Are Two Computer Monitors Better than One?

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Abstract. Previous studies have found using more than one monitor increases productivity, but benefits may diminish when monitor count or size increases. The purpose of this study was to determine whether increases in productivity hold true with newer technology, like wide flat-screens, and during multitasking. Participants were asked to complete several tasks commonly completed in an office environment. The tasks were completed on one of four monitor configurations. Participants located information from within several documents and compiled this information into their own document. Dependent variables measured included efficiency, effectiveness, and satisfaction. Results indicated a performance benefit for dual monitor usage, regardless of monitor size. Participants preferred the dual 22” monitors and least preferred the single 17” monitor.