

OPTIMIZE THE HYBRID WORK ENVIRONMENT WITH PRIVACY, CONNECTIVITY, AND COLLABORATION

 **49%** of IT decision makers believe employee demands such as the workspace is a top-three driver of digital transformation.¹

Prior to March 2020, a slim 6% of the workforce performed their jobs primarily from home.² The Covid-19 outbreak caused an abrupt transition in the remote-capable workforce as lockdowns, quarantines, and self-isolation measures necessitated millions of employees to work virtually. Suddenly, parents were working in atmospheres previously unimaginable as their kids were simultaneously introduced to at-home learning. By May 2020, about 35% of the employed labor force reported that they were working from home.³ Covid-19 variants paused a mass return-to-office plan that was expected to unfold in fall of 2021. Toward the end of that year, many remote employees readied themselves to return to the office in some form of part-time arrangement. It was clear that we were not returning to the pre-pandemic way of working.

THE DOMINANT WORK MODEL IS NOW HYBRID

Many knowledge workers are now engaged in a post-pandemic hybrid office model. While some employees have remained fully remote, even more have transitioned into a blend of in-person and virtual work. Approximately half of the U.S. full-time workforce reported that their job in 2022 could be done remotely from home, at least part of



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the time. Looking into the rest of that year and beyond, over half (53%) of remote-capable employees anticipated engaging in a hybrid work model, and 59% of this group stated that this is their preferred arrangement.⁴ Many employers have communicated to staff that the five-day office week is no longer the expectation. The hybrid work model has become the new standard.



FLEXIBILITY IS ESSENTIAL FOR WORKPLACE SUCCESS

Modified return-to-office policies instituted by many organizations stipulate that staff only need to be at the workplace two or three days per week. Some businesses are requiring teams to be in the office on the same days to promote in-person collaboration. Other companies are allowing personnel to choose which days they want to be onsite.

All of this is occurring as remote-capable workers have reported that telecommuting often allows them to be more productive. A substantial number of employers realized increased productivity during the pandemic, effectively debunking the old office-centric model. In fact, 90% of remote workers state that they are as productive or more productive when working from home compared to the office.⁵

The hybrid model helps employees get the most out of their day while ensuring they feel connected to colleagues and the organization through some time spent in-person. Increased productivity in addition to easing the headaches of a daily commute have contributed to lowered stress and an improved work-life balance. On the other side of this newfound lifestyle, companies are finding it more difficult to retain talent as employees are willing to quit when they feel they have to compromise work-life balance. In fact, 71% of the labor force who prefer hybrid work say they are likely to look for other opportunities if their current employer won't offer hybrid work flexibility.⁶ To no surprise, some form of remote work is now commonly offered as an employee benefit. A number of companies are even implementing policies on flexible locations, allowing employees to work from a remote location other than their home for extended periods of time. It has become clear that such flexible arrangements boost hiring, employee engagement, performance, wellbeing, and retention strategies.⁷

When the sudden shift to remote work occurred at the onset of the global pandemic, IT modernization and digitalization rapidly followed suit as corporations quickly began enhancing and expanding their infrastructure and networks to adapt to and support the changed workforce and emerging business models. Companies have adopted new technologies to support digital transformation and are implementing hardware and infrastructure improvements to support how employees connect, as well as to improve security, minimize downtime, and ensure productivity. The focus now is to support the technology needs of employees with two workspaces: an on-site office and an in-home office.

TECHNOLOGY TOOLS TO SUPPORT THE HYBRID WORKFORCE

Organizations need to invest in technology that facilitates the seamless switch between in-person and virtual work. The right technical solutions support a smooth transition to hybrid work, and can enhance productivity and minimize downtime. Employees need digital tools that enable them to communicate and collaborate regardless of location. The ability to easily connect through virtual meetings and video conferencing is critical, but roughly 1/3 of employees always or often experience difficulties on video calls.⁸

Let's take a look at some employee reported remote work statistics:⁹

- **42%** who have been working from home since the pandemic still lack the proper technology.
- **28%** worry about not having the right technology tools to support hybrid work.
- **91%** report that it is either very important or important that their employer provide them with the proper technology.
- **38%** said that their employer provides video tech for better hybrid collaboration.



A sustainable hybrid workforce requires technology that provides privacy and improves security from any location. Many IT leaders cite tech as a top obstacle when it comes to a blended work model. After all, 54% of IT professionals consider remote work to be a higher security risk than traditional in-office work.¹⁰ Investing in the right technology to support your hybrid personnel can enhance productivity, increase agility, and help lower overall business costs.

DELL TECHNOLOGIES ELEVATES THE HYBRID WORK EXPERIENCE

Organizations embracing the hybrid work model are focusing on the employee experience. But let's not forget about our friends on those critical IT support teams, either. Dell Technologies has new products and features to address those unique work styles and pain points of the hybrid workforce. While staff moves between locations to get work done, Dell has made a productive experience the priority. IT teams are now better able to select the necessary tools and technologies for employees to switch seamlessly between in-person and virtual working. The latest Dell commercial portfolio continues to emphasize collaboration, intelligence, and security.

At the forefront of Dell's commercial portfolio is Dell Optimizer and integrated artificial intelligence software suite that powers the world's most intelligent PCs with built-in AI, driving a more collaborative and personalized experience. New capabilities advance today's hybrid workforce as people perform their jobs from multiple locations, face increasing privacy risks, and combat pesky interruptions.

- **Privacy:** With a comprehensive suite of new intelligent privacy features, users can conceal sensitive information on their screen if an onlooker or intruder is detected, and the PC can automatically dim when the user looks away from the screen to protect data and conserve

power. ExpressSign-In detects the user's presence and wakes up the system automatically; when the user walks away, the system is locked automatically.

- **Connectivity:** Dell Optimizer features the world's first simultaneous multi-network connection that lets users connect to two wired or wireless networks at once for faster data transfers and downloads. It also delivers less buffering and up to 30% lower latency. Bandwidth management prioritizes conference apps while working from anywhere. Automatic network switching connects to a stronger network when one is available.
- **Collaboration:** Dell Optimizer features improved neural-noise cancellation to sense the worker's surroundings, further reducing unwanted background noise for the user and others on the call. Distortion reduction delivers louder output levels without feedback, and a proximity microphone adds a brighter, clearer tone to speech.

Dell has launched new Latitude PCs, which are perfect for business leaders and users who need portability and performance. These new Latitude PCs feature 12th Gen Intel® Core™ processors and the latest connectivity options, including 5G and Intel® Wi-Fi 6E. Creators and engineers can maximize performance and portability with new Dell Precision mobile workstations. Dell Optimizer comes built-in on the latest Latitude PC and Precision workstation offerings. In addition, business and creative professionals can enhance their work in 4K clarity on the latest Dell monitors.

As people transition between workspaces, ecosystem devices are essential for a seamless and simple experience. The Dell Dual Charge Dock features a wireless charging stand for Qi-enabled smartphones and earbuds and can support up to dual 4K monitors, making it ideal for a home office. The new and upgraded Dell ThunderBolt™ Dock with its future-ready modular design delivers lightning-fast charging and is ideal for connecting multiple 4K displays,





devices, and peripherals in a typical office setup. The Dell Universal Dock is best suited for shared workspaces, and offers a consistent experience for any USB-C laptop as well as the highest number of ports in a universal dock.

In the era of conferencing, the new Dell Speakerphone and Slim Conferencing Soundbar are the world's most intelligent. They feature AI noise cancellation that reduces background noise, while preserving the clarity of human voices so users can enjoy a richer and clearer audio experience.^{11,12}

DELL PROVIDES ENHANCED SECURITY FEATURES

Dell offers the industry's most secure commercial PCs, employing both software-based, above the operating system (OS) protections, and hardware-based, below the

OS capabilities, to defend against current and future threats. New to all Dell Latitude devices is a Self-Healing Image Recovery that provides OS restoration after a catastrophic issue. Dell products feature enterprise security that empowers your employees to work from anywhere.¹³



TALK TO WEI TODAY

How we work tomorrow will not be how we worked today or yesterday. Dell's recent product launch helps support businesses with hybrid workforces and enhances the hybrid work experience. Talk to WEI about the options that can best support your employees and organization.

Sources:

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ABOUT WEI



WEI is an innovative, full service, customer centric IT solutions provider.

Why WEI? Because we care. Because we go further.

At WEI, we're passionate about solving your technology problems and helping you drive your desired business outcomes. We believe in challenging the status quo and thinking differently. There are a lot of companies that can take today's technology and create a great IT solution for you. But we do more. We go further. And we have the customer, vendor and industry awards to prove it. WEI is a premier technology partner, who always puts our customers first while providing the most innovative solutions for over 30 years.



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