# How technology will transform the workplace

# 科技如何改变办公室

Technology is playing an ever increasing role in defining the modern workplace. As technology changes, so will the way we interact with our colleagues and the workplace around us. What will the workplace of the future look like? Here are three technologies I believe could influence the workplace of the future.

Cloud Computing is one of the key technologies that is rapidly changing the shape of the modern workplace. As companies move their files and applications into the cloud, they are finding the benefits go well beyond the cost savings. Having files and applications stored in the cloud means that staff can access them from anywhere, at any time. This means that staff may not require a fixed desk, and depending on their job function may not even require fixed working hours.

Trends around the world are already seeing many companies adopt hot-desk seating plans for much of their office space. Further to this, many companies are adopting a flexible workplace model, facilitating staff the option to work flexible hours, from any location they choose. Cloud Computing is making it easier than ever before for companies of all sizes to adopt such strategies. This trend will result in companies converting more of their valuable real estate into creative hubs for collaboration and team work.

Internet of Things is not just about internet connected toasters and kettles. By 2019, the number of devices connected to the internet will grow to almost 24 billion. Almost everything will be connected to the internet. How will this transform the workplace?

IoT connected devices are already being introduced to gather real time data on movements within the workplace. In the near future, this data could be used to identify where people are spending time and improve productivity by notifying staff when certain zones such as toilets or quiet rooms are occupied. This data could also be used to autonomously control lighting and thermostats, saving on energy costs.

In the future, IoT will help to automate a wide range of tasks within the workplace, from autonomously maintaining inventory levels, to identifying potential safety hazards and even tracking exact locations of items within a supply chain. With the help of IoT, the workplace of the future will become more connected, more intelligent, and more autonomous.

Augmented Reality has been the subject of fascination to both consumers and the business world. Augmented reality opens the doors for limitless creativity and innovation. In the near future, the construction industry could leverage augmented reality to visualize and overlay structures, materials or objects in a real life environment. Interior designers could experiment with different furniture and color schemes in real time to give customers a real life perspective. Architects and engineers could use augmented reality to visualize how new buildings or bridges would look like and affect a real life environment.

In the workplace, augmented reality could be used to speed up training as employees are able to perform their job duties in real working environments, as well as improve safety by overlaying virtual markers or safety reminders for employees. The workplace of the future will leverage technologies such as augmented reality to deliver real-time experiences that will improve productivity, decision making and safety.

In Conclusion, these technologies won't transform the workplace overnight. As these technologies are adopted by companies, it's clear to see that the workplace of the future will become more flexible, more connected and more intelligent than ever.

As the workforce of the future transforms with technology, one thing is certain; we will need to redefine what we used to think of as a 'normal' workplace.

科技在定义现代办公室的角色日益发挥举足轻重的作用。随着科技持续革新，我们与同事们及与工作场所的互动方式亦势将大变。未来的办公室将会是是什么样子？我相信目前正崛起的三种崭新科技，将可以影响未来的办公室。

云端运算是其中一种正迅速改变现代办公室的科技之一。企业纷纷将其文件和应用程式迁移到云上之际，发现其优势远远超出了成本的节约。将文件和应用程式储存在云上，意味着职员可以随时随地运用。从此以后，员工可能不需要获编派固定的办公桌，甚至视乎职能，可能无须规定工作时间。

许多公司为其大部分办公空间采用了无固定办公桌的安排，并已成为世界各地的趋势。更进一步的，已采用灵活的工作场所模式，方便员工选择在任何位置奉行弹性工时。

云端运算令不论大小企业更容易实行无固定办公桌及弹性工时等措施，这种趋势将企业公司亦令寸金尺土的办公室空间转型为协作和团队合作的创新枢纽。

物联网不只是可上网的烤面包机和热水壶这般简单。到了 2019 年，能上网的设备数量将增长到近 240 亿。到时几乎一切都将连接到互联网。这将办公室有何冲击？

连接物联网的设备已日渐普及，以收集关于办公室人流移动的实时数据。在不久将来，这些数据可以用于识别员工逗留较长时间的地方，并透过通知员工某些区域如厕所或静修房已被占用以整体提高生产力。该等数据还可用于自主控制照明和恒温器，以节省能源成本。

将来，物联网将有助把办公室一系列工序自动化，例如自动维持库存水平、识别潜在的安全隐患，甚至跟踪物品在供应链中的确切位置。在物联网的帮助下，未来的办公室将变得更互联互通，更加聪明，更自主。

扩增实境（简称 AR）一直是触发消费者和商业世界无限想像的主题，它打开了无限创造力和创新的大门。

在可见的将来，建造行业可以利用扩增实境，视觉化及复盖在现实生活环境中的结构，材料或物体。室内设计师可以实时尝试不同的家具和配色方案，为客户提供模拟现实的生活视角。建筑师和工程师可以使用扩增实境，形象化落成后的建筑物或桥梁外观，以及对真实生活环境的影响。

在职场应用上，扩增实境可用于加速培训，员工能够在真实的工作环境中履行其职责，以及通过复盖虚拟标记或安全提醒而提升员工安全。未来的办公室将利用如扩增实境等科技，提供实时体验，从而提高生产力，决策质素和安全性。

总言之，这些科技术不会一夜间改变办公室。正当这些科技被企业采用，未来的工作间很明显地变得更互联互通，更加聪明，更自主。

未来的劳动力随着科技而演变，有一件事是肯定的：我们需要推翻一贯对正常办公室的既有定义。

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