Change the way you think about workplace with intelligent spaces
Introduction

The explosion of mobility and abundance of connectivity has changed our lives. It has changed the way we socialize, the way we play, and the way we work. Organizations today are looking to embrace this mobile technology, as it has proven to make them more successful. Mobility has allowed us to work anywhere and as such, the spaces we occupy have an impact on the outcomes we achieve. The spaces themselves can help employees and guests achieve more as well as giving insight to IT and facilities to help manage and operate the workplace more effectively. Enabling activity-based work is a response to this new reality and calls for organizations to rethink their workplace strategies—both physical and digital.

In a world where we work anywhere, what role does the office have?

The profound effect of mobility in the workplace has changed our expectations of technology-powered experiences and facilitated a move to greater collaboration. Since the dawn of time, humans have multiplied their successes by working together. The advent of desktop computing, however, had the unfortunate effect of tying us to desks. This was a great catalyst for the growth of digital collaboration technologies like Microsoft® Skype for Business, which like many productivity tools has now made the shift to mobile.

When employees work for companies who pursue mobile strategies that support the ability to work anywhere at any time, 49% said it made them more productive and 38% said it made them more satisfied with work.\(^2\)

The office or corporate campus is more important than ever before. Organizations have the opportunity to use modern physical workplace and technology designs to build spaces that have a positive impact on their employees. A place to bring people together, inspiring, and empowering them to be the best that they can and fostering those critical sparks of innovation. As a result, these approaches are being used to attract and retain new talent—the influx of millennials who want an open, modern space within a mobile-friendly environment—and to boost worker productivity.
Building the digital workplace

Organizations now understand that the move to the digital workplace is not just a technology shift. It is also about building design and the physical space together with the type of technology that needs to be in place to support it. Leading commercial real estate and interior design firms are also taking note. They are rethinking office design,¹ and it’s clear that in these new settings the workstyles of choice are highly collaborative and mobile first.

Some foundational technologies must be in place to enable this new way of working. Perhaps the most important is high-performance, secure Wi-Fi, which should be considered a basic utility like electricity or water. Modern productivity and collaboration solutions are critical too; cloud first, mobile first platforms like Microsoft Office 365 provide access to the tools workers need wherever and whenever they need them and are always current. The devices used by employees have grown ever more diverse. In their pockets, their mobile devices are always up to date, delivering the latest in security, features, and value; Microsoft Windows® 10 brings that experience to the desktop—maximizing productivity.

Organizations can lower operating costs as they make use of collaborative spaces and more efficient use of real estate. Intel® noted that 60% of their cubicle real estate was unused at any given time, and they decided to move to digital spaces to not only improve employee engagement and productivity, but also to realize significant savings in real estate costs. The U.S. General Services Administration reports that on an average, unused employee workspaces cost organizations $10,000 to $15,000 per employee annually.²

¹ hermanmiller.com/why/ideal-settings.html
² "Workspace Utilization and Allocation Benchmark,” USA Office of Government-wide Policy, July 2011
Let’s talk about digital context and the Internet of Things

Digital context can be described as the information derived from the relationships between attributes. Context is critical for us to understand and make sense of the world around us, and is no different for information systems; context gives these systems the appearance of intelligence and makes interactions with technology appear seamless and personal. Identity was the first revolution; it allowed technology to be personal to an individual and in so doing changed the world. Workplace IT systems today are full of information that can be used to build incredible experiences. The challenge is that these systems are discrete and disconnected and data sets are becoming so large that it’s hard to determine what is useful and what isn’t. Bring your own (BYO) started a personal technology revolution and the Internet of Things (IoT) is beginning to cause another.

IoT was once thought to be a consumer phenomenon, but organizations are realizing its huge potential in creating smarter, more efficient workplaces. Intelligent spaces are enabled by acting on layers of digital context acquired from sensors, apps, mobile devices, and existing IT systems.

Intelligent spaces

By pulling together these digital workplace foundations with location services, the rich contexts available from IoT workflow, you can build intelligent spaces. Spaces, which respond to the people and things around and within them. Spaces, which are as dynamic and vibrant as the workforce you want to create and nurture. Spaces, which give insight to those who manage and operate them.

Whether it is way-finding across a large campus, finding a colleague across floors, scheduling a meeting space from your mobile, or establishing meeting technology automatically as one enters a room—location services are pivotal to connecting physical spaces with digital outcomes.
Five steps to delivering intelligent spaces in the workplace

A new generation of collaborative working, a surge in personal and IoT devices, the increased speed of doing business, and the pressures of a #GenMobile workforce are leading to a big question—are your workplace services ready?

Hewlett Packard Enterprise takes a mobile first approach to create the foundations of intelligent spaces in the workplace. We also work with partners like Microsoft; Aruba, a Hewlett Packard Enterprise Company; and others to meet many of the challenges that IT and facilities have. With more than 25 years’ experience in workplace transformation, expertise of thousands of service professionals, and some of the broadest and deepest partnerships in the industry, Hewlett Packard Enterprise recommends the following 5-step approach for enabling a best-in-class experience.

1. **Connect & Protect—Build a trusted wireless environment**

   To be productive, employees need to be connected. To be mobile, staff need to be wireless. It is not, however, simply coverage that an organization needs to be concerned about when deploying enterprise grade Wi-Fi. Capacity and performance are arguably even more critical. By choosing the right wireless infrastructure such as Aruba Mobile First, it is possible to deliver a Wi-Fi experience that is as good as or better than a wired connection. Aruba's gigabit 802.11ac wave 2 portfolio with ClearPass for smart policy management and security and AirWave for advanced visibility and management, delivers an industry-leading wireless solution, which is secure, performant, and optimized for the needs of the digital workplace.

   Users that trust their connectivity for any of the tasks they need to engage in means they can be truly freed from the desk to work in any way they want. This is the foundation of the activity-based work principle and cannot be delivered with legacy network approaches.
Add location context with indoor location services

In the consumer realm, location services have transformed the way we use our mobile devices. By knowing where you are and who you are, services can be personalized in a way simply not possible just a few years ago. This has enabled new, disruptive business models, which have affected nearly every industry and been hugely beneficial for the consumer. Now, the same disruptive influence can also be beneficial for your employees and facilities managers.

Unlike GPS, Aruba Meridian location services use Bluetooth® low energy (BLE) beacons, which provide location data within buildings—where GPS does not reach and you need it most. These beacons are almost invisibly placed throughout your campus to enable blue dot services such as way-finding, find my friend, or proximity services, which can be triggered by the presence of an individual in particular places.

Used together with Wi-Fi location analytics, a detailed picture can be generated of room occupancy, choke points, and people flow. Such data is invaluable when making decisions on how to configure or reconfigure the physical workplace environment as business needs change.

Roll out Microsoft cloud productivity suite

In the digital workplace, productivity takes many forms; documenting an idea as it strikes, bringing a team together to work on finding a solution, creating artifacts, or building intellectual property. The tools that allow such creativity to be captured, iterated, and shared must be mobile and cloud native.

The Microsoft ecosystem including Windows 10, Office 365, and Skype for Business gives users the rich experience they crave across desktop and mobile while giving IT and the business control over where data is stored and how it is manipulated. Updates to the experience are now delivered seamlessly and automatically meaning your employees have the very best tools readily available, across any device, at any time. Many organizations have existing investments in legacy Microsoft ecosystem components, which can be leveraged in the transformed world.

Hewlett Packard Enterprise can assist in the deployment and migration to full cloud, on-premises or hybrid implementations of the Microsoft stack. We also specialize in integrating and optimizing this core ecosystem with other key parts of your digital workplace experience forming a foundation for intelligent spaces.
Invest in workplace experience tools

Deploying the latest in productivity solutions is fast becoming table stakes. Employees have a default expectation that they have access to the best tools to do their core work. In order for organizations to differentiate and show the same commitment to innovation that they want to foster from their people, companies must go further.

The workplace experience begins the moment one picks up a mobile device to check their messages for the first time. It continues through the journey to the office and onward to the space they chose to occupy as they start their day. Organizations should identify common friction points and seek to find innovative solutions. It is critical, however, that such solutions are not deployed as another island of functionality but used as sources for, and consumers of, the digital contexts that further shape the delivery of personalized services throughout the workplace.

A common friction point in modern workplaces, which are becoming ever more dynamic, is finding available spaces in which to work, be it meeting rooms, huddle spaces, or desks. This requires knowledge of schedules, real-time occupancy, and location. Another is including guests, visitors, or contractors in the digital workflow of your organization. Such participation requires a digital identity and secure connectivity with appropriate systems.

From an IT and facilities perspective, there are other questions that must be answered. Can users easily adopt the technology across the organization? Can it help to integrate disparate information and operational systems easily? Moreover, can it provide insights and visibility relevant to organization metrics?

Pull it together with digital workflow and expert integration

Intelligent spaces are created by using an integration platform to layer location data with other contexts such as identity and calendar, and combine this with mobile first productivity services, so IT can provide targeted, automated solutions to individuals and teams. Imagine an intelligent conference room that knows who is inside, who else should join the meeting, and setting up the technology to suit—automatically. Intelligent spaces for meetings achieve precisely that. HPE Intelligent Spaces—Workplace brings that seamless experience across an entire enterprise office.

IT and facilities can also gain insight from intelligent spaces, which can automatically report on the occupancy rates of meeting rooms or desks with a high degree of accuracy. Detailed insight can be gained such as whether a room designed for 15 people is only routinely used by a maximum of six or desks in a particular area are underutilized compared to others on the same floor.
Summary

Hewlett Packard Enterprise has a long history of delivering workplace transformations across industries around the globe. Our reputation for delivering innovative solutions, 30+ years’ partnership with Microsoft, and the connectivity expertise from Aruba, a Hewlett Packard Enterprise company puts us in a prime position to lead the transformation of your workplace environment.

Creating the mobile first, digital workplace is essential to building and retaining the vibrant workforce that will make your business succeed. Contact your HPE sales representative to understand how to get started.

Learn more at hpe.com/enable