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Why open offices are bad for us

Four years ago, Chris Nagele did what many other technology executives have done before — he moved his team into an open concept office.



5 His staff had been exclusively working from home, but he wanted everyone to be together, to bond¹ and collaborate more easily. It quickly became clear, though, that Nagele had made a huge mistake. Everyone was distracted, productivity suffered and the nine employees were unhappy, not to mention Nagele himself.

Whether it's noisy personal phone calls or constant interruptions, most of us have been
10 *victims of the open office.*

In April 2015, about three years after moving into the open office, Nagele moved the company into a 10,000-square foot office where everyone now has their own space — complete with closing doors.

Numerous companies have embraced the open office — about 70% of US offices are
15 open concept — and by most accounts, very few have moved back into traditional spaces with offices and doors. But research shows that we're 15% less productive, we have immense trouble concentrating and we're twice as likely to get sick in open working spaces, has contributed to a growing [backlash² against open offices](#).

“Many people agree — they can't stand the open office,” he says. “They never get
20 anything done and have to do more work at home.”

There's one big reason we'd all love a space with four walls and a door that shuts: focus. The truth is, [we can't multitask](#) and small distractions can cause us to lose focus for upwards of 20 minutes.

What's more, certain open spaces can negatively impact our memory. This is especially
25 true for hotdesking, an extreme version of open plan working where people sit wherever they want in the work place, moving their equipment around with them. (...) the concept isn't going away any time soon. But, says Nagele, more companies should consider what he's found. His employees are happier and more productive—and that helps not just the company, but the team.

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(325 words)

¹ Bond : créer des liens

5 ² Backlash : réaction négative