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Library Link: Hybrid Workplace is a weekly compilation of news, advice and best practices for working in a hybrid environment. This week's articles focus around Office Design, Culture Change, Hybrid Workplace Technology, and Wellbeing.

We hope this issue serves as a reliable resource to help you in your work. Email us at <u>Library@IMF.org</u> to share your feedback or get help with any links. For an optimal reading experience, please use Chrome or Edge to open the articles.

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Office Design

The Office of the Future (The Economist, Dec 4, 2021)

The office used to be a place people went because they had to. Meetings happened in conference rooms and in person. Desks took up the bulk of the space. The pandemic has exposed the office to competition from remote working, and brought up a host of questions about how it should be designed in the future.

The Hybrid Workplace: What You Need to Know for the Future of Work (StrongProject, Dec 2, 2021)

After an extended period of working from home, workers are divided. Employees found that there were some clear benefits to their new working from home arrangements. These team members wished to continue working from home. On the other hand, some employees couldn't wait to return to the office. Is a hybrid workplace the solution?

<u>Hybrid Work is Expected to be the New Norm. Pulling it Off Successfully Will Come With Challenges.</u> (Andrews Dickman Group, Nov 30, 2021)

Most companies have publicly committed to some version of a hybrid workplace in a post-pandemic world, after nearly two years of remote work that many employees have come to prefer over the office. Beyond the management complexities that'll likely come with hybrid work, company leaders are tasked with figuring out how to make a semi-in-office, semi-remote workforce equitable.

Culture Change

Are Remote Workers Really Plugged Into Company Culture? (The Financial Times, Dec 1, 2021)

Finding the sweet spot of employee loyalty is harder now staff are used to homeworking. (Requires a FT login, <u>access instructions</u>)

With COVID Policies in Effect, Getting Into an Office Sure Isn't as Easy as it Used to Be (The Boston Globe via Factiva, Dec 1, 2021)

As office employees get back to the business of going into work, they're realizing that getting there isn't nearly as easy as it used to be. From vaccine requirements to regular COVID testing, employees have to jump through a number of hoops first. (Requires a Factiva login, <u>access instructions</u>)

What's Missing in the Conversation About Hybrid (Convene, Dec 2021)

(eBook) Leaders in all industries have set, and then re-set dates for their return to the office and have created new ways to continue working, meeting, and hosting events. While these new virtual and hybrid approaches have been developed as reactionary tactics to continue meeting business objectives, Convene firmly believes these methods have ushered in a new era for the workplace, one that redefines and brings hybrid to the center of the conversation.

Hybrid Workplace Technology

<u>Video Calls Can be a Pain for Hybrid Offices. Tech Companies Say Relief is Coming.</u> (The Washington Post via Factiva, Dec 2, 2021)

As workers brace for a hybrid environment in the long run, makers of some of the most commonly used video conferencing tools are hoping their latest updates and those yet to come will address some of the biggest pain points of video calling and provide more collaborative capabilities. (Requires a Factiva login, <u>access instructions</u>)

Create Resilience Through Remote Development (Microsoft, Dec 2021)

Explore guidance, resources, and solutions that enable your developer teams to code, collaborate, and ship securely from anywhere—making your organization more resilient in the face of change.

Wellbeing

Work-Life Balance Finally Happened. Then They Were Called Back to the Office. (The Wall Street Journal, Dec 6, 2021)

Giving up remote work can feel like a loss. Here are ways to bring some of the flexibility of working from home back with you. (Requires a WSJ login, access instructions)

Hybrid Working Models: Why Employees' Well-Being Must Remain A Priority (Forbes, Dec 6, 2021)

This is a time of great uncertainty. After showing great perseverance and adaptability during the pandemic, we are now facing a new world of work. The hybrid model presents new challenges for organizations. People have new opinions on different work practices, and this could lead to division in the workplace, with silos forming between office-based and remote workers.

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