

Thinking about continuing remote or hybrid work for your business?



Answer these 5 questions first

Getting ready for the new normal



Work from home is here to stay with a recent Harvard Business School survey finding that when the pandemic is over, one in six workers is projected to continue working from home or co-working at least two days a week.¹ And while the current circumstances have impacted mental health and work-life balance, remote work has proven to have long-term benefits for companies and employees.



For employees:
Remote work increases job satisfaction and lowers stress



For businesses:
Remote work improves productivity and employee retention²

If your business has always been office-based and you're thinking of supporting flexible work options, here are answers to a few questions you might have.

1 How hard is this going to be?

Just operating a business is hard, and if you don't have a large (or any) IT team, you may be worried that keeping employees connected and engaged will be a challenge. No matter what solutions you select, you need tools that:

- Work together well
- Are easy to use and simple to maintain
- Don't get in the way of employee productivity
- Are backed by business-grade technical support



2 How do we enhance communication?

The ability to communicate is vital for any business, even more so when working remotely. You need tools that:

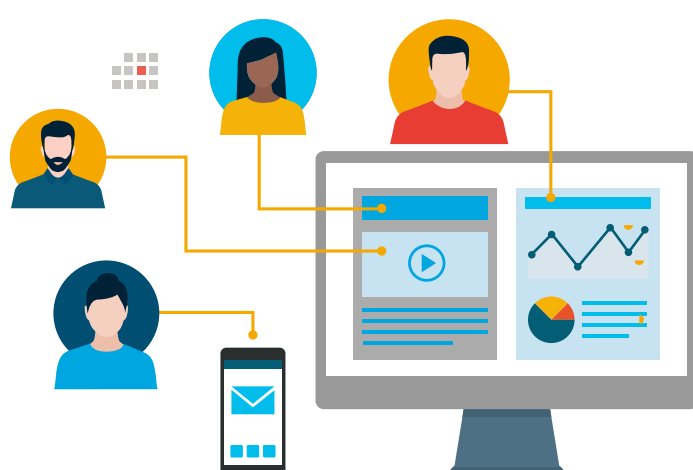


- Give your workers a variety of ways to communicate with voice, video, web or messaging — all in one place
- Come with built-in security with encryption to protect the privacy of both users and data
- Offer high-quality video and easy screen sharing
- Come with a dedicated, high-speed connection to support seamless collaboration even when using bandwidth-intensive applications

3 How can we manage projects more effectively?

The right collaboration tools are key to employee productivity. Look for a collaborative virtual workspace that allows workers to easily:

- Exchange messages and files across devices
- Search the space to find conversations and documents
- Privately message one person or create a group chat in seconds
- Use a digital whiteboard to brainstorm
- Support high-bandwidth video meetings



4 How will we keep everything secure?

Your security needs to extend to remote workers and their devices. Look for a reliable network that:

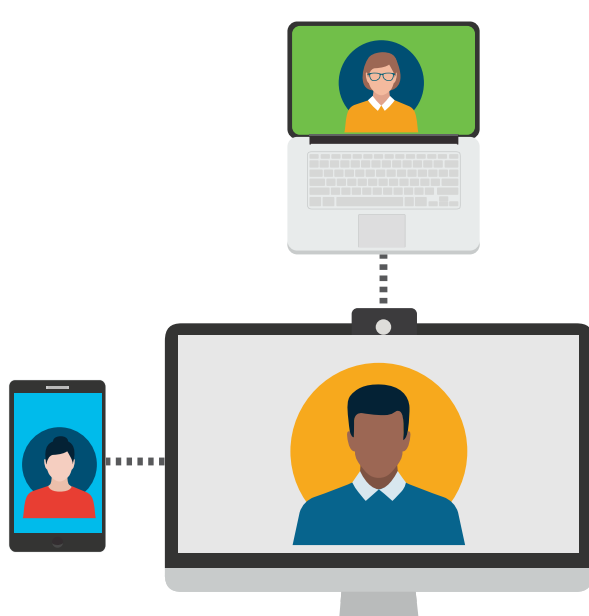


- Offers highly secure, private connectivity to keep corporate data and intellectual property safe
- Supports easy-to-use management and configuration
- Protects your sensitive data by verifying the identity of users, devices and applications
- Defends against threats with cloud-delivered security
- Can detect and block cyberattacks
- Is supported by proactive monitoring performed by a dedicated team of experts

5 How do I manage a remote team?

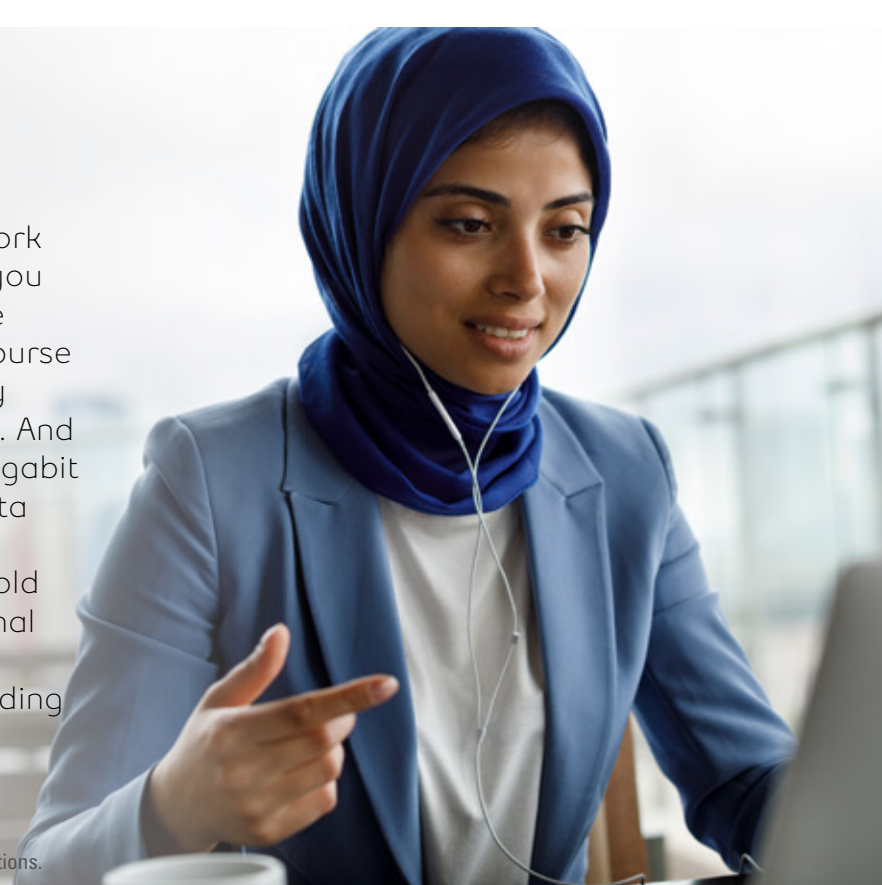
Managing remote employees is different, but it doesn't have to be difficult. Here are a few tips for managers to help remote workers feel connected to their colleagues:

- Provide employees with a fast and secure connection to critical business and collaboration applications.
- Schedule structured, regular one-on-one and team calls to ensure everyone feels heard.
- Establish rules of engagement: set expectations for the frequency, means and ideal timing of communication.
- Build trust with more casual "happy hours" or "water cooler calls."
- Have an agenda and assign action items in meetings.
- Conduct virtual training classes to help everyone stay up to speed.



Getting started

If you're looking to set your business and employees up for success with remote work solutions, Bell and Cisco can help. When you partner with Bell, you benefit from unique network and security expertise, and of course fast and reliable connectivity powered by Canada's largest voice and data network. And with Bell's extended fibre footprint and gigabit speeds, you can securely access your data and applications faster, from any remote location and on any device. As a Cisco Gold Certified partner since 1985, with a national specialism – our experts can optimize leading Cisco solutions for your business.



¹ The Atlantic, Aug 2020. The Workforce Is About to Change Dramatically

² FlexJobs, Feb 2020. Remote Work Statistics: Shifting Norms and Expectations.