

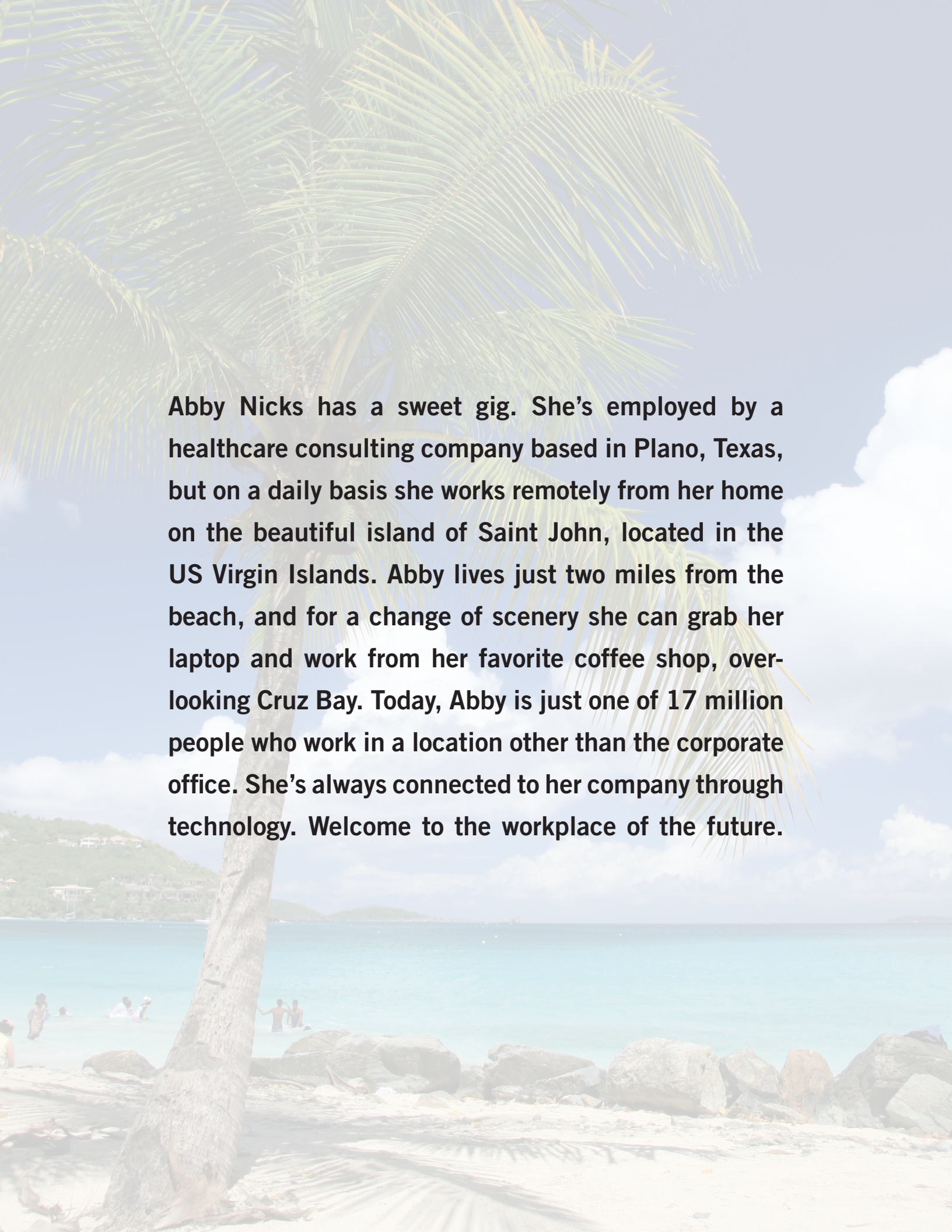


AMERICAN
STRUCTUREPOINT
INC.

Working Remotely From Anywhere

HOW OFFICE 365 IS TRANSFORMING THE WORKPLACE





Abby Nicks has a sweet gig. She's employed by a healthcare consulting company based in Plano, Texas, but on a daily basis she works remotely from her home on the beautiful island of Saint John, located in the US Virgin Islands. Abby lives just two miles from the beach, and for a change of scenery she can grab her laptop and work from her favorite coffee shop, overlooking Cruz Bay. Today, Abby is just one of 17 million people who work in a location other than the corporate office. She's always connected to her company through technology. Welcome to the workplace of the future.

Teleworking, or working from a remote location, is on the rise. A recent study commissioned by the software company Wrike revealed that of 1,074 respondents, 66 percent believe their office could be completely virtual within the next five years. There's also large support in the "work anywhere" movement from Generation Y (Gen Y) workers (those born between roughly 1982 and 1993). They don't want the same work environment their parents had, and they are willing to influence changes in corporate culture in order to get away from the standard workday. These workers are annoyed with cubicles, they want to be connected through technology 24/7, and they demand flexibility. By 2025, it is estimated that 75 percent of the global workforce will be Gen Y workers.

Technology makes it possible

Obviously, the "work from anywhere" model would not be feasible without the advancements we've seen in technology. Local area networks (LAN) have allowed workers to easily share resources, while client-server computing has aided in the decentralization of the traditional corporate office environment. The lower costs and adoption of Cloud computing technology and Wi-Fi availability has enabled employees to access remote servers using a combination of portable devices and software. Today, the mobile workforce totes laptops, smartphones, and tablets that can be used while they are in the office, at home, on a sales call, or even on a tropical sandy beach.

Office 365 transforms the workplace

Abby's mobile working environment is a dream come true for most of us. Although her island-based office may seem a little far-fetched for employees at your particular business, the same workplace flexibility, connectivity, and collaboration are attainable with new technology offerings. As we've helped clients implement and deploy Microsoft Office 365 (Office 365) over the past couple years, we've seen firsthand how this particular technology is truly transforming today's workplace.

What is Office 365? Office 365 delivers the power of Cloud productivity to businesses of all sizes, helping to save time and money and free up valued resources. Office 365 combines the familiar Microsoft Office desktop suite with Cloud-based versions of their next-generation communications and collaboration services: Microsoft Exchange Online, Microsoft SharePoint® Online, and Microsoft Lync™ Online. The service is delivered and accessed over the Internet (the Cloud). All the information storage, computation, and software is located and managed remotely on servers owned by Microsoft. Having this infrastructure online allows your employees to access email, documents, contacts, and calendars virtually anywhere from a desktop, laptop, tablet, or mobile phone. Our clients enjoy the fact that they can quickly and easily see who's available, send instant messages, share documents, and collaborate on projects with other employees whether they're in the office or in some other location.

What are the cost savings?

Remote access and the opportunity to work from a picturesque location is not the only benefit that Office 365 can deliver. Cost savings is a major decision factor for nearly all our clients. By moving their software and services off local machines and onto Microsoft-hosted servers, they are able to lower hardware overhead costs, decrease electricity costs, better predict IT budgets, and simplify IT system management. In December 2010, Microsoft worked with Forrester Consulting to examine the total economic impact and potential return on investment (ROI) that businesses may realize by deploying Office 365. It

"...of 1,074 respondents, 66 percent believe their office could be completely virtual within the next five years."

"There are moments in time when technology transforms the workplace, and this is one of them."

Chris Capossela
Senior Vice President,
Microsoft Office Division

was determined that Office 365 delivered a 321 percent ROI, with a payback period of only two months for midsize organizations.

Is it secure?

When evaluating a new technology, we always consider security and privacy issues. The good news is Office 365 passes our stringent tests. The data is secured using industry standard, 128-bit encryption, and offers a 99.9 percent scheduled uptime, with financially backed service-level agreements. Our clients have peace of mind knowing that Office 365 uses an always-up-to-date anti-virus and anti-spam solution from Forefront® Online Protection. It uses server-level anti-virus scanning, and it leverages layers of anti-spam technology and multiple anti-virus engines to remove spam and viruses from e-mail and documents.

What about compliance?

When our clients consider leveraging the power of the Cloud, compliance becomes an important factor. Office 365 actually became the first major cloud productivity service to comply with the leading European Union and United States standards for data protection and security. The features in both Microsoft Exchange Online and Microsoft SharePoint Online allow your organization to meet legal, regulatory, and organizational compliance requirements. Microsoft also announced the availability of the Office 365 Trust Center. The site provides in-depth information about the privacy and security practices for Office 365 and was recently redesigned to be more accessible and easy to understand.

Does it offer disaster recovery?

Absolutely! Microsoft provides full geographic redundancy, and that's something that most organizations can't even come close to meeting on their own. Geographic redundancy is just a fancy word for distributing your data across multiple data centers globally. This also allows users to come back to work much more quickly after a disaster takes place.

We can help deploy Office 365

Businesses and organizations will continue to look toward Cloud computing to reduce IT costs, provide more flexibility for their employees, and improve productivity and collaboration. With Office 365, we are able to provide our small and mid-sized business clients the benefits of an enterprise-sized IT infrastructure, without the typical financial hurdles.

As a Microsoft Gold Partner, American Structurepoint is highly trained in Office 365 deployments. We are one of the most respected technology service providers in the Midwest, and have been delivering IT services for over ten years.

We want you to experience Office 365 firsthand, and are offering a FREE demo. During the demo we'll find out more about your current IT infrastructure and offer solutions that will fit your specific needs.

"Office 365 delivered a 321 percent ROI, with a payback period of only two months for midsize organizations."

"Office 365 is more than a new brand. It's a progressive approach to Cloud applications."

Kurt DelBene
President, Microsoft Office Division

