THE POST-PANDEMIC WORKPLACE

You’re headed into the office, but instead of the predictable touchpad entry and door handle, the door opens automatically after using facial recognition to confirm your identity. A non-contact thermometer has already taken your temperature. Navigating a physically-distanced layout to reach your workspace, you are greeted with high screens that can be made opaque to provide privacy or transparency for group collaboration.

Say what you will but the prevailing facts suggest that we did not have a plan to fight COVID19 or any pandemic. Those same facts also suggest that our systems — public health, governmental, technological — are actually more fragile than we thought. The tech advancements we’ve made gave us a false perception of our underlying conditions. It is critical that we understand the three interconnected factors that enable us to address situations like this one.

What’s clearer now than ever is that digital transformation is a necessity in the world that we live in. We can’t operate vital industries like utilities with outdated systems and processes that rely on paper, spreadsheets, and manual intervention. What’s also clear is that the work that is needed to make the shift is now going to be harder than ever to afford - both with money and time.

WORK-LIFE INTEGRATION WILL BE THE NEW NORMAL

We’re living amidst a crisis that has brought forth deep issues we have long ignored — the work-life conflict of parents and caregivers. While I focus a lot on parents and caregivers because they represent a marginalized group, all employees deserve the ability to integrate work and life. However, working from home has resulted in people logging more hours and being “on-demand” at all times. This will only lead to burnout, and employees need to feel empowered to set boundaries and prioritize their mental health in this new context.

WE SHOULD HAVE ALREADY GONE DIGITAL

What’s clear to me today is that we should have already gone digital. We’re now living in a reality that we have long ignored — the work-life conflict of parents and caregivers. While I focus a lot on parents and caregivers because they represent a marginalized group, all employees deserve the ability to integrate work and life. However, working from home has resulted in people logging more hours and being “on-demand” at all times. This will only lead to burnout, and employees need to feel empowered to set boundaries and prioritize their mental health in this new context.

WE SHOULD HAVE ALREADY GONE DIGITAL

As a member of the Zpryme team, Erin is responsible for creating content by aggregating, analyzing, editing, and formatting market data for energy and technology topics such as smart cities, transportation electrification, and EVs, microgrid, renewable energy and distributed energy resources, blockchain, transactive energy platforms, and operational and informational technology. Erin interviews different stakeholders in these areas to understand the ecosystem as a whole. She is dedicated to finding sustainable, clean energy solutions starting in the Austin area.

WE SHOULD HAVE ALREADY GONE DIGITAL

If you're interested in writing about a topic you're passionate about, please reach out to me at erin.hardick@zpryme.com.

GOOD AFTERNOON,

The changing work-life dynamic is a challenge to many people adjusting to the new normal. This week we’re looking at the digital workplace and some of the downsides of work-from-home environments. We're also looking at the fragility of our public health, governmental, and technological systems. Enjoy Volume 7!

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