

Document 1

WHY OPEN OFFICES ARE BAD FOR US?

Four years ago, Chris Nagele did what many other technology executives have done before — he moved his team into an open concept office.

His staff had been exclusively working from home, but he wanted everyone to be together, to bond and collaborate more easily. It quickly became clear, though, that Nagele had made a huge mistake. Everyone was distracted, productivity suffered and the nine employees were unhappy, not to mention Nagele himself.

In April 2015, about three years after moving into the open office, Nagele moved the company into a 10,000-square foot office where everyone now has their own space — complete with closing doors.

There's one big reason we'd all love a space with four walls and a door that shuts: focus. The truth is, we can't multitask and small distractions can cause us to lose focus for upwards of 20 minutes.

What's more, certain open spaces can negatively impact our memory. This is especially true for hot-desking, an extreme version of open plan working where people sit wherever they want in the work place, moving their equipment around with them.

"The trouble with that is some of us even feel that escaping to a quiet room is a sign of weakness", one employee says. [...]

Adapted from www.BBC.com, January 2017

Document 2



"Our open-space office really stimulates information sharing when everyone removes their noise-cancelling headphones."

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