

COLUMBUS BUSINESS FIRST

topic:

What does it take to collaborate?

advice:

Collaboration. It's become a somewhat overused word, but when done right it can be wildly successful. We work together every day, yet it can be hard to make collaboration happen. The most important consideration is to make sure it works within your culture. In evaluating your options, here are a few things to keep in mind:

- **Keep it simple:** On average, collaborative events are short (34% last under 15 minutes and 60% are done in under 30 minutes). People seek out the simplest, most convenient solutions. If their office has everything they need, they'll use it. If they need technology or a larger space, they'll find it.
- **Make technology available:** Rooms with technology are used five times more often than rooms without. People are increasingly using flat screens and hand held tablets as a tools.
- **Offer a variety of workspaces:** Provide multiple types of spaces for people to choose from, depending on their needs. While open spaces improve communication, they aren't always ideal for every kind of work activity.

Although collaboration can happen anywhere, it's not always easy to make happen. We must think about the space available and what is allowed and even rewarded within it. In the end it comes down to physical spaces blending with corporate culture.



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