

# BETTER THAN A BOARDROOM? FIVE WAYS MEETING ROOMS WILL CHANGE FOR GOOD

 Microsoft  
Surface  
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As organisations embrace hybrid work, their physical spaces need to evolve and adapt to provide opportunities for effective collaboration. Here Ashley Richardson, Chief Technologist at Computacenter, shares what the next generation of meeting rooms will look like.

The age of hybrid working is here. Many organisations are implementing 'return to office' policies that include a combination of homeworking and office-based working. To support this, they need policies and technologies that encourage personal connection across both virtual and physical environments.

Forget hunting for the HDMI cable, struggling to hear the conference room phone and dealing with temperamental video connections. Instead, meeting rooms are evolving to become intuitive and inclusive environments that connect employees, whether they attend in person or not.

Read on to discover five ways meeting rooms will change for the better, and how Computacenter and Microsoft can help your organisation make hybrid working, work.



LET'S GO



**1**

## TRANSFORMING PHYSICAL SPACES

Organisations are modernising their physical meeting rooms and looking beyond traditional fixed layouts in favour of more flexible spaces that can adapt to changing needs. One major challenge attributed to blended meetings is

ensuring employees dialling in from outside of the office feel just as included as those physically in the room. To achieve this requires careful planning and staging, complemented by technology. The Computacenter team can analyse your meeting rooms and advise on the best way to use your space, from small 'huddle' spaces to larger, collaborative meeting environments.

**2**

## MAKING THE EXPERIENCE SEAMLESS

The right technology is key to the success of meetings in the hybrid world, making it easy to move between environments, and collaborate more effectively. Microsoft Teams Rooms systems combine hardware and software to enable blended digital and physical meetings. The rooms feature one-touch connection and proximity beacons, so attendees can join and get productive straight away. Plus, Surface Hub 2S interactive whiteboards with intelligent content capture link to participants' touchscreen devices to enable seamless live collaboration, regardless of location.



## 3

## PART OF THE ACTION

Gone are the days of a single, large screen at one end of the meeting room, with people blocking the view. New camera placements and dynamic views in Microsoft Teams ensure attendees aren't staring at the back of colleagues' heads and feel included in the conversation. In smaller rooms, participants may be able to use their device's inbuilt cameras but in larger conference spaces, cameras placed around the room, ceiling mounted speakers, and high-definition screens will also make digital interactions feel more natural.



## 4

## ALWAYS CONNECTED

No more cutting out on conference calls or apologising for slow connections. With more hybrid collaboration happening, organisations must update their infrastructure to support multiple video calls happening at the same time. Computacenter can upgrade your network and security controls to ensure it supports high fidelity digital interactions. Using cellular and WiFi, we can create hubs that are robust enough to withstand multi-point networking and supercharge your connectivity.





## 5

A FOCUS ON  
INCLUSIVITY

Enabling a hybrid work culture also gives organisations the opportunity to make meetings more inclusive. Regardless of where employees are working from, they will feel able to make a valuable contribution to the discussion or project. New features in Microsoft Teams cater for the differing needs of employees, without interrupting the pace of conversation. For example, live captions or transcription can be enabled, and participants can use the 'raise hand' feature to indicate a question. Voice recognition software, one-touch and proximity joining also enables frictionless switching between devices



and locations. And presenter mode allows the meeting leader to see which slides are coming up and better manage the conversation.

Combining the right technology with the best use of physical space can help organisations develop a hybrid workplace strategy that works.

Computacenter can help your organisation achieve collaborative excellence. Through our partnership with Microsoft, we can analyse and transform your meeting rooms into robust workspaces that are primed for the future.



# GET IN TOUCH

To find out more about how Computacenter & Microsoft can help modernise your meeting spaces, please contact your Computacenter Account Manager, call **01707 631000** or email **[enquiries@computacenter.com](mailto:enquiries@computacenter.com)**.

## About Computacenter

Computacenter is a leading independent technology partner, trusted by large corporate and public sector organisations. We help our customers to source, transform and manage their IT infrastructure to deliver digital transformation, enabling users and their business. Computacenter is a public company quoted on the London FTSE 250 (CCC.L) and employs over 16,000 people worldwide.

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