

END OF THE OFFICE ROMANCE?

UK workers want mobility to let them work more often at home or out of the office

A survey commissioned by Damovo UK, the business communications provider, has revealed that as mobile technology improves more people want to carry out their work away from the office. Over three quarters of respondents said the main benefit they wanted from mobility was the ability to work from home or to have greater flexibility to work from a non-office location.

The survey, conducted by eDigitalResearch, asked nearly 500 UK workers in the public and private sector, how they are currently using mobile devices (eg. Smartphone, PDA, laptop) at work and their attitudes towards using them. 44 per cent of those surveyed deemed mobile devices to be 'very important' to their work, compared with only five per cent believing they were 'not important' at all.

Traditionally, the office environment has been the target of Cupid's arrow with many people meeting their partners at work. But while the rise of mobile working may well see the end of the traditional office romance, the signs are that mobile devices are in fact improving both peoples' personal and working lives. Overall, 73 per cent of those questioned said they have seen an improvement in their work/life balance as a result of using them.

The survey revealed that currently voice-calls remain the most important mobile application during the working day followed by SMS text-messaging and mobile internet. However, mobile e-mail was undoubtedly seen as the most important application in future (excluding traditional voice calls), ahead of applications such as voice-over IP (VoIP) and instant messaging (IM). Interestingly, attachment viewing and editing were not seen as important, however this may well change in the future as the number of devices with the

capability increases.

Paul Renucci, managing director of Damovo UK, said: "It is clear that more people and organisations are seeing the benefits mobility can bring. With increasing technological advances people will be able to do more things with less devices, which will provide many businesses with a great opportunity to reduce costs, drive productivity and most importantly have a happy workforce."

-ENDS-

Editors' notes

Full survey results:

1. How many mobile devices do you use for work?

- 1 (66%)
- 2 (26%)
- 3+ (8%)

2. How important are mobile devices to your work?

- Very important (44%)
- Quite important (39%)
- Negligible (12%)
- Not important (5%)

3. Have mobile solutions improved your work/life balance?

- Yes (73%)
- No (27%)

4. What mobile applications are most important to your working day? (ranked in order of importance)

- (1) Mobile voice calls
- (2) Internet access
- (3) SMS text messaging
- (4) Mobile e-mail
- (5) Attachment viewing
- (6) Attachment editing

5. Other than standard voice calls, what mobile applications would prove most useful to you in the future? (ranked in order of importance)

- (1) Mobile e-mail
- (2) Internet access
- (3) Voice-over IP (VoIP)
- (4) Instant messaging (IM)
- (5) Attachment viewing
- (6) Attachment editing

6. What is the main benefit you would want from mobility?

- Greater flexibility to work from any non-office location (43%)
- The ability to work from home (36%)
- The ability to carry out work from one device (12%)
- Greater collaboration with work colleagues and customers (7%)

- Other (2%)

7. How do you currently carry around your mobile devices?

- In your bag (61%)
- In your pocket (32%)
- On your belt (4%)
- Other (3%)

The survey was conducted by eDigitalResearch on behalf of Damovo UK

About Damovo

Damovo designs, implements, supports and manages business communication solutions for large and medium-sized organisations. Damovo helps its clients converge and compete by connecting them with their people, their information and their clients.

By enabling the technological and operational benefits of convergence, Damovo's solutions allow organisations to maximise the return they get on their communication systems by controlling costs, increasing efficiency, and improving customer service.

Damovo's portfolio of solutions combines best-of-breed technology from the world's leading suppliers, ensuring its clients receive an end-to-end solution tailored to their specific business needs.

Damovo Group SA operates in 10 countries, generating revenues in excess of €600m, and employing over 1500 people. Its clients in the UK include: Aston University, Bradford Community Housing Trust Group, Electrolux, Jones Lang LaSalle, Metropolitan Police Service, Nutricia, St Mary's NHS Trust, and University of Surrey, Roehampton.

For more information, please visit www.damovo.co.uk

For further information, please contact:

Alex Crawshaw or Charlotte Wade-Thomas, Catalysis Communications

Tel: 020 7101 7333 or 020 7101 7314