

## [GigaOM](#)

- [Research](#)
- [Events](#)
- [Home](#)
- [Apple](#)
- [Cleantech](#)
- [Cloud](#)
- [Collaboration](#)
- [Mobile](#)
- [Video](#)

## [Collaboration](#)

Search



# Five Reasons to Use a Paper To Do List

By [Anne Zelenka](#) Nov. 15, 2006, 11:21am PDT [37 Comments](#)

Like

2 people like this.

•

•

0



As web workers, we have access to many online to do list managers like [Remember The Milk](#), 37Signals' [Ta-da Lists](#), and [Zoho Planner](#). But I prefer pen and paper, and I'm not the only one. In [his summary of Web 2.0 Summit demos](#), Richard MacManus admits he uses paper notebooks. Speaking about drawing his business card cartoons, gapingvoid's Hugh MacLeod [says](#) "there's a certain *je ne sais quoi* you only get with ink on paper." And we all know people who can't live without their [Moleskines](#).

### Related Research

- [Mobile Operators' Strategies for Connected Devices](#)
- [The Age of the Feed-Based User Interface](#)
- [How to Manage Consumer-Grade Collaborative Tools in the Workplace](#)
- [Can Apple Build a Real Social Network?](#)

How is pen on paper better than online or electronic to do lists?

**Using pen on paper just feels good.** You need the right paper and the right pen—an old Bic on a decrepit yellow sticky note won't get you to tactile nirvana—but with proper equipment, isn't it much more satisfying to write a new to do item onto a piece of paper than to type it into your laptop or thumb it into your Treo? What about that triumphant feeling when you scribble off something you've finished? Clicking a checkbox with your mouse doesn't compare.

**You can't beat pen and paper's mobility and accessibility.** Take your paper notebooks or your index cards or your looseleaf lists anywhere and use them anywhere, even if you don't have network access, electricity, or battery power.

**Never hassle over synchronizing your to do list across multiple devices again.** If you do capture items here and there on bits of paper, consolidating is easy: just write it all onto your master list when you get the chance.

**No application lock-in.** Getting tired of Moleskines? Want to try something snazzier, like [Paperblanks](#) or [Rhodia](#) notebooks? No problem—just buy a new brand, transfer anything you need to by hand, and you've switched. No wrangling with data export and import, no operating system compatibility worries, no software installation or configuration required.

**Pen on paper gets you away from the computer.** It can be hard on your wrists, your eyes, and your back to work at a computer constantly. Using a Blackberry can leave you [in need of a hand massage](#). Writing on a paper to do list might be just the ergonomic break your body needs.

Maybe one day I'll switch to an online personal planner. [Chris just reviewed Stikkit](#), which sounds pretty cool. Liz had [some good ideas](#) for integrating to do lists into gmail. For now, though, I'm sticking with paper and pen. What about you?

Do you like this story?

Like

2 people like this.

•

•

0

[Previous](#)

[WebWorkerDaily Refreshed](#)

[Next](#)

[Can Todoz do everything?](#)