

Reach out and touch someone

Don't you just hate conference calls? The scenario is always the same. You and some colleagues **gather** in a room. In the middle is a black **contraption** with **speakers**.

You call other participants and spend the next hour **desperately** talking into the box. On those rare occasions you actually hear someone, you can't quite figure out who is talking ... is that the voice of Thorbjørn from Trondheim or Bill in Boston?

But look for something called **telepresence** to **ease** the **confusion**. Life-sized screens are placed across from where you're sitting. You call your colleagues, and instead of just hearing their voices you can see them, too. The end result is a virtual **round table** – you may not be able to **reach out** and pat your colleague on the back, but you can thank each other face-to-face for a job well done!

If this weren't enough, many smart firms have **put** the Internet to **work** on company desktops. Say you're working on a document with a colleague in London. With the help of web conferencing, there is no need to work over the telephone or head for the conference room and its telepresence solution. Instead, you just **launch** the web conferencing application on your computer, and meet online. **VoIP** telephony allows you to speak freely, the webcam lets you see each other – and together you can share and work on the document in real time. Cooperation, brainstorming and sharing just hit the information superhighway via your own desk.

In an age where companies are operating in a global arena, the developments made recently in connecting colleagues from **distant** offices is truly **astounding**. The next step involves transporting these **capabilities** from **solely** an internal company function to the external environment. Forward thinkers are figuring out ways to **employ** the high-tech tools to better communicate with customers and suppliers.

Of course, security is a **concern**, and companies are actively looking into ensuring that digital traffic is safe. But, all risks aside, it looks like a real **breakthrough** has been made in making distance less of an issue. Captain James T. Kirk would be proud.

Glossary

astounding	ällistyttävä
breakthrough	läpimurto
capabilities	(kehitys)mahdollisuudet
concern	huoli, huolen aihe
confusion	hämmennys; epäjärjestys
contraption	laite, vehje
desperately	epätoivoisesti
distant	kaukainen
ease	helpottaa
employ	käyttää
gather	kokoontua
launch	käynnistää
put to work	panna töihin
reach out	ojentautua
round table	pyöreän pöydän keskustelu
solely	ainoastaan, pelkästään
speaker	kaiutin
telepresence	etäläsnäolo
VoIP	IP-puhe: puhelut Internetin välityksellä

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