

THE FUTURE OF WORKING: 2036

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No more 9-5

Traditional working hours a confine of the past

In the western world, our lives are largely structured by routine. For some, there's comfort in the regularity; for others, an all too predictable tedium; but common to most sits the familiar lynchpin of the working week. Constant, stable, dependable - but not for long.

According to the latest research by Office Angels into the changing face of global employment, the traditional 9 to 5 will be a thing of the past if 53% of those surveyed are right in their predictions. Due to a monumental shift in working practices - such as conference calls, remote working and virtual meetings - people will no longer be tied to physical work spaces, or standard office hours. A third of employees (33%) think that the prospect of commuting to be unheard of; and a fifth (20%) believe that teleconferencing will replace face-to-face meetings.

With the advancement of new technologies such as smart phones, Blackberries and the like, much of today's workforce is already contactable at all hours of the day; but with the dissolution of rigid hours and a market that is set to be dominated by global companies, workers of the future might find themselves working night shifts or responding to urgent emails at the weekend. This will however be a small price to pay for the freedom of a healthy work-life balance.

For those bemoaning the monotony of the traditional working week then, flexitime or home working will offer employees the freedom to bend their hours around other important commitments, such as the school run or even social events.

As well as the promise of flexibility, remote working will also demand commitment, reliability and transparency from the future workforce. They will be granted greater levels of trust, but they will be expected to deliver - and with the dawn of new devices, face time and video conferencing, it will be unacceptable not to. The worker of the future will also need to be far more conscientious: managers will be able to check up on their employees through the use of video calling - spelling the end of the 'sickie', according to 35% of those surveyed.

To survive, develop and excel in a career free from the confines of set hours then - where responsibility, productivity and self regulation is the order of the day - the worker of the future will need advanced IT, organisation and time management skills, to name but a few. With ever-increasing demands for the advancement of new abilities, employees will need to remain on the ball and ahead of the game; constant improvement and development will therefore be expected at every stage of their careers.

Prepare yourself for long term success

We may be looking 25 years into the future, but it's never too early to prepare for long-term success. With that in mind, Office Angels has created the Education Zone - an online training tool that provides workers with an opportunity to build on the sort of skills that will be highly prized in a competitive future market. With over 7,000 training modules at all levels and across all specialisms, every skills gap is accounted for.

For details, contact your local Office Angels consultant,
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