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Remote: Office Not Required

From the authors of the New York Times bestseller REWORK



Synopsis

The "work-from-home" phenomenon is thoroughly explored in this illuminating new audiobook from best-selling 37signals founders Fried and Hansson, who point to the surging trend of employees working from home (and anywhere else) and explain the challenges and unexpected benefits. Most important, they show why - with a few controversial exceptions such as Yahoo - more businesses will want to promote this new model of getting things done. The Industrial Revolution's "under one roof" model of conducting work is steadily declining owing to technology that is rapidly creating virtual workspaces and allowing workers to provide their vital contribution without physically clustering together. Today, the new paradigm is "move work to the workers, rather than workers to the workplace." According to Reuters, one in five global workers telecommutes frequently and nearly ten percent work from home every day. Moms in particular will welcome this trend. A full 60% wish they had a flexible work option. But companies see advantages, too, in the way remote work increases their talent pool, reduces turnover, lessens their real estate footprint, and improves the ability to conduct business across multiple time zones, to name just a few advantages. In Remote, iconoclastic authors Fried and Hansson will convince listeners that letting all or part of work teams function remotely is a great idea - and they're going to show precisely how a remote work setup can be accomplished.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Remote is a rant against office work ending with some good ideas. It is written in mostly 'catchy' one-lines and messes up thinking about remote work by including lots of additional topics (such as

work-time) and assuming they relate to remote work. The result is a confusing book that I wouldn't recommend. For rants against traditional organizations, the previous book (rework) was a lot better. For me, the book went wrong in chapter one, where it talks about offices as these horrible places where you can't get any work done. I agree offices *can* be such places, but I tend to go to the office to get work done as I won't get it done when I'm at home (due to... kids). It suggests that most people rather live outside the cities, whereas I prefer to live in cities. Next it describes commuting to work as a horrible process and a waste of time, whereas I get quite a lot of work done in my commute to work. So, the book felt off right away. It creates this strawman of the horrible office environment which they can rebel against in the rest of the book. But offices can also be nice places. When I want to collaborate with my team, I'd rather be with them in the office. Together in the office we'll get ten times more work done than being remote... even with all modern technology. The book contains seven parts, each consisting of around a dozen chapters and each chapter just a couple of pages. The parts of the book are: 1) Time is Right for Remote Work (aka rant against office), 2) Dealing with excuses, 3) Collaborating remotely, 4) Beware of dragons (aka things to pay attention to when doing remote work), 5) Hiring and keeping the best, 6) Managing remote workers, and 7) Life as a remote worker.

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