

# Creating the smarter office

The days of handshakes and crowded conference rooms might seem like a relic of the past, but the demands of the new world won't hinder tomorrow's workplaces—it will *accelerate them*.

Tomorrow's networks will do a lot more than just connect people and systems. They will be platforms on which to build the **smarter office**—a workplace filled with systems, capabilities, and concepts that keep people safe and productive in entirely new ways.

With Cisco Meraki providing an adaptable IT platform, the possibilities for creating the smarter office are exciting and—most importantly—possible on a small office budget. Explore the possibilities below.

## 01

### The contactless office.

Your employees used to marvel at the lack of doorknobs, handles, or buttons. Now, they start their day by passing through sensor-based entry points that check their ID and authorize their entrance. Communal devices like printers, conference room light switches, and even coffee machines are controlled via a mobile app. Oh, and the office hand sanitizers? Totally automatic.

Smart communal devices are connected via a Meraki network which is controlled through the simple-to-understand **Meraki dashboard**, making the smart office transition a breeze.

A door-access control system analyzes and authorizes personnel through main entrances. The device is powered through PoE+ LAN connectivity from a **Meraki access point** running through a compact **Meraki switch** nearby.

From the Meraki dashboard, the team checks live video of the lobby via the **Meraki smart camera**, saving them time and resources. With this information, the team is able to revoke access where necessary, keeping the office area safe.

## 02

### The invisible health perimeter.

With walk-through thermal kiosks and smart cameras stationed in the lobby, relevant teams can automatically be notified in the event of an alert, such as an employee with a fever. In just a few clicks, access to the lobby elevator can be blocked while someone is sent to speak with the employee.

A thermal scanning smart device connected to a **Meraki network** detects an elevated temperature in an individual approaching the lobby.

Combined with heat map calculations from the **Meraki smart camera Sense API**, on-the-fly occupancy decisions and overcrowding prevention are simple with insights such as people counting and/or dwell time.

## 03

### Intelligent workspace occupancy.

Even with a relatively small team, there can come a point where "too many people in the break room" becomes a health hazard. Now, you keep track of both occupancy and pathfinding around the office. Solutions like employee wearables, Wi-Fi-enabled mobile devices, and smart cameras mean you can optimize personnel distribution and minimize bottlenecks around the office.

Employee wearables and mobile devices transmit real-time location data via **Meraki wireless access points**. This data stream is compiled into a heat map that's overlaid onto a floor map graphic that can be quickly accessed via third-party integration for valuable real-time location analytics.

Using AWS developer tools and the **Meraki dashboard API**, IT has set up a custom interaction model so "Alexa, ask Meraki..." allows for direct network inquiries using Alexa-based devices (with tailored permissions). IT can do more, faster, and with fewer resources by relying on Meraki APIs for network automation and flexibility to continually transform the office.

## 04

### The conversational network.

Alexa integration allows your people to make hands-free network queries by simply asking their mobile devices, "Where has the majority of my bandwidth been spent in the last hour?" and "When does this license expire?" The IT team has set up a variety of custom queries and interactions that save time and involvement—and yes, they've included a few dad jokes.

With **Meraki Insight**, IT can track the performance of essential business applications and proactively let employees know of any issues with their home internet connection for maximum uptime. Employees now work seamlessly and securely from home or anywhere with an internet connection.

## 05

### The borderless workspace.

Home or office—when it comes to the work experience, there's no longer a difference. Employees who work remotely or commute can pick up where they left off with a seamless experience. IT has created a light, fast, secure, and essentially disruption-proof experience (even if Netflix is being streamed in the next room).

**Meraki teleworker gateways** provide reliable Wi-Fi, site-to-site VPN, and secure firewalls to connect and protect employees in home office environments.

## 06

### Smart environmentals.

Keeping your IT infrastructure at optimal performance is key to running an office efficiently, whether you're working across distributed locations with no local IT resource or whether your network equipment is relegated to a closet. Smart sensors automatically alert you to changes in environmental conditions, allowing you to maximize the uptime and lifespan of your equipment.

Cloud-managed **Meraki MT** sensors feed real-time data into the Meraki dashboard so you can ensure optimal conditions around factors like temperature, humidity, leaks, and intrusion.

Flexible alerts send notifications based on customized, preconfigured thresholds, and with a five-year battery life and five days of onboard storage, you're ready for any eventuality.

Every part of the network is visible and manageable via the **Meraki platform**, with additional reach and integrations made possible via APIs.

## 07

### The unified control room.

Behind the scenes, IT has visibility into all of the office's connected devices from a single platform. With all of this operational data in one place and easily accessible, IT can see patterns in data that would otherwise be easy to overlook, such as traffic balancing, footfall optimization, cohesive safety, overall operational insight, and more. Staying both resilient and innovative is made possible by this living landscape of data and agile control.

Because it's connected to one network platform, businesses can now, better than ever, leverage office-wide operational insights, accelerate rapid growth, and transform their office.

Ready to make your office smarter?

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