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Working Globally, Living Locally

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Disclaimer: The views expressed here are my own and they do not necessarily reflect the views of my present, past or future employers.

Agenda

1. Overview
2. Technology
3. Tips for Managers
4. Tips for Individuals
5. Conclusion

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1. Overview

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The Global Village is Becoming a Reality

Unprecedented
- ✓ Advancements in technology
- ✓ Growth in telecommunications

However, people
- ✓ Have to commute long distances to jobs
- ✓ Desire to live close to friends and family

2. Technology = Global Enabler

What Would You Do with an Extra 5 to 8 hours/week?

1. Sleep some more
2. Spend time with spouse, kids, parents
3. Exercise, play sports (not just watch them)
4. Study, improve productivity
5. Work for extra income
6. Pick up a hobby to get some sanity

3. Tips for Managers

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Tips for Managers

- ✓ Implement online tools (other than email)
  - » Wiki Collaborative Online Communities
  - » Instant Messengers
  - » Video and Audio Skype
- ✓ Arrange regular in-person team meetings
  - » Build personal relationships and trust

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Wiki Collaborative Online Communities

A Wiki is an online collaboration system that allows user to add, edit, delete pages and attachments.

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Wiki: Benefits

All team members can contribute.

A change made in one location is instantly visible in all other locations.

Pages and attachments are versioned!

Can serve as the <u>system of record</u>.

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Wiki: Drawbacks

Unrestricted access by all team members
(some Wiki versions provide access control)

Free-form pages.

Limited markup for formatting.

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Instant Messengers

Instant connection between two or more parties.

Provide "presence."
  » Presence is the feeling that one is not alone, but rather working together with the rest of the team that is currently online.

Can be set to "do not disturb."

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Audio & Video Skype

Provide continuous connection through audio and video between two or more parties.

Can create the feeling that one is in the same office with the other person, because of the outstanding voice quality (at least within US).

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Arrange In-Person Team Meetings

"The best complimentary tool to the Internet is the Boeing 747."
  ❑ Tom Peters, The Circle of Innovation

Build personal relationships and trust!

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4. Tips for Individuals

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Tips for Individuals

1. Join Professional Networks
2. Create a Portable Career Plan

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Join Professional Networks

IEEE, IEEE Computer Society, ACM, PMI, etc.

You still need to "belong."

  » Meet regularly online/in-person with other professionals from your domain.
  » Build your knowledge by sharing it.
  » Also provide outstanding publications.

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Create a Portable Career Plan

You are in charge!

  » Create a plan that fits your needs.

Achieve "portability" by focusing on:

  1. The goals that you want to achieve
  2. The roles you need to have to fulfill those goals
  3. Identifying the knowledge you will need for the role
  4. Devising a plan to obtain the knowledge
  5. Seeking out experience to exercise your knowledge

5. Conclusion

Conclusion

Technology is available to enable distributed work, we just have to start using it.

Eliminating the daily commute can save 5 to 8 hours/week.

Individuals and Managers need to start adapting to the world of distributed work

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Your Letters Are Welcome!

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