

IEEE COMMUNICATIONS MAGAZINE

FEATURE TOPIC: E-WORK AND REMOTE COLLABORATION: CURRENT TECHNOLOGIES AND FUTURE DIRECTIONS

BACKGROUND

During the last two years of COVID-19 pandemic the importance of e-work and remote collaboration systems as key contributors to the technological and economic progress of many industries has become more and more clear. Countries and companies that were able to rapidly adapt to the changes in work settings and dynamics brought about by the pandemic were able to significantly limit the economic impact of the pandemic in those fields that don't require physical presence.

Key enablers of this rapid adaptation can be grouped into two main technology areas: a reliable, flexible network infrastructure able to accommodate sudden changes in volume and types of traffic, and the availability of efficient, easy to use and secure remote collaboration platforms.

We believe this is an important time to look back at how technology responded to these sudden changes and understand what worked, and what were the main challenges.

The scope of this work is two-fold: first and foremost, to present the most promising solutions and key enabling technologies for remote collaboration, and second, to address the shortcoming of currently available technologies in order to establish a clear path forward for remote collaboration systems, based on the experience gained during the COVID-19 pandemic.

This Feature Topic (FT) aims at bringing together researchers and industry practitioners to present the issues and challenges encountered as a result of the sudden switch to remote working style brought about by the Covid-19 pandemic. The goal is to present a multifaceted analysis and retrospective on what worked well and what didn't with the currently available remote collaboration tools, and the network infrastructure required to support them. Perspective authors are invited to submit articles including but not limited to the following topic:

- Research and development in remote collaborations platforms
- Challenges of current collaboration platforms
- Networking protocols and systems for large-scale remote collaboration
- Effect of e-work on productivity and OpEx
- Autonomic networking systems
- Network traffic modeling
- Augmented reality
- Online security

■ SUBMISSION GUIDELINES

Manuscripts should conform to the standard format as indicated in the Information for Authors section of the *IEEE Communications Magazine's* Manuscript Submission Guidelines. Please, check these guidelines carefully before submitting since submissions not complying with them will be administratively rejected without review.

All manuscripts to be considered for publication must be submitted by the deadline through Manuscript Central. Select the "FT-2208/E-work and Remote Collaboration: Current Technologies and Future Directions" topic from the drop-down menu of Topic/Series titles. Please observe the dates specified here.

■ IMPORTANT DATES

Manuscript Submission Deadline: 15 August 2022

Decision Notification: 15 November 2022

Final Manuscript Due: 1 December 2022

Tentative Publication Date: February 2023

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