

A number of megatrends are changing the face of collaborative work, and chief among them is hyperconnectivity. Inevitably, this is the result of an increasingly accelerated evolution in communication.

The term 'hyperconnectivity' does not only refer to the myriad means of communications and interactions, but also the impact it has on both personal and organisational behaviours. Hyperconnectivity pushes aside the issue of unreachable distance, and therefore allows us to be much closer to those who are geographically farther apart. Also, hyperconnectivity provides us a new medium to disseminate information and elicit collaborative communication among people, institutions, experts, professionals, and service providers and their users.

A hyper-connected world is emerging. In view of these wholesale changes, people and things will be linked together seamlessly via information sharing. Better connectivity means more collaborations and this will blur lines and ultimately, change the way businesses and our societies create value. Today, public and private sectors use technology to connect people and communities. By taking advantage of today's sophisticated collaborative tools, businesses and organisations can offer physical and remote group work a great deal of support, therefore improving productivity.

Reference

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HOW HYPERCONNECTIVITY IS CHANGING COLLABORATION

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KEY ATTRIBUTES OF HYPERCONNECTIVITY

Always-on connection

Readily accessible

Rich in information

Interactive & diverse

Beyond people

Includes people-to-machine and machine-to-machine communications

Always recording

Performance and stability

TYPES OF COLLABORATIONS

Team Collaboration



This is one of the most common types of business collaborations in the workplace. Every team member knows their role and how it impacts other team members. Team collaborations are pegged to deadlines and tasks are carried out within a specified timescale.

Network Collaboration



Network collaborations start with individuals taking action in the scheme of their own interests. Following this, these individuals start contributing to the network to make themselves and their areas of expertise known to other members. Typically, they rely on referrals to find out who they should be collaborating with among network members.

Community Collaboration



In community collaborations, oftentimes, the goal is to share knowledge and learn. By sharing concerns, asking questions and seeking advice, eventually, all community members benefit from their associations with one another.

Strategic Alliance Collaboration



The most basic and longstanding type of collaboration for innovation is the strategic alliance. Strategic alliances are agreements between two (dyads) or more (triads, for example) independent firms, which temporarily combine resources and efforts to reach their strategic goals.

TECHNOLOGY, TOOLS AND PLATFORMS

Cloud technology allows more than one user to access, read, and edit documents in real-time. When documents are stored on cloud, users get to access and view changes as they are being made.

Collaborative screenshots and screen recording videos. By using a wide range of software that take pictures and record on-screen videos, working teams can now turn these screengrabs into condensed links. This allows colleagues and peers to collaborate as effectively as working in the same room.

Video conferencing is a technology that allows users across many different locations to hold face-to-face meetings. Team members interact in real-time, and address questions together by sharing their screens.

Social media provides a tenacious collaborative network where its members collaborate virtually with minimum fuss or the need to gain familiarity among agile working groups.

Crowdsourcing involves sharing or outsourcing project tasks to a community of collaborators in place of traditional methods such as subcontracting.

IoT (internet of things) enables daily tasks to be done remotely. In the not too distant future, the level of hyperconnectivity that IoT will provide will almost certainly change both our personal and working environments.

HOW IT IMPROVES COLLABORATION

Cloud collaborations can be used in organisations where teams are expected to collaborate remotely or in a case where a company has one or more satellite offices. Cloud is an especially effective means to share large files. A cloud-based collaboration overcomes traditional ICT limitations and speeds things up when it comes to transferring large files.

These communication software take screen sharing to the next level—combining videos, audios and message-based collaborations that allow users to capture, comment and share what they see on their screen. This collaborative feature makes both real-time and asynchronous troubleshooting easier.

There are many ways one can make the most out of video conferencing, such as company meetings, training sessions, or to an extent, address board members. Video conferencing can be used to connect with others from various postcodes or locations and it provides an alternative solution to doctor-patient communication. Also, it increases trust between customers and sellers among others.

We collaborate with others almost everyday without realising it. The act of retweeting a tweet we like, subconsciously, we are conveying that we feel the same way. Or think about the last time we asked a friend for a second opinion. All these are choices that are readily available to us on social media as it allows us to collaborate with the people around us at our fingertips.

Crowdsourcing offers many tangible benefits.

It also opens up access to a wider network of resources, talents, skills and niche goods. Regardless of location, crowdsourcing promotes speed and transparency in order to find optimal solutions for projects of any size.

In the industrial sector, systems and devices are used to increase productivity and incorporate improvement for new tools. Hyperconnectivity in Industry 4.0 allows a higher level of connectivity and sophistication of processes, both carried out inside and outside. This way, production will be able to interact not just inside a factory, but at every step of the value chain: customers, suppliers, etc. Hyperconnectivity smoothens communication, increases trust and allows businesses to know their customers, suppliers and vendors better.