

The rise of collaboration technology: What it is, why teams need it, and keeping it secure



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The definition of "working together" has never been more varied – which is great news for businesses that want to make flexibility the cornerstone of their employee experience.

For instance, in some cases, co-workers might be gathered in a conference room to brainstorm ideas. On other occasions, the team may be decentralized but connect virtually to solve a problem. Hybrid scenarios that involve a mixture of in-person and remote working are also increasingly the norm.

Fortunately, collaboration technology is available to support employees regardless of how they work together. The priority now is for IT leaders to choose the right tools while ensuring they also have the necessary computing resources to operate and secure them.

Real-time vs. anytime collaborative technology

Collaboration technology strengthens team relationships, boosts performance, and increases employee retention. The rise of remote work culture will only make these tools more important to achieving business outcomes. Many companies have already shifted to a hybrid work model. This means it will be all the more important for companies to recognize the different modes of collaboration on the rise alongside this shift.

There will be many situations that require synchronous communication – for instance, when team members are working in "real time" together on a project or task. Depending on schedules, workloads, and business processes, remote work collaboration might also be asynchronous, where work gets done at different times. This means one person might begin a project or performs the first task in a process, and others carry it through.

While there is often value in working together simultaneously, asynchronous work can allow employees more time to perfect their ideas and responses. You need to equip teams with collaboration technology that offers both.

3 collaboration technology essentials

The suite of applications and platforms you'll want to consider deploying or upgrading may depend on the unique nature of your business and its people. These tend to be among the most common categories:

1. Project management systems

Asynchronous project management solutions have evolved to help those from almost any business background plan an initiative, assign tasks to team members, track progress, and report on key performance indicators. Companies such as Monday.com, Trello, and Wrike are all focused in this area.

Although much of the processing done by project management software can happen in the cloud, employees may still be uploading large files, images, and videos to share with the team.

2. Videoconferencing systems

Sometimes, collaboration requires live conversations to work out key details or answer questions. Conference calls via telephone are limited to voice and don't always allow team members to convey how they're feeling or share important visuals.

Videoconferencing via Zoom, Microsoft Teams, and WebEx have all become popular options.

Of course, we've all had situations where a video call went awry – usually because one or more coworkers' systems couldn't seem to keep up with computing demands. Opt for devices with processors optimized for Wi-Fi 6 and 6E connectivity. The underlying hardware is vital to reducing latency and increasing connection efficiency when you're communicating synchronously via video.

3. Messaging apps and productivity tools

Collaboration could also be defined as an ongoing dialogue among co-workers. This isn't limited to talking out loud. There are a growing number of apps and tools that make it easy to provide status updates, sync calendars or timelines, and share resources to help move work along.

Although some of these apps started off with consumers in mind, such as WhatsApp and Facebook Messenger, businesses can often successfully adopt these, too. There are also apps purposely designed for chatting among business teams, such as Slack, and digital whiteboards that allow ideation and instruction to happen from anywhere.



3 COLLABORATION TECHNOLOGY ESSENTIALS

- Project management systems
- Videoconferencing systems
- Messaging apps and productivity tools

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Successful collaboration is about keeping data safe

As IT departments offer more collaboration technology to their workforce, they need to balance accessibility and ease of use with strong data protection. Security is one of the top concerns associated with hybrid work. As a result, making remote work collaboration more streamlined can't come at the expense of a possible breach.

The best peace of mind will come by coupling collaborative tools with secure technology – such as [AMD Ryzen™ PRO processors](#), which take a [multilayered approach to security](#) features with an architecture that mitigates threats at the hardware, software, and operating system level.

**Success in business has always been a team sport.
Giving people what they need to collaborate is how you win.**