

Adapting to the Post-Pandemic Workplace:

Navigating IT Challenges and Embracing Innovations in the Era of AI



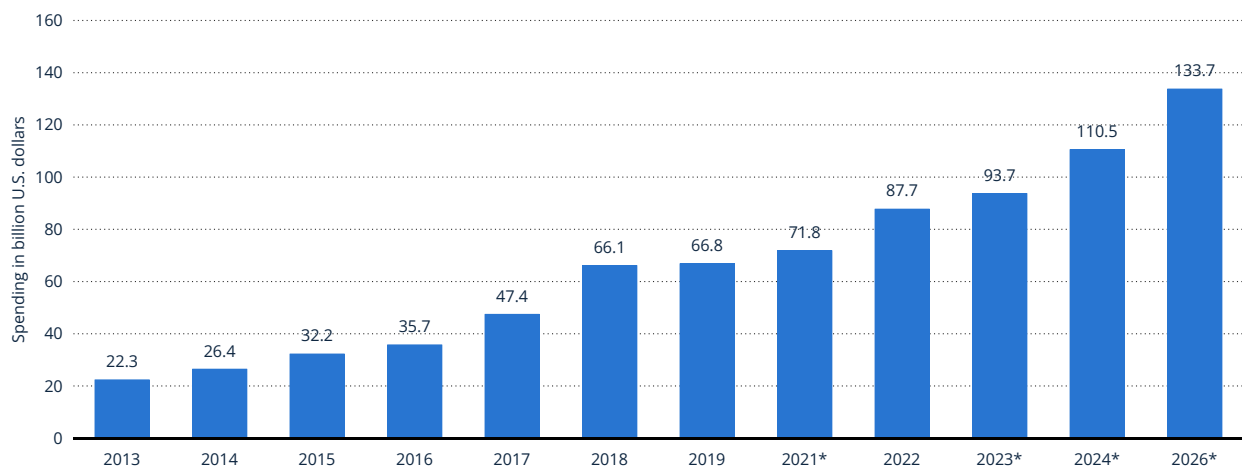
In the face of persistent and repetitive changes in the workplace, businesses and investors find themselves at a crossroads, contemplating the future of remote work models and their potential impact on business operations.

These changes not only necessitate increased investments in physical office spaces but also demand a commitment to providing employees with new training and development opportunities, fostering adaptability to evolving work environments and technologies.



Annual spending on cloud IT infrastructure worldwide from 2013 to 2026 (in billion U.S. dollars)

Global cloud IT infrastructure spending 2013-2026



source from: Statista

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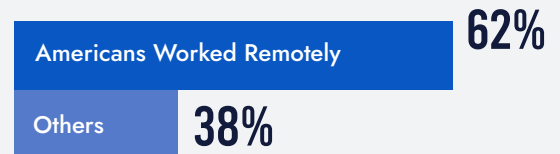
Evolving IT Infrastructure Amidst Pandemic Shifts

The landscape of work underwent a seismic shift during the COVID-19 pandemic, amplifying the need for IT infrastructure investment. Previously, gradual changes were driven by technological advancements, globalization, and shifts in workplace culture.

Collaborative zones, technologically equipped meeting rooms, and spaces designed to encourage spontaneous interactions were integral to this evolution.

However, the pandemic accelerated these changes. According to a McKinsey report, **62%** of employed Americans worked remotely during the crisis, significantly up from the 25% pre-pandemic. This shift not only altered where and how we work but also necessitated additional investments from both employees, setting up home offices, and enterprises, investing in remote work IT infrastructure.

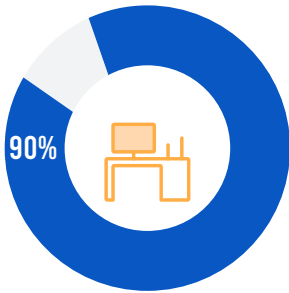
Workers' Share for Fully Remote in the US



Source: McKinsey report



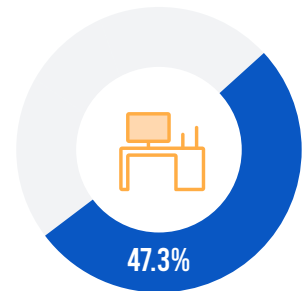
Back-to-Office Dynamics: Striking a Balance



90% of companies **planning to implement return to-office policies** by 2024

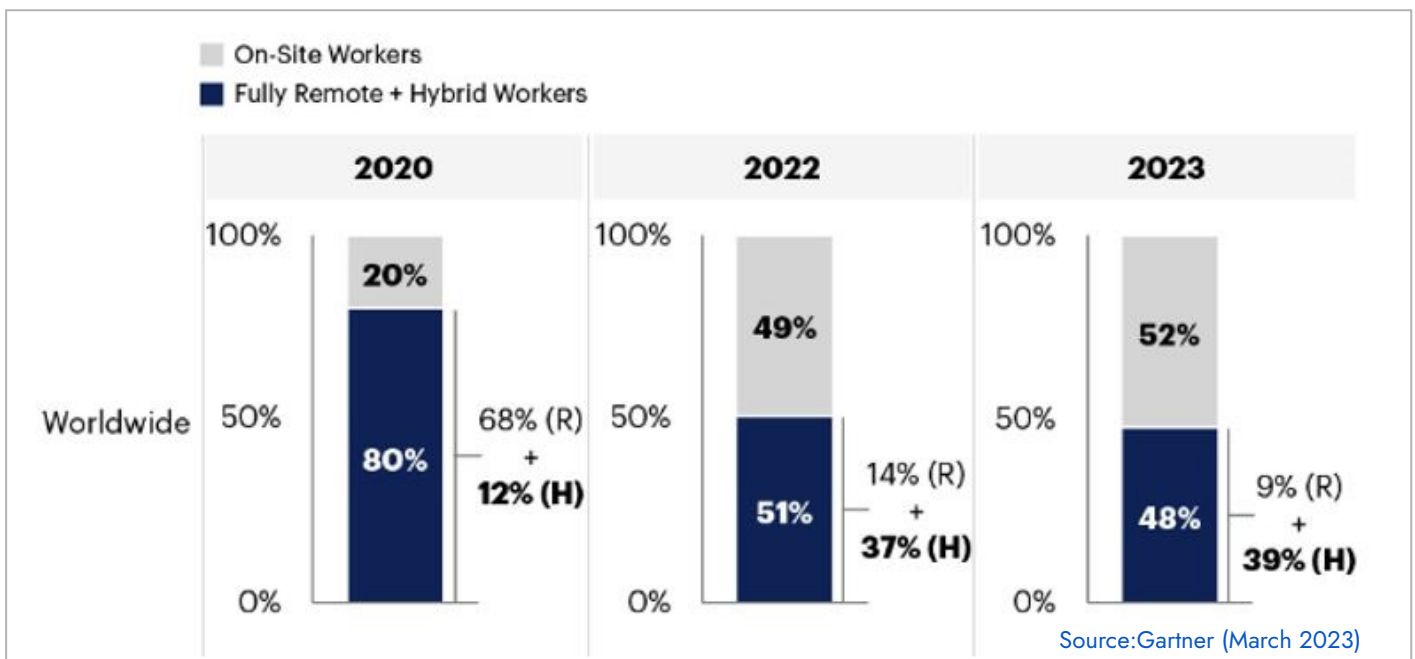
Post-pandemic, workplace changes continue, with **90%** of companies planning to implement return-to-office policies by 2024, according to a report by Resume Builder. Despite this, nearly 30% of these companies are contemplating penalties for non-compliance. Surprisingly, the majority of workers express a preference for the hybrid working model, as revealed in surveys conducted by Cisco Systems.

The evidence lies in the average office occupancy rate, which, as of September, stood at **47.3%** of pre-pandemic levels in the top 10 U.S. cities. Concurrently, Gartner forecasts that remote and hybrid workers will continue to constitute 48% of the global workforce by the end of 2023. While this represents a modest decrease from the figures of the past two years, the decline is not substantial. This indicates a gradual return but falls short of a complete resurgence to traditional in-office working, and hybrid working will persist in the long term.



47.3% average **office occupancy rate** by Sep. 2023

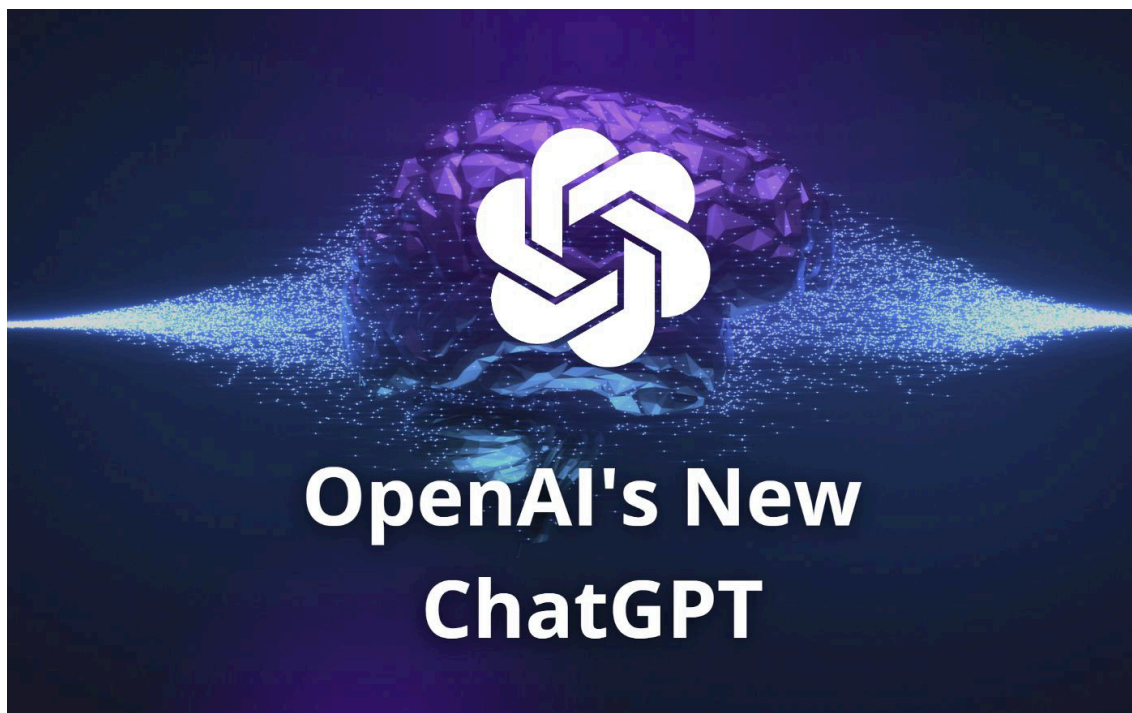
Workers' Share for Worldwide, 2020, 2022 and 2023



The Role of AI in Paving the Way for Hybrid Work

Hybrid working, catalyzed by the infusion of Artificial Intelligence (AI), is poised to become the norm.

While technology has made remote collaboration possible, the cultural and customary effects of the pandemic, coupled with the explosion of AI technology, make reverting to traditional ways challenging.



In 2022, dubbed the "First year of Generative AI," technological advancements such as Vincent graphics applications and the arrival of ChatGPT have transformed the workplace. With over 60 years since the inception of AI, its integration with human thought and innovation is redefining the work landscape.

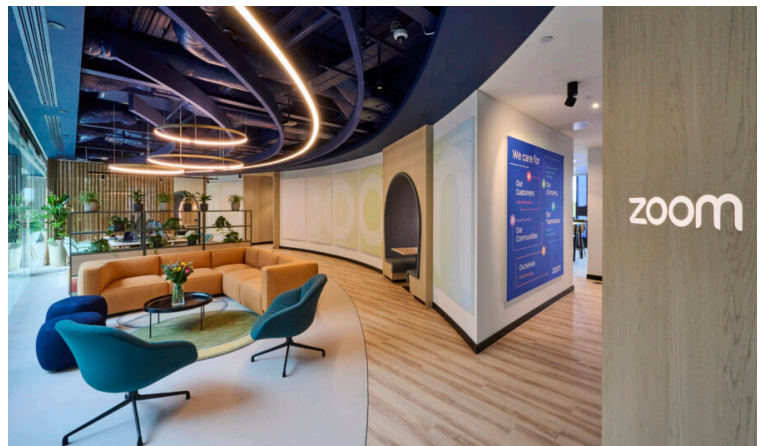
The Rise of Hybrid-Optimized Offices

Driven by the widespread adoption of AI, workplaces are evolving towards Hybrid-Optimized Offices, combining digital and physical elements. Physical office spaces are being redesigned to support hybrid work, incorporating hot-desking arrangements, collaboration-focused areas, and technology-equipped training rooms facilitating seamless in-office and remote collaboration.

Innovative Office Solutions

- **Hot-Desking Arrangements**

Zoom's new London Engagement Hub exemplifies the need for space management and schedule panels to optimize the utilization of such spaces. Docking stations for personal devices and tools for efficient working hour registration further enhance the hybrid office experience.



- **Collaboration-Focused Areas**

Virtual reality (VR) and augmented reality (AR) will make digital work environments more immersive. In physical collaboration rooms, technologies like Rocware's **RC10 Videobar** with smart gallery ensure equal focus on all participants, enhancing employee interaction.

The 4k all-in-one camera incorporates AI recognition algorithms that recognize human heads, faces, and shapes. It can automatically switch the layout of the image based on the number of people present, allowing everyone to enter the scene clearly and get an equal focus.

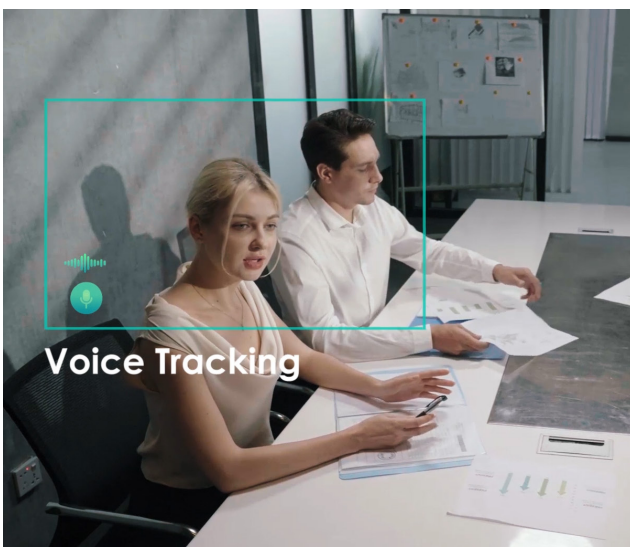


Smart Gallery

In addition to the small conference room videobar solution, Rocware's other camera solutions are also more focused on human interaction and immersive experience design, with both **RC821U and RC841U cameras** for medium-sized conference rooms supporting multiple **AI tracking** modes, can switch between different functions to track single and multiple people, helping remote colleagues not to miss the speaker's focus.



As a supplement, the Rocware **A10 microphone** features a Microphone array design that recognizes and tracks the speaker's location and adds to the speaker's voice, at the same time intelligently remove the noise of the scene environment, so that more immersive communication.



• Continuous Learning and Skill Development

Enterprises are integrating learning platforms seamlessly into workflows, emphasizing the importance of physical training rooms for upskilling and reskilling. Lightweight and AI-driven solutions, like Rocware's **RC031 educational tracking camera** and **RM80 microphone**, enhance the training room experience.



The **RC031 educational tracking camera** works as an AI assistant to track whiteboard writing while intelligently erasing the speaker's shadow. It has different AI tracking modes to ensure you won't miss any sentence and helps you keep notes on the whiteboard.

The **RM80 microphone** will intelligently reinforce the lecturer's voice in the area of the platform while reducing the noise in other areas.



In conclusion, the workplace evolution propelled by technological advancements and the adoption of AI demands a strategic approach from businesses and investors.

Navigating the delicate balance between physical and digital elements is key to fostering a flexible and adaptive work environment in the years to come.

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