

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	håpnadsväckande
breakthrough	genombrott
capability	möjlighet; funktion
concern	bekymmer
contraption	manick; apparat
distant	fjärran
ease the confusion	minska på förvirringen; göra det lättare
employ	använda; utnyttja
gather	samlas
launch	starta (ett program)
put to work	ta i bruk
reach out	sträcka sig mot någon
round table	rundabordssamtal
solely	endast
speaker	högtalare
telepresence	exklusiv, avancerad videokonferens
VoIP telephony	IP-telefoni

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