

Duplicate
V3742

Water cooler

Desk a mess? Get your cords under control

Associated Press

Are you spending more time navigating through cables and cords than working at your desk? A desk of tangled wires not only hampers your work output, but can be dangerous too.

"Whether in a home or a workplace setting, getting your office organized and under control is not only aesthetically pleasing, but also makes the environment safer and often helps people increase their productivity," said Paul Holstein, co-founder and COO of CableOrganizer.com.

Holstein offers a few tips to untangle the mess at your desk:

► **Cable control:** Bundle cables and cords using translucent split tubes under your desk. Cable ties or Velcro can also gather unruly wires and cords behind computers and under tables. Invest in desk grommets, so cables, cords and

wires can neatly thread through your desk to power outlets.

► **Outlets out-of-the-way:** Keep power strips and surge protectors off the floor by using Velcro to attach them to the wall. Or, add a pop-up outlet to your desk to avoid stretching cables across the floor.

► **Label liberally:** Labels are most often used for storage containers, folders and drawers. But labels on cords and cables can keep them from getting mixed up and can save time when you uncoil them.

Gen X women carrying too much debt, survey says

Associated Press

Even though Generation X women understand the importance of saving for the future, most are still battling debt, according to one survey.

More than two-thirds of female respondents said they

live paycheck to paycheck, while 40 percent carry a credit card balance of \$5,000 or more. One in five owe more than \$10,000 in credit card debt.

"It's very difficult for Gen Xers to start to think seriously about saving and investing when excessive debt is a pressing issue for them," said Lauren Coulston, an assistant vice president at OppenheimerFunds Inc.

While saving for retirement ranked higher than finding a spouse, buying a home or having nice clothes, 62 percent of Gen X females have not bought any investment products.

Part of their reluctance could stem from their lack of information. Six out of ten don't feel knowledgeable about investing.

Survey: high gas prices altering family travel plans

Associated Press

Workers are feeling the gaso-

line pinch and are adjusting their leisure activities to compensate, according to one survey.

Almost 65 percent of respondents are reducing their entertainment and hobby expenditures because of higher fuel costs. Sixty-four percent are dining out less and 29 percent are choosing fewer extracurricular activities for their children.

More than half are cutting back on summer travel, while 29 percent are canceling summer travel plans altogether.

Higher fuel prices may affect the workplace too. Nearly one-third of respondents said they're considering switching to a job closer to home.

Some employers are taking notice and are providing assistance to retain employees.

Nearly one-quarter of employers allow their workers to telecommute, while 17 percent are subsidizing mass transit as an employee benefit.

Your dollar will buy...

Rates paid domestically for each dollar changed. These figures are intended only as a guide. Rates may be more favorable abroad.

Argentina (peso)	3.11	India (rupee)	46.8
Australia (dollar)	1.33	Indonesia (rupiah)	9,146
Brazil (real)	2.19	Israel (shekel)	4.45
Canada (dollar)	1.13	Japan (yen)	117
Chile (peso)	540	Mexico (peso)	11.0
Czech Rep. (koruna)	22.5	Morocco (dirham)	8.75
Egypt (pound)	0.79	New Zealand (dollar)	1.61
European (euro)	0.79	Norway (krone)	6.28
(Austria, Belgium, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Ireland, Italy, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Portugal, Spain)		Philippines (peso)	52.4
Great Britain (pound)	0.54	Poland (zloty)	3.12
Hong Kong (dollar)	7.78	Russia (ruble)	26.9
Hungary (forint)	218	Singapore (dollar)	1.59
		South Africa (rand)	6.97
		South Korea (won)	952
		Sweden (krona)	7.30
		Switzerland (franc)	1.24
		Taiwan (dollar)	32.7
		Thailand (baht)	38.0
		Venezuela (bolivar)	2,148

- For July 20

SOURCE: Pacific Exchange Rate Service