

Staying Connected in a Virtual World

Connection Through Communication

THE STORY:

Leaning on a colleague's cubical wall, chatting by the water fountain, or having a quick hallway conversation is natural when you work in an office. We all connect without trying because for most of us it is our nature to be social.

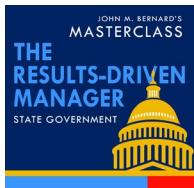
INSIGHT:

Keeping connected with your colleagues in the new world of virtual work is far from natural simply because we have no experience doing it. It requires we adopt new tools and routines whether we manage people or are a part of a team. There are numerous powerful tools including Microsoft's chat and meet "Hangouts" that enable scheduled and spontaneous communication as well as Google's Cloud high-performance virtual desktops and Slack's offering that includes live chatrooms and direct messaging to coworkers. These tools are all very powerful, but it is people – all of us now working virtually – who must use these tools to elevate our sense of connection – connection through communication.



Feeling included comes from being included. In the world of virtual work maintaining the sense of belonging requires that we adopt new tools and adapt our routines.

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