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Remote Work:
Navigating The New Normal

2020 and 2021 have been years unprecedented in our lifetimes. Lockdowns, quarantines, self-imposed isolation, restructuring business online platforms, and remote workers – COVID-19 has had enterprises participate in the biggest remote work experiment in human history.

Now, more than a year into the pandemic, we are in a relatively better position to gauge the impact of remote working on how we communicate, connect, and create.

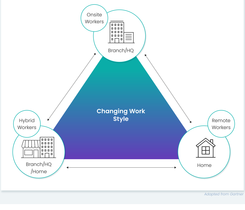
Firstly, let's get the obvious out of the way. The hybrid workplace, with human-centric work design, is the future.

50% By 2025, **50% of knowledge workers** will be remote.

80% Of these, **80% will be hybrid,** splitting their time between home and office.

20% **and 20% will be totally remote.**

Gartner's Prediction — Source: Gartner

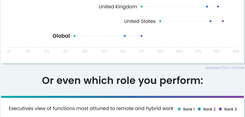


Adapted From Gartner

Enterprises need to embrace every hybrid work style:

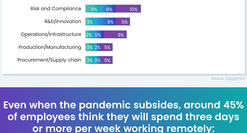
Adapted From Gartner

There is no running away from this trend irrespective of which country or continent you call home:



Adapted From Gartner

Or even which role you perform:



Source: Gaggenes

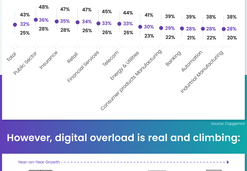
Even when the pandemic subsides, around 45% of employees think they will spend three days or more per week working remotely:

Source: Gaggenes

Most of the organizations observed an increase in their productivity levels:

Source: Gaggenes

From an enterprise perspective, 88% agree that they have realized real-estate cost savings with remote working in the last three to four months, and 50% expect savings in the next two to three years. One positive outcome of this is potential reallocation of investment shifting from facilities to better equipping the hybrid worker with an 'enterprise-class' experience.



Source: Gaggenes

However, digital overload is real and climbing:

Year-on-Year Growth

148% Weekly **Meeting** time doubled for Teams users and still rising

40.6B Increase in numbers of **Emails** - Feb 2021 vs Feb 2020

45% Weekly Teams **Chats** per person and still rising

66% People working on Office **Docs**

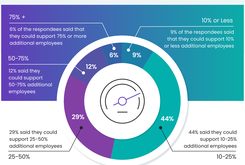
Source: Microsoft 2021 Work Trend Index Annual Report

Which poses serious challenges for enterprise remote workers. Enterprises were quick to report the barriers to effective collaboration as:

Set up and management of underlying network infrastructure	42%
Lag/Delay in communication	42%
Poor voice or video quality	40%
Frequently dropped calls	38%
Everything is perfect!	13%

Source: Frost & Sullivan survey

The existing WAN infrastructure in general is plagued with multiple challenges. The top ones being:



Source: Aryaka State of the WAN 2021

Aryaka was quick to the rescue, with most organizations confirming that it immediately helped them support the surge in the numbers of remote users and bandwidth requirements immediately:

Source: Aryaka Customer survey

The top benefits our users cited were:

Which benefits of Aryaka's managed SD-WAN solution did your organization leverage in response to the challenges of the global pandemic?

Source: Aryaka Technologies survey

If you're still not started planning for the future of branch office connectivity, you might want to start now.

Modern-day CIOs want to leverage this flexibility as a catalyst to reinvent the future of work and make things better than they were, rather than use it as a band-aid to keep the lights on.

Investing in remote working capabilities also gives enterprises a safety-blanket to weather whatever life throws your way. But the 'unknowns' make rethinking the future of work critical.

Microsoft - https://www.microsoft.com/en-us/product-research/work-trends#ow
Microsoft - https://www.microsoft.com/en-us/news/press/work-trend-index/full.aspx
Gartner - Gartner Says Nearly Half of Workers Will Work Remotely Post-Coronavirus Pandemic and Remain Productive, Future of Work
Gartner - Forecast Analysis: Worldwide Remote Worker Population, Worldwide, 2020-2024 G00466888
Aryaka - STR Global Survey, March 2021 https://www.aryaka.com/state-of-wan-2021

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