



IT Director Briefing: What to Know about Creating Connected Workplaces

Much has been written about the need to transform to a digital workplace. An increasingly mobile and geographically dispersed workforce—with a strong preference for consumer-friendly tools—creates new demand for easy, effective collaboration with remote colleagues or employees. For most IT directors, digital workplace initiatives are on the radar if not the roadmap.

Digital workplace transformation is broad in scope and ambitious in its objectives. Though details vary, most digital workplace initiatives seek to increase employee engagement, support the changing nature of work, and align workplace technology with business objectives. This article will address a specific aspect of workplace transformation: creating connected workplaces. *A connected workplace is a collaborative environment that enables fast communication, information-sharing in real-time, and the ability to quickly work together to solve day-to-day business challenges.*

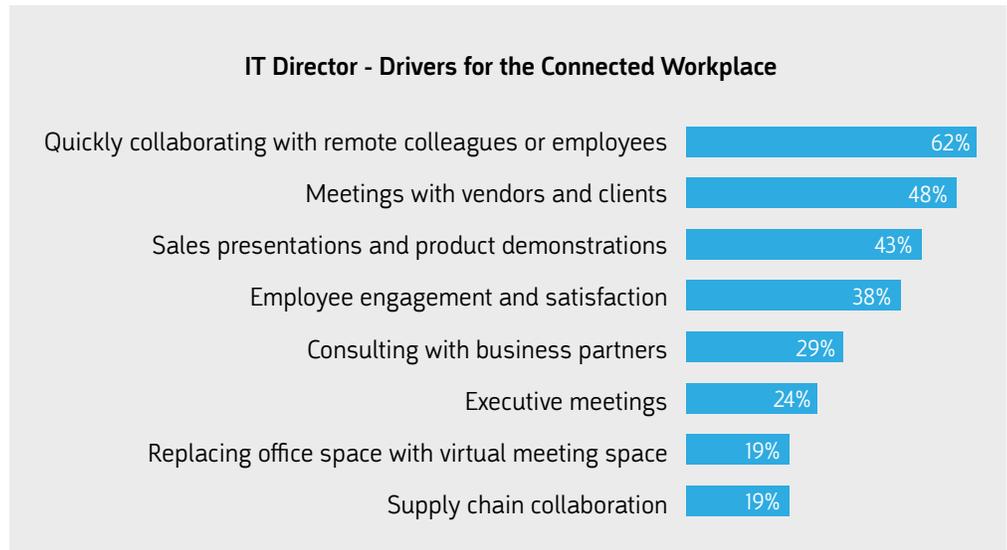
We recently partnered with IDG Networks to better understand how IT directors are enabling the transformation to a connected and collaborative workplace. This article will share the survey results and offer insights into what you can expect from your own initiative.

➔ **Are you interested in seeing more results from the AVI-SPL/IDG Networks study? [Request your copy of the results summary here.](#)**

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Top Use Cases Driving IT Directors to Consider Connected Workplace Initiatives

Part of the changing nature of work is the number of people we must collaborate with on a daily basis just to get our work done. CEB found that [60 percent of us work with 10 or more people daily](#), and 63 percent of us regularly interact across different locations. With collaboration so integral to work, it's not surprising that the primary reason IT directors give for pursuing a connected workplace is to improve their employees' ability to quickly collaborate with remote colleagues.



Source: 2015 AVI-SPL, IDGNetwork Study

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CEB calls the highly connected, collaborative worker an “enterprise contributor.” They suggest that companies that develop enterprise contributors [have “twice the impact on financial outcomes.”](#) Despite the importance of creating and enabling highly collaborative workers, CEB found that only 17 percent of employees today are enterprise contributors.

The AVI-SPL/IDG study echoes that finding as only 16 percent of companies with 250-999 employees believed they had mastered the connected workplace. That percentage jumped to 41 in companies with more than 1,000 employees. For many of the rest, moving from the radar to the roadmap is a critical next step.

➔ **Do you need help identifying and describing use cases for the connected workplace? [Contact our collaboration solutions team.](#)**

IT Directors Share Top Challenges to Their Connected Workplace Initiative

What do you need to watch out for as you plan a connected and collaborative workplace? The IT directors in the AVI-SPL/IDG study shared a few challenges and concerns that surfaced in the planning phase. For 38 percent of IT directors, two challenges tie for the top spot: low technology adoption/use and a lack of resources and budget. Other top challenges include:

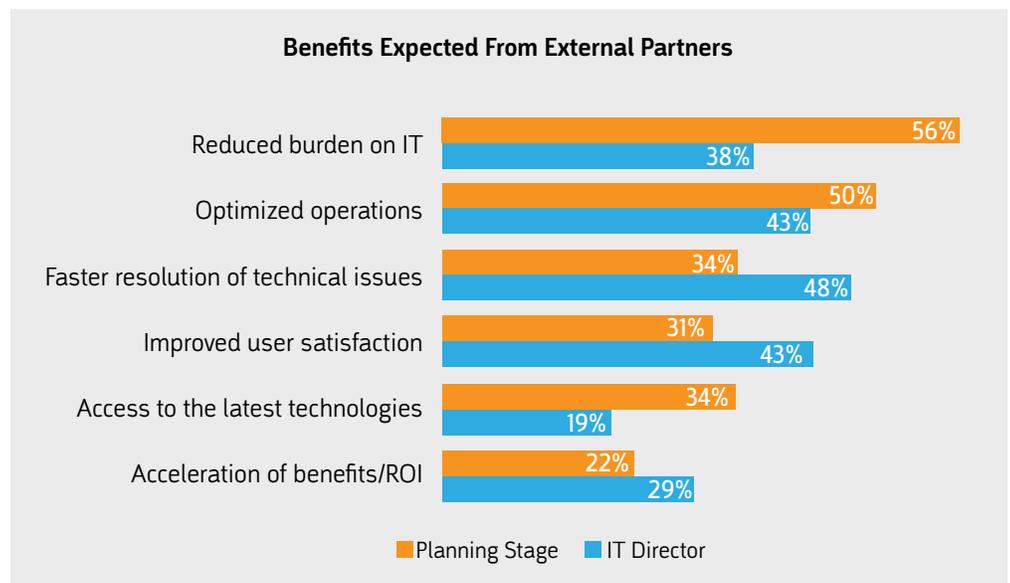
- Lack of strategic guidance
- Lack of resources to monitor and manage meeting rooms
- Difficulty quantifying the benefits of technology investments
- Choosing a technology as our standard

➔ Do you need help justifying your investment in a Connected Workplace initiative? [Download the AVI-SPL Business Case Toolkit](#) or [work on your business case](#) with our Collaboration Solutions team.

48% of IT directors expect external vendors to help them resolve technical issues faster and forty-three percent expect the relationship to improve user satisfaction.

IT Directors Expect External Partners to Deliver Important Benefits

Most IT directors and IT teams will work with external vendors that specialize in designing, building, and managing communication and collaboration spaces. These relationships can accelerate connected workplace initiatives and provide many important benefits. The IT directors in our survey identified several benefits they expected from these vendors.



Forty-eight percent of IT directors expect external vendors to help them resolve technical issues faster and forty-three percent expect the relationship to improve user satisfaction. When we look at all respondents in the early planning phases of connected workplace initiatives, the top expected benefit is still to reduce the burden on IT (56 percent), closely followed by an expectation for optimized operations.

→ [Talk to us](#) about how we've helped IT directors more quickly resolve technical issues and improve user satisfaction.

Start Your Connected Workplace Initiative

Whether you are evaluating use cases or starting your business plan, consider working with a partner that has steered many companies to connected workplace mastery. Not only can an AV integrator like AVI-SPL reduce the burden placed on your IT team and provide access to the latest collaboration and communication technology, they can quickly resolve technical issues and put you back on the path to workplace success.

About AVI-SPL

AVI-SPL designs, builds, integrates, and supports the systems and environments that enable communication and collaboration. AVI-SPL has highly trained and certified system engineers in offices throughout the United States, Canada, and EMEA in addition to an international network of solution providers in 30 countries. Visit www.avispl.com for more information or connect with AVI-SPL on Twitter, Facebook, and LinkedIn. Contact AVI-SPL to learn how a properly sourced and strategically deployed collaboration solution can help your organization take the next step to realizing connected work as part of a truly digital, collaborative enterprise: 1.866.559.8197.

