Saying

to Workplace Surveillance :

Lessons from the Cybersecurity and Privacy Institute

Lisa Oakley , xenia dragon, & Eysa Lee

> Hi folks,
>
> Please see the important message below. As members of the Cybersecurity and
> Privacy Institute, I'm aware that many of you likely have concerns about
> these devices. Feel free to send any feedback to me and Jan so we can
> gather and respond accordingly.
>

> In order to develop best practices for assigning desks and seating within
> ISEC, the Office of the Provost will be conducting a study aimed at
> quantifying the usage of currently assigned seating in the write-up areas
> outside of the labs and the computational research desks. The results will
> be used to develop best practices for assigning desks and seating within
> ISEC (and EXP in due course).
>
> The selected solution to conduct this project is a Spaceti occupancy
> monitoring system which will be installed under currently assigned desks
> within ISEC to identify and document desk occupancy and usage. This is a
> passive infrared sensor that detects if the workstation/desk is occupied or
> unoccupied. The monitoring system will aggregate data by subzones to
> generate when a desk is occupied or not. The goal of this project is to
> inform decisions around current and future interdisciplinary research space
> design to ensure access to more research opportunities for the community.

An open letter by the students and faculty in the ISEC building at Northeastern University

Dear Provost Madigan and Senior Vice Provost Luzzi,

On Sept. 16, all faculty and Ph.D. students who work in ISEC were informed that a "study" would soon be conducted using a desk monitoring system to "develop best practices for assigning desks and seating". We, the undersigned faculty and students, wish to convey our extreme disappointment at both the study itself and the manner in which it was decided upon. We request that the study be paused, and be replaced with a process whereby the subjects of the study understand its goals and have input on how it will be conducted.

Below are some of our chief concerns:

- Resident in ISEC is the Cybersecurity and Privacy Institute, one of the world's leading groups studying privacy and tracking, with a particular focus on IoT devices. To deploy an under-desk tracking system *to the very researchers who regularly expose the perils of these technologies* is, at best, an extremely poor look for a university that routinely touts these researchers' accomplishments. At worst, it raises retention concerns and is a serious reputational issue for Northeastern.

- Faculty and students were not involved or even consulted as this project was considered. In particular, no opportunity was provided for the subjects of this study to understand its goals, provide input, or identify potential less-privacy-invasive approaches. As this study involves human subjects, consent should have been obtained.
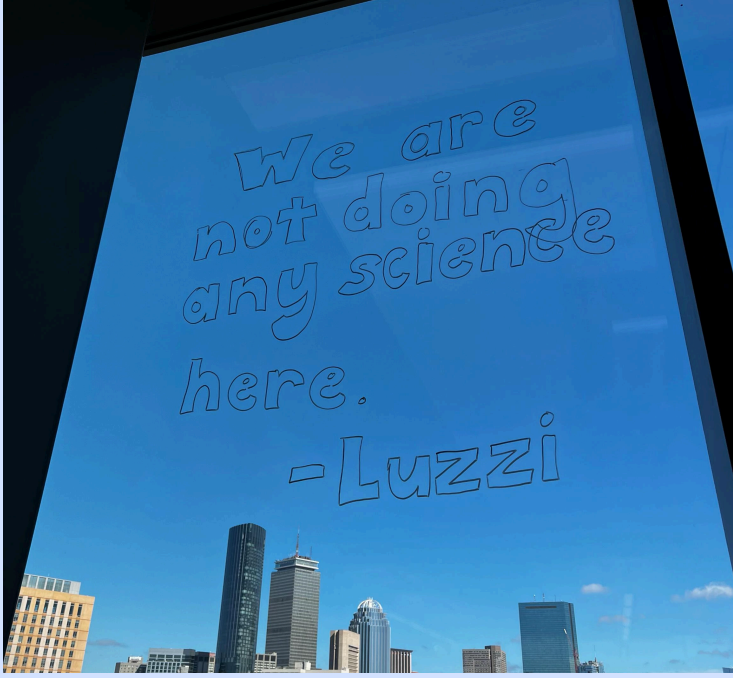
Luzzi explains what IRB does. Says "calling this something about monitoring people is wrong. This is desk occupancy"

Student: who are we monitoring if not people

Luzzi: any heat source

Student: what other heat source would it be

Luzzi: could be a service animal or something but I guess yeah its a human. We don't know if it is a person who normally uses that desk or someone else. No individual data goes back to the

I'm writing to follow up on Thursday's email from Senior Vice Provost David Luzzi. I want to make it clear that all of the desk sensors installed in ISEC have been removed and will not be reinstalled.
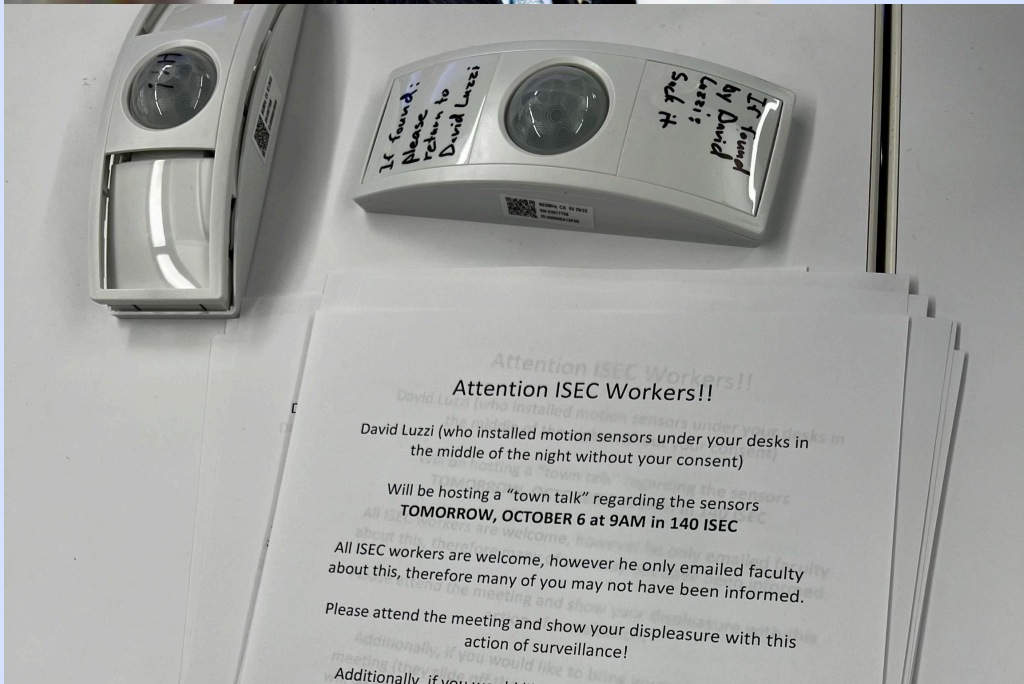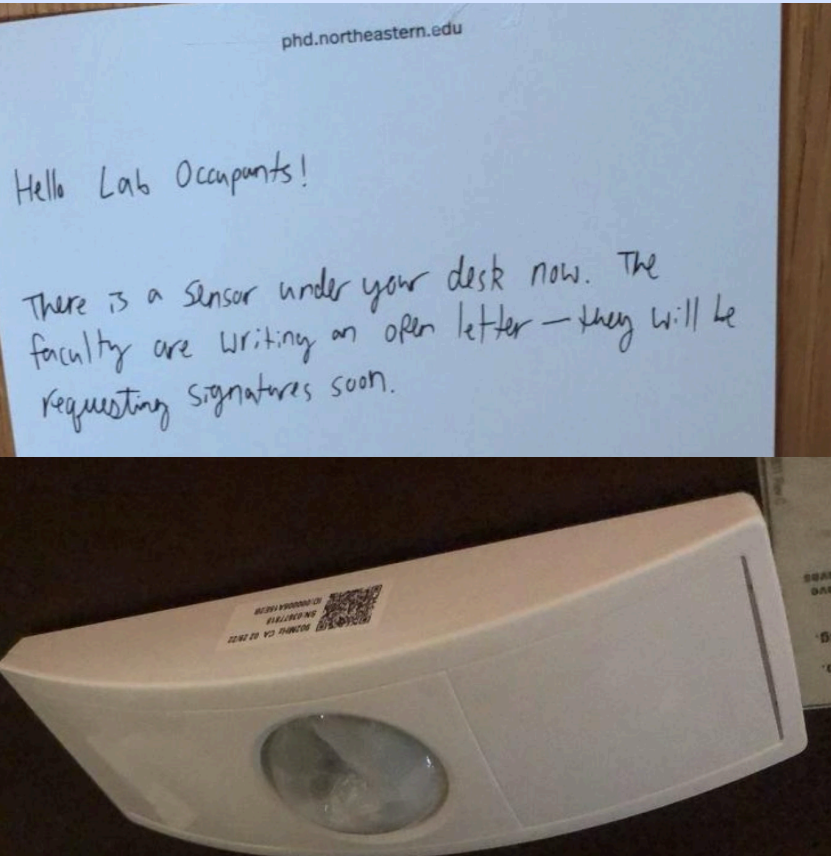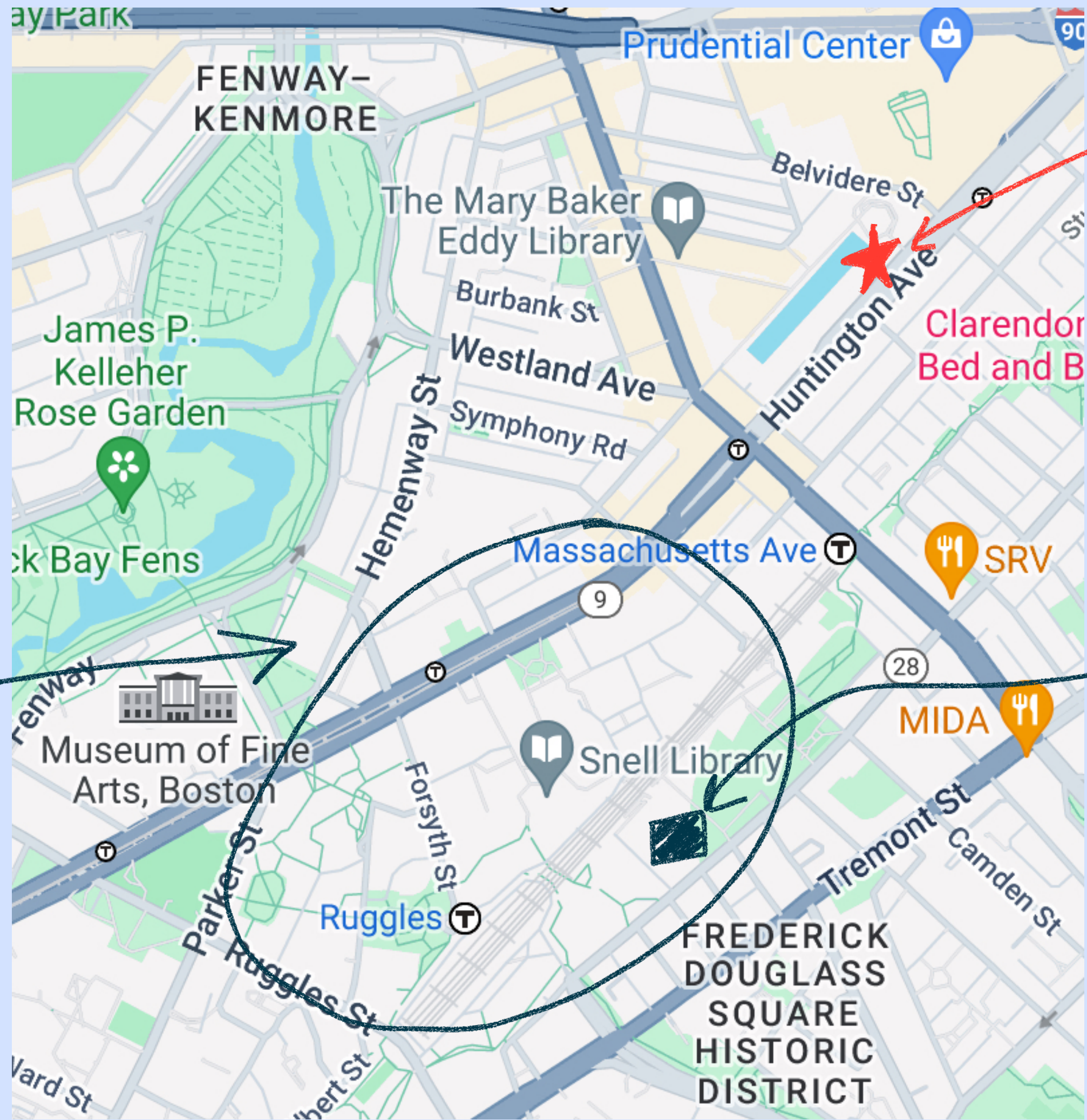
Sept 16, 2022

Sept 27, 2022

Sept 28, 2022

Sept 29 – Oct 4, 2022

Oct 6, 2022

Oct 6 – 7, 2022

Oct 8, 2022

ISEC 660
NAMED 2022's "HOTBED OF REBELLION" BY DAVID LUZZI

Attention ISEC Workers!!
David Luzzi (who installed motion sensors under your desks in the middle of the night without your consent)
Will be hosting a "town talk" regarding the sensors
TOMORROW, OCTOBER 6 at 9AM in 140 ISEC
All ISEC workers are welcome, however he only emailed faculty about this, therefore many of you may not have been informed.
Please attend the meeting and show your displeasure with this action of surveillance!

Hello Lab Occupants!
There is a sensor under your desk now. The faculty are writing an open letter — they will be requesting signatures soon.

Pluralistic: 07 Oct 2022 "Don't spy on a privacy lab," and other career advice for university provosts

Cory Doctorow
October 7, 2022
Uncategorized

'NO': Grad Students Analyze, Hack, and Remove Under-Desk Surveillance Devices Designed to Track Them

In October, the university quietly introduced heat sensors under desk without notifying students or seeking their consent. Students removed the devices, hacked them, and were able to force the university to stop its surveillance.

💬 36   🔁 1,034   ❤️ 1,657

The Huntington
NU administration removes occupancy sensors to privacy, ethical concerns

Students and faculty working in the Interdisciplinary Science and Engineering Complex, or ISEC, pushed back against Northeastern administration last week after the university attempted to monitor their activity at their desks through occupancy sensors.

Universal HUB
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Home » Boston » Roxbury

Northeastern provost chose unwisely in trying to secretly surveil the work habits of grad students in a lab dedicated to digital privacy

By adamg on Mon, 10/10/2022 - 3:33pm

We are not doing any science here. - Luzzi

spaceti

Home Product ⌄ Why Spaceti Resources ⌄ Company ⌄   Login Contact sales Get a free demo

Our Software

Our software provides an exceptional user experience and ensures a seamless workplace management for both managers and building occupants

IN THE OFFICE

Rustam Ali Esther Kim Dianne Hawkins

01. Workplace Experience App

Save time searching for a workspace, meeting room or parking lot, enhance employee satisfaction, stay connected and engage with your workplace community

Learn more →

02. Space Management Platform

03. Meeting Room Tablet App

04. Visitor Management App

Welcome to Spaceti

Luxembourg Plaza ▾

Lockers Events Nearby amenities ACS

What would you like

Book a space for

Schedule a meeti

Park a car

Meetings View all

Weekly Design Review All-Ha
15:30 – 16:00   16:00
Large Meeting Room- Building C Meeti

Bookings View all

L'Oréal's Workplace Transformation

L'Oréal Deutschland GmbH built a new campus in Düsseldorf and wanted to create the best workplace concept for the organisation and its employees.

TRY IT

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spaceti
WIRELESS
Location Sensor

The Location Sensor creates an indoor positioning system that can be accessed using an app installed on a personal mobile device. It can be also used to track chairs, asset tags, and personal tags.

spaceti
Occupancy & People Counting

Only one sensor in the market detects and counts people sitting and standing. It is ideal for managing meeting rooms because it identifies rooms in use and monitors flexible desks by detecting unused office workstations.

spaceti
WIRELESS
Occupancy Sensor (Workspace)

The Occupancy Sensor knows whether the desk is occupied or free and reports the information to the server. It is used to track workspace vacancies, collecting anonymised data that is later analysed on the backend.

Cooperation between Spaceti and Cobblestone has led to:

Installation of 300 occupancy sensors

Periodic occupancy measurement and implementation of work shifts

Workstation Booking

The facility management team can flexibly determine how much space will be available.

Healthy Air

Improved air quality increased employee productivity and decreased complaints about the environment.

Employee Satisfaction

The Spaceti App allows employees to check the air quality levels around them and report them to FM teams.

Control System

More granular and transparent data than the current BMS systems allow for data-driven conversations with landlords.

🏢 Cobblestone

Rasmus-Juul Nytholm, Managing Director at Cobblestone

"The Spaceti solution provides much more granular and transparent data as opposed

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Space Efficiency Increase of 15%

Expectations & Project Specification

· About project: 10,000m2 building with 1000 desks and 1-1 desk to employee ratio.
· Make space utilization more effective and understand which departments need more space.
· Increase employee productivity and create an activity-based workplace.
· Replace manual counting with a precise digital tool and acquire exact data.

Why Spaceti

· An occupancy analytics tool for data-

· Ability to immediately install 1,000 wireless occupancy sensors on 10,000 m2 with no IT support.

functions in the future.

Results Coope

· 15% more same amo
· 20% of s areas, focu zones to i productivi
· L'Oréal d and contin
· 300% RO
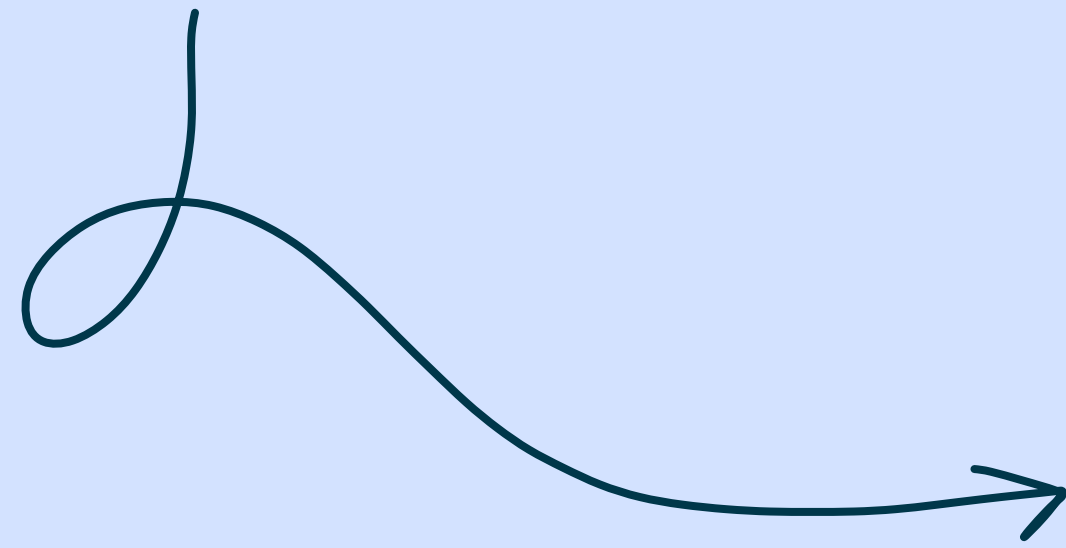· Create a ratio betw departme

Sept 2023

GRADUATE EMPLOYEES OF NORTHEASTERN UNIVERSITY
GENU-UAW: A UNION FOR RESEARCH AND TEACHING ASSISTANTS

WE WON!
1,130-70
94% VOTING YES