



LCD Flat Panel Monitors

LCD monitors have been the standard rather than the exception for computers. Compared with CRT monitors the flat panel does appear to be a significantly better solution for computer screens and there are a number of factors businesses should consider when purchasing them.

Size

The most obvious advantage of the flat panel monitor is that they are approximately 20% of the size of the equivalent CRT. Compound this with their ability to be easily wall mounted and for some situations there is no competition. With prices falling you may find when replacing an older screen you have the option of getting a really large replacement but you should consider that larger still means more power and takes up more space.

Weight

Flat panels are up to 80% lighter than the equivalent CRT. Low weight also gives reduced risk of injury to personnel involved in installing or moving computer equipment. Despite this the larger the LCD then the more difficult they are to move.

Electricity

Flat panel monitors use a third of the power of the equivalent CRT. On average this means a saving of £10 per annum for each screen in use on a full time basis.

Heat

Due to their lower power consumption LCD panels produce less heat output, reducing the load on air-conditioning and providing further power savings. Notably low thermal output and lack of internal high voltage also reduces the amount of dust attracted to the screen and case. It should be noted that large screens do have a significant amount of heat output and they should never be covered.

Visible Screen Area

A 17 inch flat panel display has almost the same visible area as a 19 inch CRT monitor. CRTs have an unusable border area (which is usually hidden by the bezel) due to distortion of the electron beam on curved glass. With a flat panel, the display goes right up to the edge. Widescreen vs. 4/3 ratio format may be an important factor in your purchasing decision.

Image Quality

Completely flicker-free and with very little screen reflection as a result of the flat display surface. Flat panel monitors do not suffer from display distortion due to magnetic influence from the Earth's magnetic field or nearby equipment particularly speakers. Unlike CRT monitors, flat panel monitors may be placed closely adjacent to each other without interference. This is because they do not use magnetic fields to create the image.

Style

Well it probably is not the most important factor for most businesses but flat panels look more modern on your desk than a CRT. Whether you like it or not this will reflect on your business in terms of your customers, suppliers and your employees perception.

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Key factors to consider when choosing your LCD display are:

- Response Time : for video 8ms or less
- Contrast : 500:1 or higher for strong colour clarity
- Screen size and available desk/wall space
- Intended and Maximum Display Resolution (to suit your computer output)
- Power Consumption
- Interfaces : VGA, DVI (check compatibility with your PC)
- Image Brightness : 280cd/m2 or greater)
- Audio Capability (If Required)
- Screen adjustment required e.g. tilt, height, swivel, rotate
- Additional functions e.g. USB hub, touch screen, auto set up
- Bracket or security requirements
- Price



If you are interested in the benefits of TFT LCD panel monitors (and TV's), buying advice and best value pricing contact us today.

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