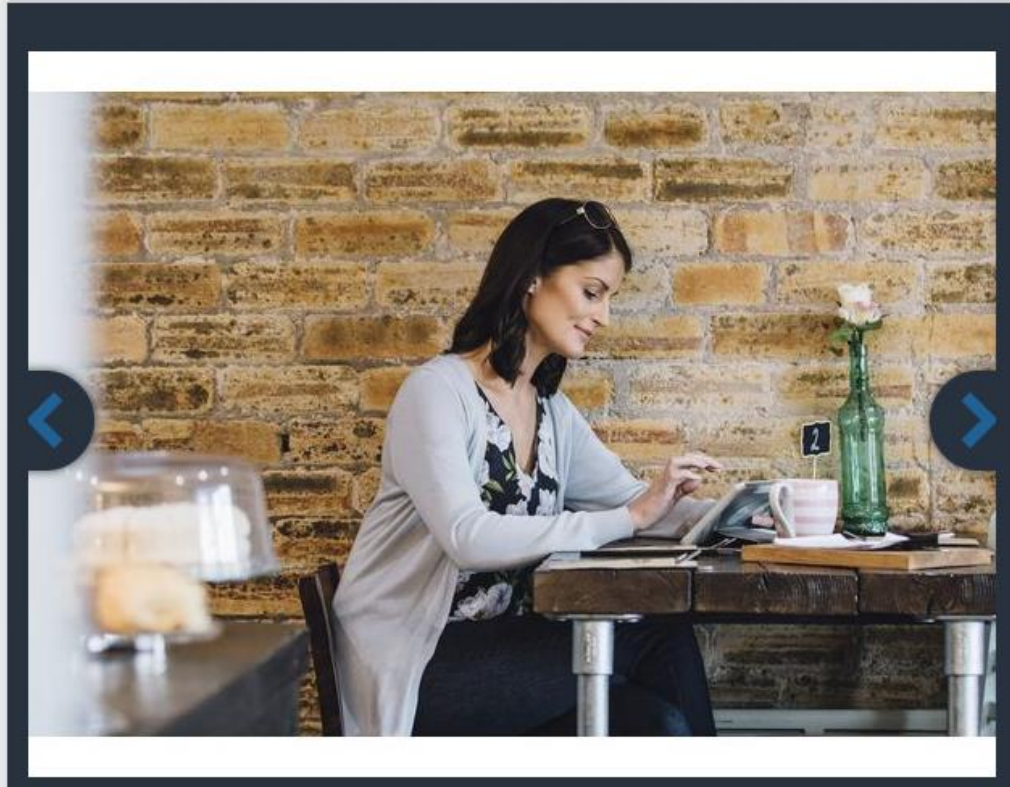


Best Apps for Running Successful Remote Teams

By Charell Star MAY 9, 2017 5:00 AM

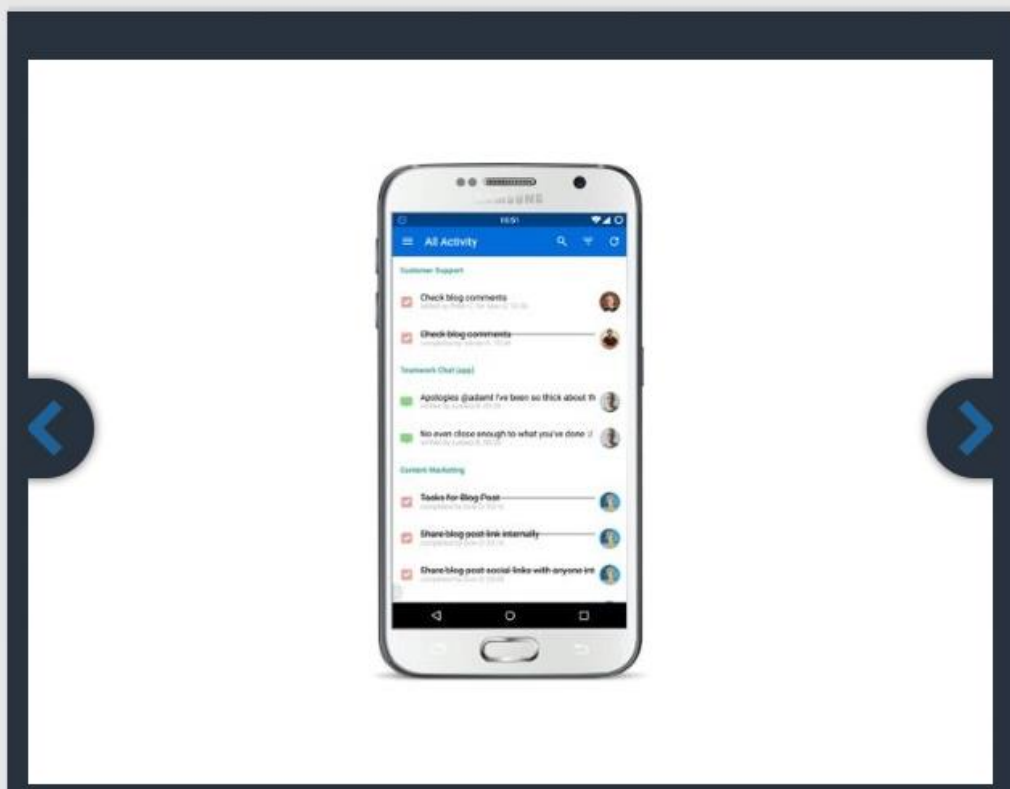


Best Apps for Running Successful Remote Teams

A few decades ago "working from home" sounded like a fancy code for taking the day off. Times have changed, though. No matter what you call it – telecommuting, remote working or teleworking – there are lots of benefits to letting your employees do some or all of their work remotely.

Besides providing big savings on office space needs – up to \$11,000 per employee per year according to [Global Workplace Analytics](#) – telecommuters also log four more hours per week than non-remote workers according to [Gallup](#). If that doesn't get you to rethink

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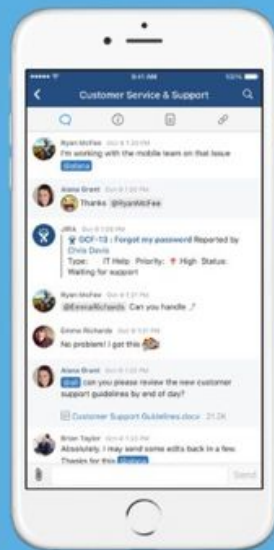


Teamwork Projects

A good online project management app is a must when collaborating with far flung co-workers. [Teamwork Projects](#) is packed with features while being simple-to-use. The system allows you to create, assign or update myriad workplace deliverables: tasks, task lists, time tracking and GANTT charts – all in real time. Users can also upload files, message each other and view status updates from team members in the dashboard. Teamwork Projects is available on [iOS](#), [Android](#) and [Google Chrome](#). It also offers integration with dozens of apps, including [Dropbox](#), [HipChat](#) and [Outlook](#). The basic app is free, but the \$49-per-month Small Office price plan includes unlimited users and 20GB of storage.

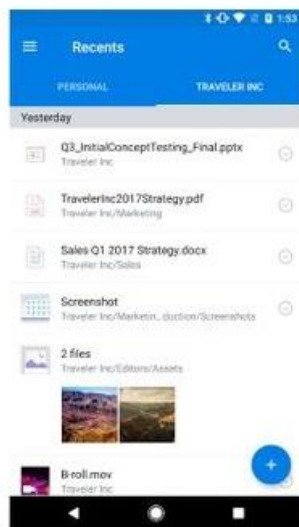
HipChat

HipChat is a private messaging app that was built with businesses in mind. The basic app allows teammates to instant message, drag and drop files and images into the chat screen, and share and set up chatrooms for different topics or departments. It supports emoticons and mini gifs. For an upgrade of \$2 per month per user, HipChat also offers group video chatting and group screen sharing. The app is available on [Windows](#), [Mac](#), and [Linux](#), as well as [iOS](#) and [Android](#).



Dropbox

Dropbox is one of the best cloud-based file sharing services on the market and it has the **trophy rack** to prove it. Uploaded files can be accessed from any device, via the web browser or Dropbox app (iOS and Android), so everyone always has a copy and version control nightmares are a thing of the past. Different permission levels can also be granted to team members, managing folder and file access. Files and folders can even be shared with such external users as clients or freelancers, eliminating the need for a separate FTP network. The standard plan is \$12.50 per month per user for 2TB of storage.





iDoneThis

Holding daily huddles can be difficult when the team is spread out across time zones or simply work different schedules. [iDoneThis](#) keeps everyone in sync by allowing them to share their status updates in a system-generated daily email. The [Android](#) app compiles all the emails into a status report that is accessible by everyone on the team, so no one is left guessing what's been completed. The standard plan starts at \$12.50 per month per user.



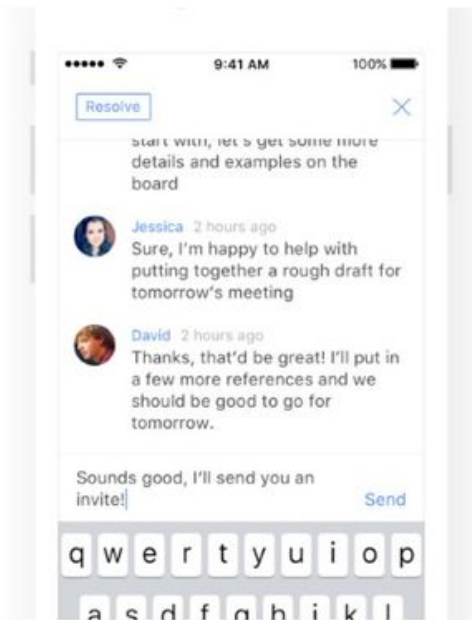
Ring Central

Just because your team is working remotely doesn't mean you want the world to know they are. [RingCentral](#) is a secure virtual phone system that offers a ton of features for teleworkers. The highlight is that the cloud-based service can be accessed via an app (iOS and Android) on users' cell phone, so companies don't have to invest in equipment or wires. When employees make calls, it shows as coming from their business line and not their personal one. The standard service also provides unlimited calling, call logs, conference calls and videoconferencing. The \$34.99 per month per user premium plan adds inbound caller ID and automatic call recording to the service, making it easy to manage calls from clients

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Realtime Board

Bouncing ideas around is one of the huge perks of having a team. [RealtimeBoard](#) is designed to keep that creativity flowing even in a virtual space. The app (iOS and Android) is essentially a digital visual planning space that can be used for real-time collaboration. Think of it as a whiteboard for capturing ideas: mapping out projects and creating mockups or sketches quickly and easily. The standard plan is free, but the \$40 per month team plan, which includes video chatting and screen sharing between users, is probably the right entry option for remote users.



OneLogin

We've all had that moment when a site locks us out because we couldn't remember the 17th permutation of our password. It costs time in our personal lives, but it costs money for a telecommuting workforce. [OneLogin](#) (iOS and Android) helps makes the process a little less painful by eliminating the need for multiple passwords, providing one-click access on desktop or mobile for each remote worker. The identity management system is firewall protected and reduces the risk of passwords being forgotten or shared. Companies can also set different authorization levels for different remote workers and set restrictions on password reuse. The starter plan is \$2 per month and requires a minimum of 25 users.



Google Suite

Distributed teams need to be able to share and make updates to documents as easily as possible. [Google Suite](#) – Docs, Sheets, Forms, Slides, Calendar, Hangout and more – is web based, secure and allows users to collaborate as needed or in real time. The basic suite of apps is \$5 per user per month and includes 30GB of storage. Given how popular Google products have become, it's likely your team already has familiarity, reducing training costs.