

Safely reopen physical spaces

How to leverage technology to safely welcome back patients, customers, vendors and employees.



5 Steps for Planning a Return to the Office

1. Determine which employees will return to the office and identify their supporting requirements.
2. Select the right technology to enable hybrid-office collaboration and productivity.
3. Consider how employees will access the tools and applications they need to do their jobs.
4. Ensure employee safety.
5. Enable fast and seamless connectivity.

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The future of work is hybrid

Hybrid work, a mix of remote, part-time remote and office-based employees, is becoming a key component of reopening plans. To support this model, and safely welcome back employees, organizations must balance investments in optimizing and securing the remote work experience with the reentry requirements of their physical office space.

World Wide Technology can help you determine the right technology for both improving the digital employee experience and transforming physical office spaces for a safe reopening. We start by utilizing dynamic persona modeling to determine which employees should return to the office versus remaining remote and identifying top requirements for each group. Then we help you evaluate, test and implement the right hybrid-office solutions to meet your organization's needs.



WWT created this hybrid work spectrum to help organizations visualize their balance between a remote and onsite workforce. While determining an optimal reopening plan, this ratio shapes the requirements and priorities for safety preparedness, technology acquisition and budget allocation.



48%
of employees will continue working remotely at least some of the time after COVID-19.



1/5
Nearly one in five employees will work remotely all the time.



36%
of organizations are still imagining the corporate office as a place for work to get done.

Top technology priorities for the hybrid office

Get started designing your hybrid office by exploring these key technology solutions.

Mass entry screening

Using thermometers to manually check temperatures is time consuming and can create bottlenecks at entry points. WWT's human-based monitoring (hBM) Temperature Detection solution — which combines thermal cameras, artificial intelligence and cloud-based management — delivers a smarter application for detecting elevated body temperatures in real time.



Smart cameras for safe social distancing

Reopening with CDC guidelines means properly managing occupancy and monitoring person-to-person contact. Organizations can automate this process and achieve greater due diligence by using computer vision technology, Meraki smart cameras and overlaying a physical distance controls application to capture entries and exits into a location.



Real-time alerts with IoT sensors

WWT is helping organizations reopen with confidence by integrating IoT technology to monitor desk and meeting room usage, air quality and ventilation, cleaning frequency, and entry and exit points to ensure one-way foot traffic.

Contact-free conference rooms

Conference rooms, and other shared spaces, must be given extra attention to keep on-site staff healthy. Voice assistants, such as Cisco's Webex Assistant, allow employees to use voice prompts to join a meeting, call a specific individual, mute/unmute and end the meeting, minimizing contact with the tabletop touch panel.



Office hoteling

Modern offices are known for open-concept floorplans with unassigned seating. In the age of COVID-19, this setup presents challenges in limiting and/or preventing disease spread. Organizations must consider implementing "office hoteling," or requiring employees to reserve desks or workspaces for specific time slots.

Wayfinding

When employees return to the office, odds are it will look different. Many offices will be reconfigured to ensure social distancing and/or reduce overall footprint due to long-term remote work policies. Wayfinding solutions can help employees navigate the new layout and quickly locate nearby available conference rooms.

Modern management platforms

As employees rotate between office-based and remote work, they must be able to securely access any application, from any device, in any location. Modern management platforms, like VMware's Workspace ONE and Microsoft's Modern Workplace, empower employees' productivity and provide a holistic view for managing endpoints.

Collaboration and productivity tools

No matter where employees are located, the right collaboration and productivity tools allow them to stay connected with each other and customers. Organizations must aim to standardize tools they consider commodities and differentiate when products add strategic business value, spur innovation or are most useful within a specific department. For example, organizations can designate Webex as the standard tool for meetings and calls and Microsoft Teams for persistent chat.

Digital signage

Digital signage can help ease employees' fears and support organizations' safety efforts. Offices can leverage solutions, such as Webex boards and Appspace signage, to display occupancy limits in any given room, clear instructions on how to exit the room and social distancing reminders.

Reopen with complete confidence

Each physical space faces a unique set of challenges and considerations to safely reopen. During a one-hour briefing, our experts can advise your organization on best practices for navigating reopening obstacles and guidelines, and help you get started designing your hybrid office.

[Request briefing →](#)