

Me and my gadgets: Mark Vickers

What does your job entail?

As the CEO for NetServices plc, a publicly listed business to business telecoms company, I am responsible for overseeing the company and making sure that, through innovation, we stay ahead of the competition. I report to the City and our investors on the progress of the business.



How much time do you spend working out of the office?

It varies from week to week, but I often spend 20 hours working from home and between 5 and 10 hours out and about at meetings.

What is your most useful gadget?

My blue tooth ear piece. It literally lives in my ear and goes everywhere with me whether I am at work, travelling, shopping, taking care of the grand kids or on the golfing range. It's become such a part of me that a couple of times I have even got into bed with it still in my ear!

What gadgets could you not live without?

My 3G dongle for my laptop and my digital yardage reader for the golf course.

The dongle enables me to get an internet speed of up to 1MB per second to my laptop from any location. It means I am always available and able to work which is vital in my role. As a CEO my job does not stop in the evening.

For when I do find time to relax my digital yardage reader is fantastic. There is nothing more frustrating in golf than unforced errors and this gadget tells me the distance to problems, which I can then navigate. It adds enjoyment to my game and takes a few shots off my round!

What's been your biggest gadget nightmare?

Being out of the UK when my VPN software on my laptop fails, preventing me from accessing my mail for two weeks. That's why I always carry a Blackberry 8800 as a reserve.

Do you Twitter, Facebook, Myspace or Bebo?

I am not on this service as I appreciate my privacy and I believe that once you are on the web you lose control of that.

Is social networking useful for work?

I do use these social networks to find out about people I go to see or am thinking of employing, as is it a great information tool. It often gives you a good idea of how they are going to fit in with the team. You can discover if they are a worker or a shirker by their social activities.

What piece of equipment would you most like to get your hands on and why?

An iPhone using the 3g network rather than the existing iPhone that does not as then I would be able to retire 2 of my current devices, my blackberry 8800 and my Ericsson 910 phone.

What would make your life easier at work?

A time machine.