



# STAY PRODUCTIVE AND CONNECTED IN A HYBRID WORLD

Why modern technology unites the work force

A natural concern during the pandemic was that greater independence may lead to a fall in productivity among employees. But many SMBs and larger organisations discovered that the standard metrics of productivity remained high and demonstrated the resilience of workers, as companies pivoted to a hybrid model. For instance, one year into the pandemic, Microsoft's

Work Trend Index survey showed that self-assessed productivity of more than 30,000 global workers remained the same or higher.<sup>1</sup>

The ability to collaborate when employees don't share the same physical space can, undoubtedly, become a challenge. Collaboration can also feel less spontaneous and more of a scheduled event. Fortunately, modern technology can enhance hybrid collaboration by providing an environment that unites colleagues in the office space with those working remotely, supporting diverse working styles and fostering creativity and innovation.

Modern workplaces need hybrid work solutions that are simultaneously productivity-boosting and collaborative, while providing employees flexibility. To enable teams to be more productive in all aspects of hybrid work, companies need to give them the right tools and technology so they can connect, communicate and seamlessly collaborate across different locations, and work virtually anywhere – offering SMBs and enterprises the agility they need to achieve more.

In the new world of work, it's also important to extend the concept of productivity to include wellbeing, social connections and collaboration, as well as the innovation they bring to drive success. Understanding this, today's leading businesses treat every employee as an individual and support the working methods that are most effective for them. For example, factors such as not having to travel to work, fewer workplace distractions and flexible working hours may enhance an employee's performance and productivity.

**Today's successful businesses treat every employee as an individual, providing the working methods that are most effective for them.**

Many would agree that presenteeism has never been a smart way to achieve high productivity, job satisfaction or motivation. After all, we can be 'present' wherever we're located. A more effective way to support productive hybrid work is to offer people a flexible approach that focuses more on trust than on rules.<sup>2</sup> Flexibility empowers employees, drives performance and enables trust. This in turn can improve teamwork, accelerate workflows, and help retain and attract the best talent.



# How can hybrid organisations further drive productivity?

Although hybrid work can increase the productivity of individuals and teams by combining the best parts of physical and digital working arrangements, this often involves re-assessing both the work culture and the environment.

**Leaders can help boost productivity for everyone by focusing on some key factors:**

- **Provide the right tools and technologies** to enable optimal results in any working environment.
- **Enable hybrid collaboration** using video conferencing, file sharing and messaging via Microsoft Teams.
- **Focus on employee experience**, individual physical and mental wellbeing, and personal growth.
- **Build a better company culture** by making sure everyone feels part of a team, no matter where they work.

The right tools and technologies will include modern, reliable devices with Windows 11 and Microsoft 365, Device-as-a-Service (DaaS) and the Intel vPro® platform, which enable employees to get more done, more consistently and securely, regardless of location. Legacy or inefficient technologies – apps that don't load, laptops that boot up slowly, systems that crash – all frustrate and waste time, causing productivity to dip.





# Powering productivity with Windows 11 and the Intel vPro platform

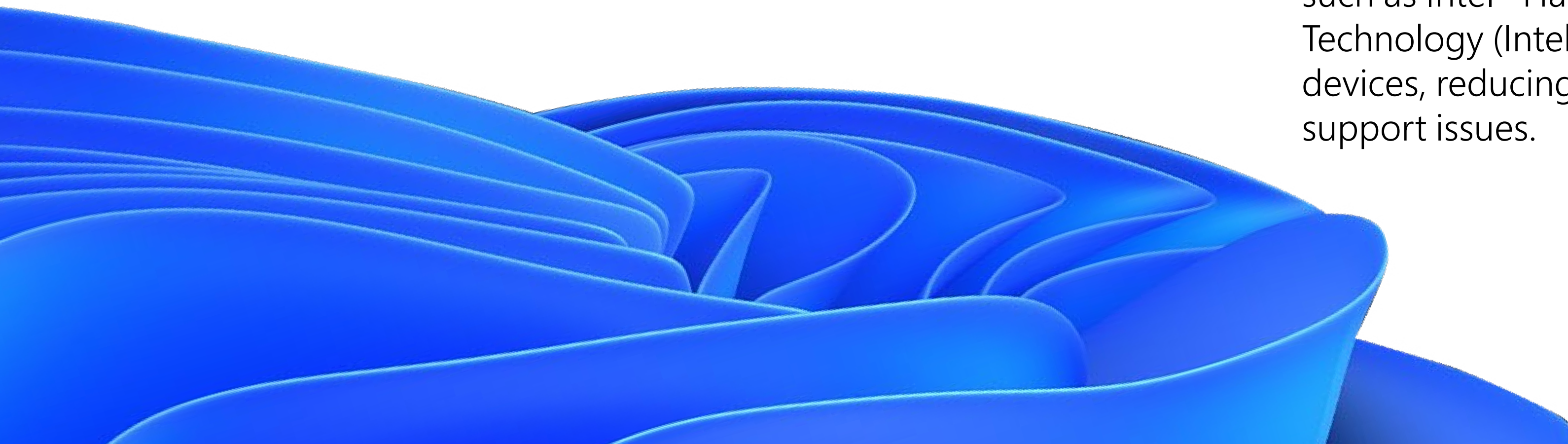
Powerful computers that people enjoy using are at the heart of today's business productivity. Equipping employees with PCs – from ultra-light laptops to high-power workstations – built on the Intel vPro platform amplifies their effectiveness, with leading performance<sup>3</sup> tuned for the real-world workloads and applications that business professionals use the most.

Windows 11 also provides a trusted and secure platform that empowers productivity, inspires creativity and delivers reliable access. It can promote wellbeing in a hybrid world of work by allowing users to strike a balance between productivity and play.

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Windows 11 brings an inclusive, familiar experience to employees, helping them achieve more than before.<sup>4</sup> This can be complemented by the Intel vPro platform, which enhances business-class PC performance right out of the box, powering 27 percent faster productivity.<sup>5</sup> Meanwhile, tools such as Microsoft Teams allow you to work from almost anywhere as if you were in the same room collaborating, while features such as Microsoft Outlook's Scheduling Assistant allow teams to work smarter and more productively.

Saving time at work is key to boosting productivity. Eight times faster than standard USB 3.0 (5 Gb/s), Intel's Thunderbolt™ 4 technology provides a simple and universal cable solution that helps users charge their devices and connect to any dock, display or data device with fewer interruptions.<sup>6</sup> New Windows 11 tools and hardware-based functionalities within the Intel vPro platform, such as Intel® Hardware Shield and Intel® Active Management Technology (Intel® AMT), also help IT teams manage and protect devices, reducing the time and cost spent on cybersecurity and support issues.







# Enhancing collaboration in the hybrid workplace

Modern collaboration tools and reliable devices can help employees work more efficiently and flexibly within their organisation's preferred model of hybrid work.

The Microsoft 365 platform provides specifically designed software to support the needs of today's businesses. It's a cost-effective cloud solution that supports real-time collaboration, no matter where you are. Your employees can use it to work together from remote and on-site locations, as well as store shared documents in the cloud.

Well-known apps like Microsoft Word, Excel, PowerPoint and OneDrive are fully integrated with Microsoft Teams, the collaboration platform that includes video conferencing, shared task lists and project-based group chats. So, these apps can be seamlessly used for different functions and support flexible and varied working patterns while ensuring projects are streamlined and organised.

New features are regularly added by Microsoft to provide a richer experience. You can now personalise your view of a Microsoft Teams video call or use breakout rooms to collaborate with a smaller group of people during a meeting. With Together Mode, you'll experience a shared virtual background that presents all attendees as if in the same room – helping you see faces and body language to make meetings more engaging.

During video calls, the 11th Gen Intel vPro platform provides 41 percent faster office productivity.<sup>[7](#)</sup> Intel® Wi-Fi 6/6E (Gig+) also provides a huge advance in Wi-Fi technology for these calls, with ultra-low latency, ultra-reliable connectivity and ultra-fast Gigabit connections – up to six times faster speeds at the office and nearly three times faster speeds at home – to help you collaborate seamlessly, from almost anywhere.<sup>[8](#)</sup>





For hybrid-meeting video calls, Intel® Wi-Fi 6/6E (Gig+) delivers up to 6x faster speeds at the office and nearly 3x faster speeds at home.<sup>8</sup>

Microsoft 365 also helps bring users together in other ways, enhancing inclusivity so that groups can collaborate as a whole. With Microsoft Teams, live captions are available to support people who are hearing-impaired, have different language skills or are working in a noisy environment. The 'Raise Hand' virtual sign lets presenters accept contributions from participants and helps ensure everyone has their say. And AI-powered background noise suppression improves audio quality, which can be helpful in hybrid meetings.

Working remotely in a hybrid model could lead some employees to feel isolated or miss familiar office routines. To help solve these issues, Microsoft 365 supports staff wellbeing through a personalised dashboard within Microsoft Viva that can schedule breaks and mindfulness exercises, as well as providing prompts to enhance team cohesion.

Viva is a new kind of an innovative employee wellbeing platform that enables organisations to focus more on company culture. Accessed mainly through Microsoft Teams, Viva brings together collaboration, learning and wellbeing in the flow of work to create a more holistic experience for all employees.



# Driving more inclusive meetings with Microsoft Teams Rooms

Most meetings in the future will unite people in the office with remote participants. This invites us to think again about how we meet – to reimagine the hybrid office space and, along with it, our meetings etiquette.

To this end, Microsoft Teams Rooms extends Microsoft Teams into a richer, more people-centric meeting experience, enhancing creative collaboration and delivering a better way of working. It takes hybrid meetings to the next level by seamlessly and securely bringing together different workspaces – the home office set-up, the office, and places like the coffee shop where you work on the go. It's easy to use, flexible, scalable and features multi-layer security.

With Microsoft Teams Rooms devices, all available physical office spaces – from small huddle areas to large conference spaces and boardrooms – can become a flexible and inclusive hybrid meetings forum. With all participants empowered to collaborate fully and work together, from virtually anywhere.







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This modern meeting experience is enabled with features like Together Mode, which digitally places people against a shared background, making it feel like you're all sitting in the same workspace.

Meetings are simple to begin using a one-touch join system and, with touchless meeting join, people can take part and share content via their PC or mobile devices.

Teams Rooms helps both remote and in-office participants stay productive and collaborate effectively. Digital whiteboards – accessible both in the room and at home – foster teamwork and co-creation. People onsite can write directly on their own phone or laptop, and remote participants can draw on the same shared digital canvas. Intelligent Capture cameras enable remote attendees to clearly see idea mapping in real-time, even when someone is standing in front of the physical whiteboard.



For those joining a meeting in a physical space, proximity beacons are an intelligent and helpful feature. It allows you to wirelessly connect to a room system and add it to your meeting without touching a shared or public device.

To ensure the best experience for users, Teams Rooms devices run a Microsoft-built native Teams app. Microsoft also certifies all Teams Rooms devices through a comprehensive audio and video testing and validation process.<sup>9</sup>

To thrive in the new hybrid world of work, people and organisations need solutions that are fluid, dynamic, and cloud-powered. Solutions need to create experiences that are inclusive and allow us to 'be there'. Intel® Core™ vPro® processors help power immersive experiences, delivering real-world productivity for content creation and collaboration. Microsoft Teams Rooms also ensures an inclusive meeting experience for all, wherever you are and whatever your needs.

Meetings of the future will be accessible to everyone. And it's apparent that every organisation is going to need modern, advanced technology that binds it all together to foster productivity and collaboration.

With competition, creativity and innovation accelerating in a hybrid world, organisations will face some stark choices. While operating as efficiently as possible, they must also adapt and grow to meet new customer and employee expectations. By enabling effective collaboration and enhancing productivity, they can lay the foundations for lasting competitive advantage.





# References

1. [Microsoft Work Trend Index 2021](#)
2. See, for example, [Productivity not presenteeism in the hybrid workplace](#), CBI, 24 September 2021
3. See <https://www.intel.co.uk/content/www/uk/en/now/11thgenvpro.html>
4. [Microsoft unveils Windows 11 to collaborate, connect, and celebrate](#), Microsoft News Centre, 6 October 2021
5. As measured by Microsoft Office 365 workflow 11th Gen Intel® Core™ vPro® i7-1185G7 Processor vs. 8th Gen Intel Core vPro i7-8650U Processor
6. As measured by SYSmark 25 overall score
7. As measured by Productivity and Collaboration Workflow 11th Gen Intel Core vPro i7-1185G7 Processor vs. 8th Gen Intel Core vPro i7-8650U Processor
8. Performance varies by use, configuration, and other factors. For details on performance claims, learn more at [www.Intel.com/PerformanceIndex](http://www.Intel.com/PerformanceIndex) (Connectivity)
9. See <https://www.microsoft.com/en-gb/microsoft-teams/microsoft-teams-rooms/features>

