**Breakout Group #1**

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**Q1 What is CSCW - find definitions from two different sources**

* Wikipedia defines CSCW as “a generic term, which combines the understanding of the way people work in groups with the enabling technologies of computer networking, and associated hardware, software, services and techniques.”

<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Computer-supported_cooperative_work>

* EasyTechJunkie defines CSCW as “actually seeking to describe the sociological and psychological impact of sharing work responsibilities electronically in addition to the human-computer interaction that must take place in such an environment.”

<https://www.easytechjunkie.com/what-is-computer-supported-cooperative-work.htm>

The general census is that CSCW is about how humans use new technology to tackle larger and more complex problems. People can now collaborate using networking software as a tool and CSCW looks at how these methods affect the people using them.

**Q2 What are the major aspects/components of CSCW theory. A bulleted list is fine**

CSCW consists of behavioral researchers and system builders at the intersection of collaborative behaviors and technology, and addresses how “different technologies facilitate, impair, or simply change collaborative activities”. There are six components of collaborative behavior:

* Communication, information sharing, coordination
* Focused on situations in real time, or asynchronously

It is constructed from communication, identification, scheduling, sharing, product and administration spaces.

<https://www.interaction-design.org/literature/book/the-encyclopedia-of-human-computer-interaction-2nd-ed/computer-supported-cooperative-work>

<https://arxiv.org/pdf/0711.2760.pdf>

**Q3 Is CSCW theory still popular or has it been passed over by other theories?**

CSCW theory is still popular in the field of HCI. Because CSCW makes the system a medium, rather than just a tool, it is increasingly popular in a world of digital collaboration. The terms that make up CSCW have evolved past their original intentions, and CSCW theory has evolved with them. Digital collaboration and communication are central to CSCW and those areas are becoming even more relevant in today’s work from home society and a world that increasingly uses social media. The future of CSCW theory and design of different collaborative technology is bright as there is almost limitless room for expansion of CSCW theory as computing and information storage continue to evolve.

(Sources: <https://www.cc.gatech.edu/~john.stasko/6750/Talks/24-cscw.pdf> and <https://www.interaction-design.org/literature/book/the-encyclopedia-of-human-computer-interaction-2nd-ed/computer-supported-cooperative-work#:~:text=In%20theory%2C%20CSCW%20could%20cover,and%20not%20covered%20within%20CSCW> )

**Q4 What are the pluses of CSCW theory**

According to Wikipedia, a CSCW working environment holds many advantages. Asynchronous participation in projects is more feasible and allows team members to contribute whenever they want from wherever they want. The need for members schedule’s to align is unnecessary. CSCW also allows experts from around the world to join a team regardless of location. From a cost-saving perspective, a CSCW environment can lower or eliminate the need for travel, office space, parking, electricity, and equipment. Other costs like commuting costs and time costs are eliminated for the employees. The ability for record keeping of text-based communication such as email or Skype or Zoom chats, also allow for more long-term collaboration.

wikiwand.com/en/Computer-supported\_cooperative\_work

**Q5 What are the minuses of CSCW theory**

According to Wikipedia, some of the disadvantages of CSCW theory include:

* Developing infrastructure that can bridge the cross-generational gap in virtual teams.
* It often requires users to learn a new system which users may perceive as creating work for them without much benefit.
* Networking issues with groupware often create challenges in using groupware for CSCW. While the internet is becoming widely available, some people still face very slow internet connections while others have high speed connections.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Computer-supported\_cooperative\_work#Challenges