



16 TOP LAPTOPS FOR BUSINESS USERS IN 2019

By Brandon Vigliarolo

INTRODUCTION

Time is tough on computers, especially portable units that travel with professionals. If you're in the market for a new computer, these new and upcoming laptops might be just what you're looking for—no matter your mobile computing needs.

Note: As of this writing, many of the laptops on this list have yet to be released. Pricing and availability details are included where possible.

HP SPECTRE X360 15

Not only is the latest version of the [HP Spectre x360](#) hybrid laptop the first ever 15" laptop with an OLED screen, it also comes with a feature that business travelers dealing with confidential information will love: a privacy mode. Simply tap F1 and the screen will “appear dark to everyone but you.”

It also has a camera kill switch that disables the webcam with one quick flip and a fingerprint reader touch-screen. This laptop is compatible with HP's line of digital pens.

The new HP Spectre x360 15 is slated to ship in March 2019. Pricing data isn't available.

HP ELITEBOOK X360 830 G5

HP didn't design its [Elitebook x360 830 G5](#) for those who want a fancy-looking machine—the company built it for professionals who want performance.



The stand-out feature of the new Elitebook is its 1,000-nit screen. To put that in context, most high-end smartphones top out in the mid-500 nit range, making the Elitebook more like looking at an HD television than a laptop. The Elitebook also features a built-in privacy screen like that on the HP Spectre x360.

The HP Elitebook x360 830 G5 ships in March 2019. Pricing information isn't available.

ACER SWIFT 7

The [Acer Swift 7](#) appears to be trying to give the MacBook Air a run for its money. The Swift 7 has a screen-to-body ratio of 92%, weighs less than two pounds, and has an 8th-generation Intel Core i7-8500Y, just like the Air. It's priced similarly too, starting at \$1,700 USD.

The Acer Swift 7 will be available in May 2019.



IMAGE: SARAH TEW/CNET

ASUS ZENBOOK S13

The [Zenbook S13](#) has what Asus claims is a world-leading 97% screen-to-body ratio. The bezel on this one is so small that Asus had to add a slight bump to fit the camera on the top of the screen.

The S13's other hardware specs are impressive as well: It has an Nvidia GeForce MX150 graphics card, 8th-gen Intel Core processors, and up to 16 GB RAM and 1 TB SSD storage.

Pricing hasn't been announced, nor has a release date for this ultraportable laptop.



ASUS ZENBOOK 14

If you don't want to wait for the Zenbook S13, the Zenbook 14 might be what you're looking for. It's essentially a slightly larger S13 and has additional configuration options since there's more space to squeeze in hardware.

The Zenbook 14 should ship in March or April 2019 and is priced to start at \$750 USD.



ASUS STUDIOBOOK S W700

Are you more concerned with workstation-like performance and less concerned with portability in your business laptop? If so, consider the Asus’ Studiobook S W700.

This 17” monster of a laptop has impressive specs that our sister site CNET covers extensively in its [CES 2019 Asus laptop article](#).

Pricing and release date information isn’t yet available.



IMAGE: SARAH TEW/CNET

GIGABYTE AERO 15-SERIES

[Gigabyte](#) is known for making high-end gaming laptops, so it’s no surprise that the Gigabyte Aero 15-X9 and 15-Y9 models are designed for gaming. What makes Aero laptops good business machines is their interesting use of Microsoft Azure AI to optimize performance. Azure keeps an eye on computing needs and scales the use of GPU or CPU accordingly.

The Aero series has top-end hardware too; it can house up to an Intel i9, an Nvidia GeForce RTX 2080, and 64 GB of RAM. If you’re looking for a business machine that can handle heavy computing tasks, these models might be good options.

Pricing and availability details are not available for the Aero 15-X9 or the 15-Y9.



IMAGE: GIGABYTE

SAMSUNG NOTEBOOK FLASH

Don't let its toy-like appearance fool you—the [Samsung Notebook Flash](#) is perfectly capable of meeting your day-to-day work computing needs.

This fabric-textured laptop with rounded keys might look and feel more like a Chromebook concept model, but Samsung actually managed to run Windows 10 Home on this 4 GB RAM, 64 GB eMMC-sporting piece of hardware.

The price is especially nice: \$350 USD. The Samsung Notebook Flash started shipping at the end of January 2019.



IMAGE: JAMES MARTIN/CNET

SAMSUNG NOTEBOOK 9 PRO

[Samsung's](#) newest flagship laptop, the Notebook 9 Pro, is a MacBook look-alike that comes with a full-sized Samsung Active Pen for use on its touchscreen display. It also has a 360-degree hinge that allows it to be used as a tablet.

Pricing and availability have not been released.



IMAGE: JAMES MARTIN/CNET

SAMSUNG NOTEBOOK 9 PEN



If you'd prefer the more portable [Samsung S Pen](#) to go with your 2-in-1 Samsung hybrid laptop, the Notebook 9 Pen is your model.

Samsung is advertising the Notebook 9 Pen as having a 15-hour battery life and quick charging capabilities, which will make it great for on-the-go creative professionals who need a long-lasting, versatile laptop.

The Notebook 9 Pen will be available in 13.3" and 15" versions. No release date or pricing is available for either version.

HUAWEI MATEBOOK 13

Reproducing the MacBook Air is something every laptop manufacturer seems to try at some point—and the MateBook 13 is Chinese computer company Huawei's attempt at doing just that.

Huawei has said the MateBook 13 is 6% smaller than the newest MacBook Air, and it compares in [other hardware-related ways as well](#). The MateBook 13 is available in two models: An i7 version with a discrete graphics card and an i5 version without it.

Released in January, the i5 version starts at \$999 USD, and the MateBook i7 starts \$1,299 USD.



LENOVO THINKPAD X1 CARBON

It wouldn't be a Lenovo lineup without a rehash of the classic ThinkPad design, and this year the X1 Carbon is showing off a new take on the classic look.

The [ThinkPad X1 Carbon](#) has a thinner, lighter body, and its latest version, according to our sister site CNET, will continue to be a leader in business computing: "Lenovo's ThinkPad line remains the gold standard for the corporate crowd and there's no reason to believe that the new X1 models will do anything to disrupt that legacy."

The ThinkPad X1 Carbon will be available in June 2019 at a price of \$1,710 USD.



LENOVO YOGA S940

The Lenovo Yoga S940 [doesn't beat other ultraportables](#) in terms of hardware, but it does offer interesting features that make it stand out.

First off, it's the only laptop in the world to have a curved glass screen that disappears right into the bezel. This doesn't add functionality, but it does make the screen edge vanish instead of abruptly ending at the bezel.



The Yoga S940 also has an integrated AI designed to be used when the laptop is connected to external monitors. When enabled, the AI can reportedly tell where you're glancing and will move relevant windows to match your eyeline.

The Lenovo Yoga S940 will be available in May and will be priced around \$1,500.

LENOVO LEGION SERIES

Although [Lenovo's Legion laptops](#) are designed for gaming, the devices aren't restricted to that use. Legion laptops are packed with the latest Nvidia GeForce mobile graphics processors, with the RTX 2060, RTX 2070 Max-Q, and RTX 2080 Max-Q all available as options.

With a lot of processing power and a lower price than some other high-performance laptops, a Lenovo Legion might be a great buy for those who want to squeeze GPU performance out of their laptop without having to pay a premium.

The Legion comes in two models: The Y740 (available in 15" and 17" options) and the Y540 (available only in 15" with an Nvidia RTX 2060). The Y740 is pricey—its 15" model starts at \$1,511.99 USD.

If you wait for the Y540's May 2019 release, you can still get a high-performance machine while paying only \$930 USD.



IMAGE: TYLER LIZENBY/CNET

DELL XPS 13



IMAGE: SARAH TEW/CNET

Dell's XPS line has long been a favorite of consumers and business professionals, but last year's model included a bad design choice—it moved the webcam to the bottom of the monitor, which led to a lot of users complaining about the camera looking right up their noses.

[This year's XPS 13 fixed the issue](#), making it a solid laptop that is well worth a purchase. It's [available now](#) and starts at \$899.99 USD.

DELL INSPIRON 7000

Two-in-one laptops with pen support are increasingly popular, but with those devices comes a struggle that is all too familiar to stylus users: Where did it go?



The [Dell Inspiron 7000](#) presents a novel solution that's sure to thrill stylus-using business professionals: A magnetic pen "garage" positioned right below the screen.

The garage stores and protects the pen when not in use and also puts it in a noticeable place—as opposed to a recessed slot—so you'll know if it isn't where it belongs.

The Inspiron will be available in May. Pricing information is not available.

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