

# High Performance Collaboration using 'Bring-Your-Own-Device' Technology

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## The Situation

It's not that long ago when running business software meant using a computer or laptop supplied by the organisation you were working for, and it would **only** have their approved software installed. Today, what was then considered business-only software comes pre-loaded on most personal devices, or is available for a modest charge. Many of us use software for document creation, image editing, etc. that was once very much considered as business-only applications for trained specialists.

The hardware (laptops/mobile phones/tablets) issued by organisations conform to central policies around security, IT procurement, etc. and you use what you are given. When it comes to a personal device, mobile phone plans make smartphones highly affordable and we are free to choose the usability or status symbols that are in tune with our individual personalities and requirements. It just happens that almost all these devices are capable of running business applications, and very often our personal equipment is more powerful, more state-of-the-art than the company equipment issued to us.

There is now a blurring of the lines between using business and personal equipment for business and personal uses. Except in very specialist and secure environments, the days of corporate network access available to only corporate devices are almost over. The "well that's not going on my network" dictates from IT managers are now being replaced by board-level instructions to make personal products such as iPads and other tablets fully functional at the workplace, at home, and in transit between the two.

As we enter 2015, 'Bring-Your-Own-Device' (BYOD) has become an everyday occurrence in many workplaces, and the trend shows no signs of slowing down. In fact, research over the last few years has clearly shown that this flexibility of technology usage is beneficial for both the employees and the employers, and the same benefits apply to organisations who allow employees to use their company issued equipment for private use, as for BYOD.

## The Challenge for High Performance Collaboration

### Where to start?

Without even realising it, are you restrained by the technology, furniture and connectivity that you already have, and is finding ways to utilise these existing assets holding you back from getting the maximum outcomes that high performance collaborative engagements should achieve? Perhaps you already have some of the necessary parts of the solution in place, but the unsuitability of just one component to the total requirement, or the wrong management and culture, is holding you back?

### Share or Participate?

We are all used to environments where somebody uses wired or wireless technology to display the content of their device (traditionally a laptop, but increasingly tablets and smartphones) to everyone else in the room. To view a different source means 'disconnecting' the current one, which could be very useful to see alongside the new visual information, especially if the original information was the catalyst for material now on display.

What if you could see both pieces of information together in the same visual panorama? How would being able to compare and contrast information whilst visually in context increase both the collaboration and positively impact on the quality of the decisions and outcomes being reached?

### Full Participation

What if one participant was able to show their information and other participants were able to edit it in real-time from their own devices? How would this functionality increase engagement and participation by those present and help your organisation to achieve better outcomes more quickly?

Wireless connectivity of BYOD or company-issued technology is now making this a reality for many organisations, especially as the cost in equipment and low training requirements to make this happen are relatively modest. It's really not complicated, and meeting participants are energised by the positive contribution it makes to fully participative collaboration. And remember when you had to wait for meeting notes and actions to be circulated? Research shows that the longer the wait, the more the enthusiasm to advance the project reduces. Well what if all those present could stream a copy of the notes, actions, and any other presentations whilst at the meeting, and all without clogging up email servers with multiple copies of large attachments.

## Security Considerations

BYOD rely on a wireless infrastructure for effective connectivity that supports truly mobile users. This could be the existing corporate network, or a self-generated network that some devices use. There are pros and cons for both, but all manufacturers serious about creating these collaborative enablers have security high on their agendas.

In addition to the infrastructure connectivity, most devices generate a random 4-digit pin code at the start of each session, so only those people physically in the room can connect to share and see information. Naturally, any remote colleagues invited to participate and with access to the network can be given the 4-digit code.

You don't want to allow visitors from outside the company to access your corporate network just to enable connectivity to share information – and again there are a number of alternative ways for combining contributions from internal and external participants so that the ultimate goal of full participation and therefore high performance collaboration can take place.

The starting point should not be what can we do with this technology, but what technology do we need in order to become a high performance collaboration company?

## The Benefits of BOYD Collaboration

**Visual panorama of information in context**

**Improved productivity and outcomes**

**Highly motivated and more satisfied employees**

**Supports all platforms: Windows, Mac, iOS, Android**

**Provides a competitive advantage to those organisations that embrace BYOD**

**Achieves High Performance Collaboration\***

**\*High Performance Collaboration** requires a mix of technology, people, culture and leadership in order to be successful. The great news is that corporate technology solutions are following the mantra of smartphone apps and being designed for users and not for the engineers!

## Next Steps

Don't start with technology – choose technology that works for you instead of technology that holds back business improvement by limiting your ability to achieve through High Performance Collaboration.

To make these informed choices you need to analyse how technology is impacting on the ways you collaborate today. Remember, the correct technology installed into a space with the wrong furniture and layout will be less effective than it should be, and many of today's spaces are social rather than formal and designed to purposely create ad-hoc engagements where collaboration should thrive.

Whilst recognising the management style and culture of your organisation, consider what you could change to make collaboration more effective; the spaces that these meetings take place in, and the participants who attend, etc. and now consider what technology could enable you to advance the collaborative capabilities that will produce a return on the investment required to make them happen.

## High Performance Collaboration

In order to reap the benefits that high performance collaboration delivers, you need to have the correct mix of inputs. Some of these – Leadership and Culture - are outside of our immediate control, although better collaboration can ultimately create a positive influence on both leadership and culture. Technology, Space Design, and Furniture – especially furniture that integrates technology – are all areas where we can help your organisation achieve High Performance Collaboration.

See more at [www.droitwichnet.co.uk/hpc\\_inputs.htm](http://www.droitwichnet.co.uk/hpc_inputs.htm)

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