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Microsoft Teams

Beyond its adaptability, familiar user experience, and ongoing commitment from Microsoft for the future, my favorite thing about Microsoft Teams is absolutely its seamless integration abilities. Nowhere is this more valuable than with Office 365 programs.

Teams use, which became extremely popular first as a quickened remote solution for early Covid demands has ended up as an excellent set of very flexible tools comprising the cornerstone of hybrid workplace transitions.

I can't begin to say how incredibly valuable it is to be able to open any Microsoft saved document in a videoconference and allow multiple parties making edits or approvals. As far as I can tell, this isn't even close to possible on "similar" platforms and is truly a competitive edge that may never be equaled. Frankly, in my opinion, Teams is so far out in front that I'm not even sure there is a second place!

A joke we have around the office is "Hey, do you know what integrates with Zoom?" And of course, the common answer is, "Nothing..."

Funny. Funny and true.

Frankly, as we realize that striving for Technical Equality for all employees, regardless of device, platform, or user location is the key to success, I just can't imagine that anything else is even close and if it's even possible to ever bridge that gap. Is it possible? I'm glad my future doesn't rest on answering that question or solving for technical equality to put it another way. How daunting!

There are many things I really like about Microsoft Teams, which is good, because I use it a lot, pretty much every day. That's not to say that everything is absolutely perfect however, and my least favorite thing about Microsoft Teams (and videoconferencing in general) is the weird vortex created when someone removes their background and replaces it with something else, like a template background available within Teams. Now, this really isn't the fault of the program itself, and I guess I can see why it's an option. However, it is a very poor substitution for a clean office and real background, which are both good opportunities of showing examples of both your character and personality.

Right or wrong, it always makes me wonder what each person using it is hiding. Do they not know how discombobulating it is to look at? Seems like they do not. It's so incredibly distracting to have someone disappear and reappear in front of you constantly. I mean, if someone is that worried about whatever their actual background is, there are some better solutions. Every time I've asked why this is happening, I get strange answers like "oh my laptop is on my makeup table," or "my bedroom is so messy."

I can't believe the main reason I've noticed is that people often just do not have a proper workspace. Do yourself a favor, give yourself some room to operate. Take it seriously, we all understand you have

children and/or pets, and I can honestly say that I'd far rather see those than wondering if I'm having a Stargate flashback or something.

A decent video background can be most anything! Can keep it simple from framed qualifications, family photos or even fun sports memorabilia that look about a thousand times better. Seems you could put up an inexpensive "green-screen" and do everything properly, if that's an important thing for you. However, this is rarely the case, and instead, I always end up talking as if to a black hole that's folding in repeatedly on itself. That's not a good look for anyone, bit of advice here, a gallon of paint goes a long way, you're worth it, set yourself for feeling good and having success. Just a thought.