



3 work styles that might be hurting your business

While nearly half of respondents to a Forrester survey reported that they need technology to connect with their colleagues, nearly all of them have had that same technology fail.

There have never been more ways to connect to your team online. Yet, even as an explosion of communication and collaboration tools invites businesses to bridge distance, time zones, and other workplace challenges, workers often find themselves increasingly disconnected. And, as a [2016 report from Forrester](#) found, if you want to create a frustrated, unproductive worker, give them collaboration tools and platforms that just don't work. Consider this: While nearly half of respondents need technology to connect with their colleagues for at least half of their meetings, nearly all of them have had that same technology fail.

Your team needs reliable, secure platforms to get work done. Here is a checklist to identify the ways technology could be making your team less productive. How many apply to your business?

Irreconcilable differences

When your systems aren't compatible and secure, your company can face myriad communication, productivity, and other issues.

This work style may be hurting your business if...

- Systems aren't compatible, which hampers information transfer and sharing.
- Team members can't open or access files or information, so they can't do their work according to expectations or deadlines.
- Tools and platforms don't adapt to various screen sizes, so it's difficult to use them on smartphones, tablets, or desktops.
- Email or IM overload is an ongoing issue.
- There are time-zone disconnects, which frustrates team members that have to communicate beyond regular work hours.
- Projects and teams are jumbled together without ready information, and team members are frustrated, becoming less engaged and productive.



Disruptive disconnections

When your collaboration platform is plagued with connection issues and employees are spending time learning new systems instead of getting work done, your company suffers in a number of ways.

This work style may be hurting your business if...

- Team members spend valuable time toggling back and forth between different tools. It's unproductive and just plain annoying.
- Employees are forced to learn multiple platforms and tools instead of focusing on one comprehensive solution.
- Tools don't work well together, so documents, project information, and conversations are locked in silos.
- Team members don't always know where to look for information—or who can tell them where it is.
- Innovation is more difficult because team members don't have clear information and access to tools and resources.

- Team members hate using collaboration tools because they often don't work.
- Security is not a regular part of the collaboration conversation, and you're worried about the potential of employees having access to inappropriate information, as well as external breaches.

Information segmentation

When information is housed in different places instead of one seamless, secure environment, data integrity, customer service, and the future of your business may be at risk.

This work style may be hurting your business if...

- Employees use different communication tools and platforms, even consumer-grade apps, which make it difficult to ensure they have the most up-to-date information.
- There are version control issues during the editing and feedback collection process.
- Some team members don't have access to up-to-date data, which impacts customer service, project timelines, and overall productivity.
- Data transfer isn't secure between systems and platforms, which leaves you vulnerable to risk.

Cisco Spark offers a solution

Our single, secure, comprehensive environment allows users access to information and communication tools that enhance productivity. With end-to-end encryption and an intuitive interface, all of your data, documents, and communication are housed in a single environment. Team members can see files within conversations without clicking to open them.

Best of all, you can protect files, information, and communication, so only authorized team members have access to sensitive documents or files. Suddenly, your team has a reliable system that lets them work most effectively and efficiently, fostering innovation.



Learn more.

To learn how Cisco Spark can change the way your teams work together or to view a demonstration, visit www.ciscopark.com.

If you're interested in a free trial, visit <https://www.ciscopark.com/pricing/free-trial.html>.