

# Not Today, Ma, My Office Is a Mess

**The paperless office is far from a reality.**

by [Penny Lunt Crosman](#)

The paperless office is far from a reality, according to a survey of 1,003 U.S. office workers conducted by Directive Analytics on behalf of mouse-maker Logitech. Almost half the respondents graded their workplaces a C and 10 percent gave them a D, due to clutter, inability to personalize their space and poor computer systems. The leading cause of clutter was paper, at 61 percent, followed by file folders (36 percent) and computer peripheral cords (35 percent).

Nine percent of the workers surveyed said their workplaces are so littered with documents that they wouldn't want their mothers to see where they work, 7 percent feel their desks are a safety hazard, 6 percent are embarrassed by their space and 3 percent dread going to work because of the condition of their space. In addition to morale, output is affected: 60 percent of respondents (and 70 percent of women) said they feel more productive when their workplaces are clean and tidy.

The moral of the story: Find a way to eliminate paper, whether it's through Web-based forms, records management software, e-mail archiving or better search software. Your employees will thank you