

HOW TO NAVIGATE THE MODERN WORKPLACE

Reimagining the Future of Work

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CONTENTS

Introduction	3
The Power of Partnership	4
The Ever-changing Workplace	5
Are You Ready for Hybrid Work	6
Working Remotely: How to Make It Work for You	7
Tap into Productivity with Smarter Collaboration	8
Modernize Your Workplace with Smarter Features	8
Empower Your Workforce to Work Securely	9
The Way Forward	10
Experience the Benefits of Working with Connection	10



INTRODUCTION

One thing is clear: We're not the same people that went home to work in early 2020. The collective experience of the past two years has left a lasting imprint, fundamentally changing how we define the role of work in our lives. Employees everywhere are rethinking their worth-it equation and are voting with their feet. And as more people experience the upsides of flexible work, the more heavily it factors into the equation. For Gen Z and Millennials, there's no going back. And with other generations not far behind, companies must meet employees where they are.

As leaders puzzle over how to make the future of work work, big questions loom: What is the role of the office? How do teams build social capital in a digital-first world? The challenge ahead for every organization is to meet employees' great new expectations head-on, while balancing business outcomes in an unpredictable economy.

To help leaders navigate the uncertainty, Connection, in partnership with Microsoft, has created this eBook to help reduce the complexities and provide expert guidance to navigate the modern workplace.



THE POWER OF PARTNERSHIPS

Navigating the modern workplace is hard. You deserve a partner who understands you—and the right technology that celebrates your strengths and helps you navigate the modern workplace with modern devices powered by the most secure operating system.



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THE EVER-CHANGING WORKPLACE



The experience of the past two years has reshaped our priorities, identities, and worldview, drawing a bright line between what's important—health, family, time, purpose—and what's not. As a result, employees' worth-it equation—what people want from work and what they're willing to give in return—has changed. The power dynamic is shifting, and perks like free food and a corner office are no longer what people value most.



The Workforce Is Still in Transition



Remote Employees
Considering a Shift
to Hybrid*



Hybrid Employees
Considering a Shift
to Remote*

Meeting these new employee expectations will require a mindset shift that considers the experience of the past two years. Employees' worth-it equation has changed—and there's no going back. The best leaders will create a culture that embraces flexibility and prioritizes employee wellbeing—understanding that this is a competitive advantage to build a thriving organization and drive long-term growth.

FOR GEN Z, THERE'S NO GOING BACK

According to the 2022 Microsoft Work Trend Index: Annual Report, mobility and entrepreneurial freedom are non-negotiable for younger employees' flexibility.

- 58% of Gen Z are considering changing jobs in the year ahead versus 43% overall
- 58% are considering a shift to hybrid work in the year ahead versus 53% overall
- 56% are considering a shift to remote work in the year ahead versus 49% overall
- 70% are considering earning additional income outside their current employer via a side project or business in the year ahead versus 59% overall
- LinkedIn data says Gen Z is the most mobile generation on the platform: since the pandemic began, their migration rate is up 23% in the U.S.
- 52% of Gen Z hybrid employees say they're moving to a new location because they're able to work remotely versus 38% overall
- Gen Z's likelihood to engage with a company posting on LinkedIn if it mentions flexibility is far higher (77%) than Millennials (30%) and others on the platform



Are You Ready for Hybrid Work?



of hybrid workers say their biggest challenge is knowing when to work remotely and when to work in-person.*

Building your hybrid work toolkit? Many hybrid employees are considering a switch to remote while even more remote employees are considering a switch to hybrid in the year ahead. Prepare your hybrid employees for success. Arm your teams with safe, secure, collaborative tools where you can come together to get work done. Microsoft Teams can help people stay connected, collaborate seamlessly, and simplify work, in a secure and compliant way—all in one place.

* 2022 Microsoft Work Trend Index: Annual Report



Working Remotely: How to Make It Work for You



of hybrid employees say they're likely to go remote in the year ahead.*

Many workers around the world have spent the last couple of years working remotely at least part-time.

According to LinkedIn, in March of 2020, 1 in 67 U.S. jobs offered a remote work option. Today, that number is about 1 in 7. And remote jobs on LinkedIn attract 2.6 times more views and nearly 3 times more applicants compared to on-site roles.

As teams have adjusted to this new remote reality, discover how the right technology and solutions can help empower teams to work as one and maximize productivity wherever they are.

* 2022 Microsoft Work Trend Index: Annual Report

Modernize Your Workplace with Smarter Features

Younger workers (18-34), especially when working from home during the pandemic, value smart features more than older colleagues.*



Video resolution upscaling (+23%)



Webcam privacy shutter (+16%)



Switchable audio modes (+20%)



AI-based noise cancellation (+19%)



Intelligent cooling (+21%)



Digital wellness app (+23%)



Eye care mode (+21%)



VoIP hot keys (+18%)

*Lenovo, "The Future of Work and Digital Transformation," February 2021



TAP INTO PRODUCTIVITY WITH SMARTER COLLABORATION

Work doesn't begin and end with a meeting.

Collaboration—and moving work forward—is both synchronous and asynchronous. Give your team the tools they need to deliver business results faster with solutions like Microsoft 365, Microsoft Teams, and Microsoft Security.

Collaborate with confidence. A smarter way to collaborate with Microsoft Teams is with a modern Windows 11 Pro device powered by the Intel vPro® Platform.

- Keep the background in the background with intelligent noise canceling and blur
- Stay connected with Intel® Wi-Fi 6E, the best Wi-Fi technology for videoconferencing
- Windows 11 supports the widest range of useful communication applications

CONNECT AND COLLABORATE BETTER WITH MODERN DEVICES

HP EliteBook 840

High Performance. High Portability

Teams work from many locations requiring a powerful, secure, and durable laptop that connects easily to keep them productive. Meet the demands of the multi-task, multi-place, enterprise-business workday with the HP EliteBook 840. #41210145



Lenovo TopSeller ThinkPad E14 Gen 2

Performance, Substance, and Style

With remote and hybrid working on the rise, businesses need to invest in endpoint devices that prioritize performance with portability and security. The ThinkPad E14 compact laptop offers all that at a price that will fit most budgets. #41179163



Dell Latitude 7420

Sleek Looks. Enhanced Productivity.

Work faster and smarter, wherever you are. Configurable as a laptop or 2-in-1, this small and premium 14" business laptop with the built-in AI of Dell Optimizer and new ExpressConnect makes you more productive than ever. #41210948



THE WAY FORWARD

The past two years have made a lasting imprint on work—the impact of which will be felt long into the future. The new worth-it equation is not a zero-sum game. Employees value flexibility and wellbeing, and these great expectations create an opportunity for every organization to reimagine work-life integration as a win-win. Giving people agency to do their best work is not only in their best interest—it's good for business. Connection and Microsoft have got you covered.

Experience the Benefits of Working with Connection

What would it take to amaze your end users? An organization-wide rollout of the latest secure devices, customized to exact specifications and ready to go right out of the box? Overnight delivery of a replacement notebook that's waiting for your sales team before their plane even lands? Imagine having a partner who will stop at nothing to amaze you and your colleagues. That's the level of commitment you'll find in Connection's state-of-the-art Technology Integration and Distribution Center (TIDC).

Built from the ground up to simplify your technology lifecycle, the TIDC offers everything you need to integrate technology into your organization seamlessly and affordably:

- Custom configuration services
- Convenient deployment options
- Advanced inventory planning and rollout management
- Exceptional customer service and support

For more information about how Connection and Microsoft can help you navigate the modern workplace, contact an Account Manager Today!

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