

To bring a laptop, or not to bring a...



[Steve Tanti](#) 4 posts since

Oct 18, 2007

Hi all, This is to those that have been to VMworld before.

I noticed that in a lot of the photos from previous events there are people who seem to be inside the seminars with their laptops... what's the benefit of carting my laptop around? Ignoring the bit about checking work emails etc, and taking notes (I can use one of those ancient things called a pencil and paper for that... who knows, my handwriting may get better from it too!)

Any thoughts?

Cheers,

Steve



[David Braxton](#) 2 posts since

Sep 10, 2007 1. **Re: To bring a laptop, or not to bring a laptop.... that is the question.** Jul 7, 2008 7:58 AM

To bring a laptop, or not to bring a...

I have been to all of the previous VMworlds and always brought my laptop with the intention of using it for notes, etc. However, I always seem to fall back on that old-fashion paper and pen. And then use my laptop for checking up on work email. Maybe it might be different this year, who knows. My backpack and laptop will be lugged around either way. 😊



[Ryan Melton](#) 9 posts since

Sep 10, 2007 2. **Re: To bring a laptop, or not to bring a laptop.... that is the question.** Jul 7, 2008 9:40 PM

I too have always brought my laptop and found myself on many occasions working instead of gathering information. But hey, it's not my dime paying for the conference.

This year with the changes made to checked bags, etc on the airlines. I now have an excuss not to take it. I have informed my boss that laptop will be staying at the office and some one there can fight the fires.

Of course my golf clubs are still making their way to Vegas....



[Dean Steadman](#) 1 posts since

Jul 7, 2008 3. **Re: To bring a laptop, or not to bring a laptop.... that is the question.** Jul 9, 2008 9:21 AM

To bring a laptop, or not to bring a...

I don't think that I could live without my laptop. Or my iPhone.

I was in Vegas in May and was amazed at the lack of free wifi as compared to the abundance of free booze. There will be hotspots in the conference hall and the cafe area in the Venitian casino has free wifi. Verify that your hotel has free in-room wifi as many of them don't.



[DougBaer](#) 7 posts since

Sep 10, 2007 4. **Re: To bring a laptop, or not to bring a laptop.... that is the question.** Jul 9, 2008 11:54 AM

👤 in response to: [Dean Steadman](#)

I'd bring it to Vegas, but don't like lugging it around the conference. Unless you like to fight for power outlets or have big batteries, the things become dead weight pretty fast. Just my 2 cents, though 😊



[Steve Tanti](#) 4 posts since

Oct 18, 2007 5. **Re: To bring a laptop, or not to bring a laptop.... that is the question.** Jul 14, 2008 6:03 AM

👤 in response to: [DougBaer](#)

Thanks for all the info... I might just get an ipod touch and use the wireless to do some surfin' and mail'n.


To bring a laptop, or not to bring a...

cheers, and see ya there!



[ejward02832](#) 31 posts since

Sep 10, 2007 6. **Re: To bring a laptop, or not to bring a laptop.... that is the question.** Aug 11, 2008 9:43 AM

 in response to: [Steve Tanti](#)

last year they had PC's setup to check email but, in my opinion, there were not enough. If you really really need to keep up with email, bring the laptop.

For notes, here's what I'm bringing:

<http://www.livescribe.com/>

To bring a laptop, or not to bring a...

It works pretty well. We'll see how it works for Vmworld when i really need it.



[ginotg](#) 5 posts since

May 9, 2008 7. **Re: To bring a laptop, or not to bring a laptop.... that is the question.** Aug 15, 2008 1:14 PM

At TechEd this year I actually used the notepad on my BlackBerry to take notes, then copied directly to an email and send to work for editing when I returned.

I like travelling light around the conference! I will bring a laptop to Vegas, but I never have been one for lugging them around a conference.

Gino.

To bring a laptop, or not to bring a...



[Eric Nielsen](#) 68 posts since

Sep 10, 2007 8. **Re: To bring a laptop, or not to bring a laptop.... that is the question.** Aug 15, 2008 5:56 PM

Interesting thought for sure, considering it's Vegas... there might be a few extra things you might want to see without having the extra weight of a laptop. Here are some of my thoughts:

1. Do I want to blog and do some picture uploads and edit a few things
2. Will I be bored in some of the sessions and want to surf.
3. Who do I want to chat with online and do I need to do facebook updates
4. Do I want to write any code, be in any online contests

To bring a laptop, or not to bring a...

For me, I think Vegas is one of those places where I might want to go lighter, but since I will be working at the show, I will be bringing my MAC.

Glad I thought about it though.



[Jon Summers](#) 31 posts since

Sep 10, 2007 9. **Re: To bring a laptop, or not to bring a laptop.... that is the question.** Sep 4, 2008 6:12 PM

jfdo



[Jon Summers](#) 31 posts since

Sep 10, 2007 10. **Re: To bring a laptop, or not to bring a laptop.... that is the question.** Sep 4, 2008 6:12 PM

👤 in response to: [Jon Summers](#)

Dang it! i posted several paragraphs but then the stupid app lost my session. Lovely.



[Jon Summers](#) 31 posts since

Sep 10, 2007 11. **Re: To bring a laptop, or not to bring a laptop.... that is the question.** Sep 4, 2008 6:15 PM

👤 in response to: [Jon Summers](#)

I would bring it because otherwise you will wish you had it. Honestly I rarely used mine last conference. There will be lots of terminals around for your usage on email etc. If you ask nice feel free to borrow my laptop but please do not be offended when I ask you to use a snapshot off of one of my VMs. Its not that I do not trust you.

To bring a laptop, or not to bring a...

PS How else will you add freinds in facebook?



[Scott MacFarland](#) 2 posts since


Aug 1, 2008 12. **Re: To bring a laptop, or not to bring a laptop.... that is the question.** Sep 5, 2008 6:04 AM

Shows in the past I have used the old fashioned pen and notebook, however always get behind when trying to keep up with the topics. This year I will be bringing my LiveScribe pen so that I can record the audible session while taking notes. I will also have my laptop with me, but mostly for online communications throughout each day.



[Todd Hazen](#) 18 posts since

Sep 10, 2007 13. **Re: To bring a laptop, or not to bring a laptop.... that is the question.** Sep 5, 2008 7:23 AM


 in response to: [Scott MacFarland](#)

Although the LiveScribe pen sounds like a great idea, after the conference you will be able to download all of the presentations from the sessions with audio and the ppt presentation. As for the laptop - I'll be bringing mine but not sure how much it will be used. Better to have it and not need it than to need it and not have it.



[ejward02832](#) 31 posts since

Sep 10, 2007 14. **Re: To bring a laptop, or not to bring a laptop.... that is the question.** Sep 5, 2008 7:29 AM


 in response to: [Todd Hazen](#)

Really? I've always been able to download the slides but, I've never seen the audio for those slides. My idea was to just take some general notes with the slide numbers with my pen. then, when the slides are available, piece it back together. We'll see.



[Jon Summers](#) 31 posts since

Sep 10, 2007 15. **Re: To bring a laptop, or not to bring a laptop.... that is the question.** Sep 5, 2008 7:36 AM

 in response to: [ejward02832](#)

To bring a laptop, or not to bring a...

That sounds like really good idea. How much can you record onto the pen before you need to offload stuff?



[Scott MacFarland](#) 2 posts since

Aug 1, 2008 16. Re: **To bring a laptop, or not to bring a laptop.... that is the question.** Sep 5, 2008 7:39 AM

👤 in response to: [Jon Summers](#)

The 1GB pen can store up to 100 hours and the 2GB can store up to 200 hours.

see <http://www.livescribe.com/> for details and also sample videos.



[DougBaer](#) 7 posts since

Sep 10, 2007 17. Re: **To bring a laptop, or not to bring a laptop.... that is the question.** Sep 5, 2008 7:42 AM

👤 in response to: [Todd Hazen](#)

I still prefer pen and paper.... I indicate the session numbers then download them later. I'm not a big blogger, and I like the freedom of not having to carry my bag around. For those who attended VMworld 2006 in LA, remember the bag check at Hollywood Highlands?? 5,000+ identical VMworld bags in a big pile outside the venue...

As for audio, a lot of vendors are no longer recording sessions due to overhead and difficulty with getting the 'right' audio -- do you really need to know how late the presenters were up the night before, and how many drinks they had?

To bring a laptop, or not to bring a...

As a past presenter, I know it was often unclear when the recording was happening and when it wasn't -- no 'ON AIR' signs or anything. Not that I ever ran to the restroom w/o turning off my mic or anything... but it could happen.

Bottom line: whatever works for you and makes you happy... enjoy the conference! 😊



[ejward02832](#) 31 posts since

Sep 10, 2007 18. **Re: To bring a laptop, or not to bring a laptop.... that is the question.** Sep 5, 2008 7:47 AM

👤 in response to: [Scott MacFarland](#)

I haven't filled mine up yet. But, I'm not quite sure how to clear out old stuff. You would think that would be easy. I haven't looked too deeply into it but I have found the option yet.



[Todd Hazen](#) 18 posts since

Sep 10, 2007 19. **Re: To bring a laptop, or not to bring a laptop.... that is the question.** Sep 5, 2008 7:56 AM

👤 in response to: [ejward02832](#)

You can download the PDF of the presentation as well as the MP3 that goes with it , or you can view the presentation as a video on the website. Goto the vmworld website and login. Click on VMWorld Sessions and Labs under resources on the right. All of the past sessions are now under Free Sessions & Labs with the video, PDF, and MP3. The new sessions should be posted shortly after the conference under the Attendee Only Sessions & Labs for a period of time before they are made free to everyone

To bring a laptop, or not to bring a...



[Jon Summers](#) 31 posts since

Sep 10, 2007 20. **Re: To bring a laptop, or not to bring a laptop.... that is the question.** Sep 5, 2008 8:17 AM

in response to: [Todd Hazen](#)

Maybe if your laptop had the unpatched ESX you could bring it VMworld and ask them to help you troubleshoot why it says you do not have a license from last years VMworld free usb Keyfob EXSi.



[Scott Hanson](#) 33 posts since

Sep 10, 2007 21. **Re: To bring a laptop, or not to bring a laptop.... that is the question.** Sep 5, 2008 10:19 AM

Problem last year was wireless airwaves were jammed with everyone getting IPs and hogging bandwidth. I could never get reliable connection from the floor.

To bring a laptop, or not to bring a...

Maybe Vegas infrastructure will be better, but my laptop was just dead weight. Amazing how many things you can't do without the internet.



[Ben Silver](#) 2 posts since

Aug 28, 2008 [22](#). **Re: To bring a laptop, or not to bring a laptop.... that is the question.** Sep 5, 2008 10:23 AM

Better to have it and not need it, then to need it and not have it. I usually bring mine along as not all sessions are as interesting as they claim to be. Helps to have a diversion. Plus keeping on top of my email makes coming back to work less painful



[Ron Porter](#) 7 posts since

Jun 26, 2009 [23](#). **Re: To bring a laptop, or not to bring a laptop.... that is the question.** Aug 28, 2009 8:21 AM

Yes, a good question indeed. I'll bring it with me and lock it up in the hotel. Mine has a safe in the closet. A few blocks walk to retrieve it sure beats 3k miles.