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Top 5 checklist on how to use technology to drive productivity and wellness solutions in the workplace.

The workplace has and will continue to change. Technology plans need to be incorporated into your workplace strategy to ensure the optimal productivity of teams and to attract and retain the right people. In the post Covid era, technology solutions can be the deal breaker when employees (and tenants) make their newfound daily decision of "is it worth it for me to go in the office?"

1. User based workplace design, including technology

Fact - people are more productive when they are in the right environment.

The right environment extends beyond layouts and office furniture. The right environment includes a technology supported space that is responsive to how people want to connect and work. Audio Visual (AV) solutions are at the heart of the new workplace design.

Done well, it will create spaces where people can collaborate in person, and where hybrid teammates can join remotely and enjoy a quick set up that feels natural and inclusive.

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2. Reframe the workday

It starts before you get to the workplace.

That's right. The workday will start when we wake up, or even the night before.   Don't worry - we aren't suggesting that people will need to work around the clock. We are suggesting that people will need to access tools that provide information about their workspace so they can plan their day accordingly. Occupancy apps will become the norm so people can plan when and where to work.

Moreso, when they do make the commute to work, connectivity needs to cover the curb to the cubicle. There must be seamless communication and sharing of data about users and building systems.

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3. A focus on wellness

More than a trend, the focus on wellness has gained its rightful place as a foundational part of all workspaces. When people feel good in the workplace, they are not only more likely to be more productive, but they are also more likely to decide to come to the office instead of working remotely.

Technology can be an important pillar of achieving wellness in the workplace. It provides solutions to ensure the security of workspaces - a foundational need for all employees.

Wellness needs to extend beyond walls of the workplaces as well. It is important to account for employees who will adopt a hybrid approach to home vs. office. Workplaces need to ensure calls, meetings and collaborative sessions can work with the hybrid model in mind and enable all employees to feel connected and engaged.

Furthermore, a well-planned AV solution can help disseminate critical information to employees, so they feel informed and empowered. It should also take the user interface and experience into account. The goal should be frictionless access to tools. Never underestimate the negative impact of clunky setups, and inadequate tools on employee engagement.

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4. The new scope of security

Security can be a game-changer. It is arguably the most foundational requirement of any space, and user expectations are growing rapidly. We need to rethink our approach to building security. In addition to the base case of controlling building or office access, security now includes how traffic moves and flows within a workspace.

The Three Lenses of Security

- **What we measure**
- **What systems we connect**
- **What we communicate**

Restricted access points like card swipes now offer critical data on where and how a building is being used, which in turn can drive reactive and proactive decisions about how the building should be set up.

Electronic Security System Solutions

- **Video Surveillance Systems**
- **Intercom Operation Centre**
- **Intrusion Detection Systems**
- **Access Control Perimeters**
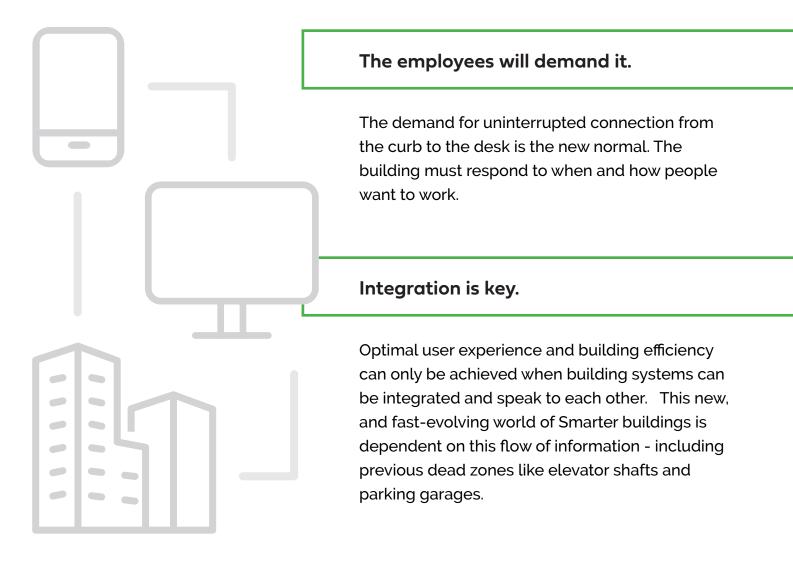- **Visitor Entry/Exit access points**

The data garnered from these security sensors can be shared with employees so that they feel secure about the systems that are in place and can make informed decisions about their own use of the building - like choosing low traffic times for various spaces.

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5. Connectivity

Connectivity matters. It has become the fifth utility in any commercial building. Wireless connection to the Internet is no longer an amenity and features among the top three most important factors for tenants searching for office space.

The absolute requirement for connectivity comes from two distinct needs :

The employees will demand it.

The demand for uninterrupted connection from the curb to the desk is the new normal. The building must respond to when and how people want to work.

Integration is key.

Optimal user experience and building efficiency can only be achieved when building systems can be integrated and speak to each other.   This new, and fast-evolving world of Smarter buildings is dependent on this flow of information - including previous dead zones like elevator shafts and parking garages.

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