Work Smarter to Live Better

Understanding the new expectations of the UK workforce when it comes to hybrid working

Out of necessity, UK organisations have accelerated their modernisation journeys to support remote operations

- 87% of businesses have adopted hybrid working
- 30% are unsure of how to manage their workforce when working hybrid
- Yet only 25% of organisations have introduced additional resources to support employees’ physical and mental wellbeing

Equipping the UK workforce for hybrid

- 30% have recently updated or adapted their working systems from home policy
- 63% report they feel pressure to work harder when working from home
- 41% of employees have chosen not to go into the office since the first lockdown

Ensuring we all Work Smarter to Live Better

Microsoft surveyed over 4,000 UK office workers via a YouGov survey. Total sample size was 4282 employees surveyed that work in an office, of which there were 2683 that work in an office and work from home. Unless otherwise stated, the findings in the report relate to the 2863 sample that work in an office and work from home. Fieldwork was undertaken between 27th October - 5th November 2020. The survey was carried out online. Findings verified with a sample of 200 people randomly selected from the original survey to check for consistency.

Working at home has made us happier

- 44% of employees agree that the change has allowed them to better balance their home and interests
- 36% said it was harder to make an impact when working from home
- 55% say they feel less likely to focus on their personal life

But, we’re also under more pressure:

- 48% of employees agreed that they need new communication tools to demonstrate their value
- 31% feel they have to be available at all times.
- 52% agreed that they are working longer hours and taking fewer breaks
- 42% agreed that having to communicate and work from home means they work longer hours

Almost One Third

- 38% feel this way compared to 14% of those aged 55 and over
- 44% feel this way compared to 34% of those aged 55 and over
- 57% feel this way compared to 38% of those aged 55 and over
- 60% feel this way compared to 49% of those aged 55 and over

We must avoid the emergence of a two-tier workforce

- 33% of employees who work in an office and work from home feel that their organisation’s security measures mean they feel that their devices are not well-protected when they work from home
- 49% agree that their organisation has upgraded or introduced new communication tools

How to prepare for the future of work:

1. Business must adopt a new mindset – the future is hybrid
2. This requires balance and organisations must foster a culture where people and performance can both thrive
3. Technology is expected to reinforce healthy digital habits

Ensuring we all Work Smarter to Live Better

- Address critical questions about resilience and workplace culture
- Help employees mindfully disconnect at the end of the work day
- Foster a culture where people and performance can both thrive
- Help employees remain flexible with devices that can seamlessly integrate from the desktop one minute, to being just as productive when on the go the next

Accelerate your hybrid work journey today with Microsoft Surface and discover the right hardware for your workers