automobiles and trains. Additionally, cellular mobile broadband wireless signals are generally encrypted between your laptop or smartphone and the cellular system to somewhat protect the contents of your transmissions, unlike many unencrypted WiFi signals in public spaces.

Mobile broadband wireless access is especially useful to those who regularly rack up bills paying for hotel and coffee shop internet access on the road. Additionally, users of online software may consider mobile broadband access as a back-up internet connection in case the connection for the office goes down temporarily.

Mobile broadband wireless affords users a much farther range of mobility than landlines and WiFi internet access — users are not constrained by a local ethernet cable or by the typical WiFi hotspot range of 100-300 feet. Mobile broadband wireless service is more akin to cellphone service, covering wide areas and affording non-interrupted service where coverage is adequate, including in moving vehicles. However, keep roaming charges in mind when traveling across borders.

A potential drawback to 3G mobile broadband wireless is that maximum access speeds are several times slower than the maximum speeds offered by WiFi and landlines.

Excerpted from "Mobile broadband wireless for laptops and smartphones," in the September 2008 edition of *Your ABA* (<http://www.abanet.org/media/youraba/200809/article12.html>)

• Loose security

Most "Mobile Lawyer" respondents to the ABA technology survey report using password protection and antivirus software (92% and 87%, respectively). [But] the use of security measures drops from there — 24% use data encryption, 12% other means of authentication, such as tokens or biometrics, 9% cable/docking station with a lock, 4% tagging/engraving, 3% tracking software, 2% remote data wiping, 1% firewalls and 1% chose "other."

From "2008 ABA Tech Survey Sees More Mobility," by Catherine Sanders Reach & Josh Poje, Law Technology News (<http://tinyurl.com/6m3rv2>)