Adding Video to your Teleworking Practice for Increased Collaboration
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Why has teleworking become so attractive to millions of people? Individuals want to telework for a variety of reasons. Some want to stay in their home town and continue working for the same company after the local office has closed; others work on a temporary basis for different companies, which makes relocating to be near any one office impractical and unnecessary; while even more seek to strike the right balance between work and their personal lives.

Changing organisations

Organisations are trying to reduce costs in tough economic times, and that includes real estate costs. As a result of globalisation, enterprises are also becoming more distributed, and the actual locations of their employees are not as important as they once were. Even government departments in Australia, South Korea, and Singapore mandate a certain number of employees to work remotely as part of their recovery planning. But when does teleworking really work? How can a teleworker be equally or even more productive than an employee in the office?

Recent advances in technology have brought in a whole new way of working, freeing employees from the boundaries of a traditional office and enabling collaboration through multiple devices. However, technology should not merely be the replacement for an employee's physical presence. Instead, technology should be the enabler of meeting experiences across any distance that means it is just as productive as being together in person.

Video is vastly superior for defying distance and creating high-performance teams. It provides the context of communication that is missing in a voice call: participants are more engaged, can better understand team members' reactions, and can also play a more prominent and active role in meetings. Teleworking with a telephone perhaps works well for one-on-one conversations, if you are already familiar with the person on the other side, but does not allow for closer relationship-building or sharing of ideas as effectively as face-to-face communication. In fact, 87% of respondents in a survey conducted by Polycom and Wainhouse Research, who use video to work remotely either strongly agree or agree that the use of video conferencing allows them to work from home without feeling disconnected. Another critical benefit for deploying video in the teleworking environment is the inherent ability to share desktops and other various sources of content—from static slides and spreadsheets to animation and video clips in High Definition quality.

1. Polycom and Wainhouse Research (2013), Global Survey: The Real Benefits of Video
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Video solutions for teleworking

In your home office or while on-the-go, you need all the same tools you rely on in your work office. And, you need those tools to work. Especially video conferencing, which is how you stay visually connected with your team, clients, partners, students, or patients. Polycom video collaboration solutions defy distance in several ways from a number of locations across several devices:

**PCs**

Imagine being able to meet face-to-face with remote colleagues, partners, and customers, without leaving your desk. Polycom® RealPresence® Desktop software frees business professionals from the traditional boundaries of the conference room, allowing them to enjoy HD video collaboration from their personal computers.

**Telephones**

Polycom® VVX® solutions unify voice, video and applications capabilities into a simple-to-use business media phone. With their intuitive user interfaces, they are designed to improve productivity and business workflows. Polycom VVX devices are the ideal, all-in-one desktop productivity tools making high-performance collaboration as simple as a phone call.

**On-the-go**

Mobility adds flexibility to your telework set-up by allowing a larger group of employees to work from home or elsewhere on an ad hoc basis. Employees with critical expertise can be reached easily wherever they are located and whenever needed. Working from home, even on occasion, leads to more satisfied and productive employees. Mobile video collaboration solutions combined with Bring Your Own Device (BYOD) policies also create IT utilisation and business cost benefits.

Customer highlight

**Ministry of Public Administration and Security, South Korea**

By deploying video collaboration solutions into key SmartWork centres, the Ministry of Public Administration and Security (MOPAS) in South Korea is replacing face-to-face meetings with virtual meetings in which, government officers can meet and collaborate—from anywhere—in highly secure, true-to-life HD quality just as if they were sitting across the table from each other. MOPAS expects that if each remote worker utilises their local SmartWork centre as opposed to travelling to the central government facilities in Seoul for between 1–2 days per week, it will be able to reduce emission trading and transportation costs by approximately USD $310 per one remote worker per year, and reduce commuter time by up to 90 minutes per day. Further, it plans to provide additional benefits to workers worth approximately USD $2,090 per year per person by investing time earned through remote working into learning and career development opportunities.

“The SmartWork centres had to be easily accessible by all government officers, and the technology easy-to-use, thereby enhancing user efficiency and productivity. With Polycom, we have achieved these mandates and are benefitting from more streamlined processes and transforming to a culture of collaboration that supports flexible working.”

For further information, please visit: [www.polycom.asia](http://www.polycom.asia)

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Top 7 Benefits of Video-Enabled Teleworking

1. Work-life balance
A fulfilling career and spending time with family has always been an on-going balancing act for much of the workforce. The ability to work from anywhere is now becoming a reality with the advances in collaborative technology and video conferencing. Teleworking allows individuals to work from locations that ensure that they are able to manage work demands and their personal lives.

2. Improving work quality and productivity
Teleworking in an environment that has been modified to your preference and not having that noisy office neighbour sitting next to you can drastically improve the ability to concentrate, leading to improved work quality. Video solutions enable remote workers to visually collaborate with colleagues when necessary, but once complete you are able work from an environment with minimal noise pollution.

3. Saving hours of commuting
Why turn on the engine and get into the car to face a long and stressful journey when you can turn on your desktop or mobile device and commute from your study to your team meeting? Eliminating hours off the daily commute in and out of the office provides workers with more time to spend on projects and reduces the stress of travel itself. Teleworking gives employees the ability to modify their common 9 am–5 pm work day in a way that better reflects their personal commitments, increasing job satisfaction and productivity.

4. Reductions in operational costs
Teleworking allows companies to operate optimally whilst ensuring that a drastic reduction in demand and associated costs for office space, technology costs and other related operational costs is possible. This significant reduction in costs would have an immediate impact on the company’s bottom line whilst also increasing morale within the office as staff have the ability to work from a location of their choice when they need to.

5. Retention of staff
Teleworking increases staff retention and helps to attract new talent. For employees, the freedom of controlling their working environment reduces the desire to seek employment elsewhere. Utilising the benefits of teleworking would give your company a competitive advantage in securing top talent from around the world and ensuring that you remain the benchmark for the industry.

6. Organisations and employees save money
With the price of fuel, parking and public transport constantly increasing year upon year, the daily commute to the office can become a very expensive exercise. By teleworking 1–2 days a week, the ability to save in other areas including day-care for children, the cost of buying lunch every day and the resulting wear and tear on a car from daily use can result in huge weekly savings for staff.

7. Helping the planet
By offering teleworking, your company could have a significant impact on your immediate environment as emissions created by a daily commute are eliminated. With the adoption of teleworking by the majority of companies, having staff telework 1–2 days a week would see a significant reduction in the total emissions created by the daily commute to the office.

About Polycom
Polycom is the global leader in open standards-based unified communications and collaboration (UC&C) solutions for voice and video collaboration, trusted by more than 415,000 customers around the world. Polycom solutions are powered by the Polycom® RealPresence® Platform, comprehensive software infrastructure and rich APIs that interoperate with the broadest set of communication, business, mobile and cloud applications and devices to deliver secure face-to-face video collaboration in any environment.