

Impact of Collaboration on the Enterprise

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Abstract

“Nothing is so powerful as an idea whose time has come” said Victor Hugo. The time has indeed come for collaboration. Although the notion of collaboration has been around for sometime, the technology for mass collaboration became ready and became adopted widely only recently.. Collaboration has already changed the world of social networking. The trends in social networking are now moving to the enterprise. Industry visionaries agree that collaboration will change the way we work. Business models will change as a result of collaborative thinking and collaborative technologies. Productivity will improve dramatically. Enterprises will start to harness collective intelligence not only from their own employees but also from that of the mass population.

Collaborative technologies will help improve how enterprises work. Enterprises will embrace the notion of Teleworking more that they have done in the past. Not only will more and more employees start to work from ‘home’, the employees will work from their car, from the airport, even from the airplane and from wherever a human being can conceivably be.

Today’s collaborative technologies not only allow employees to work remotely and allow secure access to information in the enterprise, but also allow the Teleworking employees as well as the onsite employees to “bump into each other” around the “virtual office water cooler”. The true power of today’s collaborative technology is that it enables contextual collaboration and leverages collective intelligence. Thus with the added power of technology telecommuting will become more popular, become more accepted by both managers and employees and as a result Teleworking will become a much more acceptable way to working.

Collaboration will make the enterprise more productive. Tools for enterprise mashups will provide the selective knowledge that a worker need to his or her finger tips without having to wait for IT Tools to be implemented. With the wealth of information available to them, the empowered worker of tomorrow will make faster, better and smarter decisions thus enhancing the productivity and profitability of the enterprise.

The net result of collaboration will be a more agile and nimble enterprise that can move faster than its competition by leveraging all brain power it can accumulate ‘world wide’ and by solving problems that it never before thought were possible.