Working from home is here to stay. Because remote work saves money and improves productivity, working from home has become more prevalent. 56% of companies worldwide allow remote work, and upwards of 85% in the US have policies that allow it.¹

When you can’t be in the same room, a great face-to-face meeting experience is the next best thing. With video conferencing, you can communicate easily, but it needs to be:

- Secure with built-in encryption to protect the privacy of both users and data
- Easy to use with one-click sign-on, high-quality video, and simple screen sharing
- Protected, so sensitive data isn’t exposed and conversations can’t be accessed by unintended audiences

Working remotely isn’t going away, but it needs to be done right. Remote employees shouldn’t feel out of the loop or disconnected. Here are some tips to keep your employees working productively, no matter where they may be located.

1. Make sure video conferences are secure

When you can’t be in the same room, a great face-to-face meeting experience is the next best thing. With video conferencing, you can communicate easily, but it needs to be:

- Secure with built-in encryption to protect the privacy of both users and data
- Easy to use with one-click sign-on, high-quality video, and simple screen sharing
- Protected, so sensitive data isn’t exposed and conversations can’t be accessed by unintended audiences

2. Help teams collaborate easily

Make it easy for team members to stop by the same page on a virtual workspace that captures all the interactions and information about a project. Look for a collaborative workspace that:

- Offers secure exchange of messages and files, across devices
- Makes it easy to search the space to find conversations and documents
- Allows you to privately message one person or create a group chat in seconds
- Includes a digital whiteboard for easy brainstorming
- Integrates with meetings, so you can keep the collaboration going

3. Never forget about security

Small businesses can’t afford to overlook security when setting up remote workspaces. You need to keep your information safe no matter where your employees are located. Look for security solutions that:

- Provide secure network access, no matter what devices people are using
- Protect your sensitive data by verifying the identity of users, devices, and applications
- Defend against threats with cloud-delivered security
- Detect and block cyberattacks

4. Embrace simplicity

As a small business owner, you still have a business to run, so you need simple, secure IT solutions. To reduce IT complexity, look for solutions that:

- Integrate meetings, calling, Wi-Fi, and security, so they work together
- Are easy to deploy by your employees without the need for IT
- Are simple to manage
- Offer financial flexibility, with pay-as-you-need pricing options

5. Go beyond tools

With the right tools, employees can be just as productive virtually as they would in the office. But don’t forget that productivity, work-life balance, and internal communications are just as important. Here’s how to go beyond tools:

- Training, support, and fan favorites like online social gatherings or happy hour calls
- Home office upgrade to help employees work remotely comfortably and efficiently
- Support for locus breaks, exercising, eating, stretching, and managing physical and mental health
- Don’t forget work-life balance, face time just because they’re at home

We can help

Improve how your virtual teams connect, so they are able to produce their best work. Learn more about our Cisco Designed portfolio of solutions for small businesses. Let’s talk.