

CHARTERHOUSE

# Return to the Office and New Ways of Working

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# Return to the Office and New Ways of Working

As **restrictions end** and **offices welcome back workers**, organisations are coming to terms with new ways of working. Gone are the days of employees based entirely in the office. Instead, **hybrid work** patterns are taking over, with many dividing their hours between the home and workplace.

There are changes to how we work too. When offices were off-limits, we adjusted by adopting virtual collaboration solutions like Microsoft Teams and Zoom. As workplaces reopen and hybrid working becomes the norm, many of us still rely on these technologies **to provide** a more **convenient, flexible** and **richer user experience**.

## Hybrid Working: New Challenges for the Office

Hybrid working combines the benefits of face-to-face and remote collaboration, helping to boost efficiency, productivity and work-life balance. **But all this comes at a price and creates a raft of new challenges:**



### ● Repurposed Premises

During the months of office closure, many organisations recruited extra staff, restructured or downsized. With the reopening and widespread adoption of hybrid working, these changes have triggered a rethink of requirements, leading to office modifications or relocation to new premises. This in turn has caused organisation leaders to revisit their IT needs, spanning everything from networks and telecoms to cloud and cybersecurity.

### ● Overstretched Networks

Whilst more staff and devices increase network traffic, potential changes in working practices compound the danger of overload. Multiple users simultaneously collaborating via technologies like Microsoft Teams and Zoom create new and different demands for network resources, with network quality a key factor in ensuring an effective user-experience.

## ● New Wi-Fi Needs

Hybrid working may force a reconfiguration of office work areas or adoption of hot-desking, and drive many users to migrate from fixed desktop hardware to laptops and smart devices. More office environments that previously relied upon wired networks for critical business connectivity will shift to a Wi-Fi centric approach. For thousands of organisations, in-office Wi-Fi will transform from a 'nice to have' to become an essential business tool.

## ● Higher Security Risk

Necessary changes in working practices have seen many organisations steer towards a cloud-first strategy. As more and more workforces operate predominantly or even 100% remotely, there is a clear trend away from on-premise deployments and a preference for Public Cloud and SaaS models. Organisations planning a return to the office (in hybrid or more dedicated formats) face a significantly broader attack surface and need to consider how to better secure an increasingly decentralised structure and network.

## ● Outdated Meeting Tech

Legacy video-conferencing technologies were often under-used in the pre-hybrid era. Today, there is a need to replace obsolete meeting room equipment with new audio-visual systems that support high-quality virtual teamworking via Microsoft Teams and other online collaboration platforms. Video collaboration technologies have become widely adopted as BAU and a vital part of new working practices for employees, suppliers and customers. A return to the office must support these new ways of working and ideally offer greater capabilities to fully realise the benefits of collaborative working, both within the office space and with external parties.



## Charterhouse: Adapting the Office to Support Hybrid Working

### ● Faster, More Reliable Connectivity

With the added pressures of hybrid working, effective networking has never been more critical. As organisations become increasingly app-centric and teams more dispersed, networks are a key enabler for new technologies to drive more efficient collaboration from anywhere. High-performance, reliable LAN, Wi-Fi and mobile solutions from Charterhouse give you access to services from any location through diverse multi-carrier, multi-ISP and multi-technology offerings. Enterprise mobility solutions empower your workforce, while disaster recovery, back up and storage services ensure your data stays fully protected.

### ● Tighter Security for a Broader Risk Landscape

Fusion Secure from Charterhouse safeguards your organisation against the cyber threats of today and tomorrow and ensures ongoing security compliance. We assess weaknesses or gaps in your security posture and defend against known and unknown attacks. No preventive measure is a 'silver bullet' so, as part of a layered approach to cybersecurity, our solutions detect and respond to thwart successful attacks. Enhanced security and compliance give your organisation the freedom to thrive in the new age of hybrid working.

### ● Meeting Spaces Equipped for Virtual Collaboration

Microsoft Teams Rooms replaces ageing video-conferencing tech and optimises your meeting spaces for virtual communication and teamworking. Brought to you by Charterhouse, Teams Rooms configures the latest audio-visual equipment (screens, cameras, speakers and control devices) to match your room characteristics and deliver the best user experience, both in-room and online.







**Inclusive to all:** Participants don't have to be physically in the room to feel fully engaged. Teams Rooms gives everyone an equal seat at the table



**Flexible and scalable:** Audio-visual hardware and features are customised to match a wide range of room footprints



**Seamless Teams experience:** Teams Rooms turns your meeting room into a shared virtual space with all the content-rich functionality of Microsoft Teams, including video, voice and messaging



**Certified hardware:** From Microsoft-approved manufacturers including Crestron, Dell, HP, Lenovo, Logitech, Poly and Yealink



**Easy set-up and control:** Meetings are simple to set up and join. Manage everything via a single, easy-to-use touch-screen control panel



**End-to-end solution:** Charterhouse provides everything from room scoping to supply, installation and support of Teams Rooms equipment



**Extra safe:** Automatic alerts notify you if participant numbers exceed social distancing and help to keep your meeting room safe

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