Employee Experience UX 2019

Human-centered Design Discovery:

Trends & Opportunities Report

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BILL& MELINDA GATES foundation

Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation 2019

WHAT IS THE EMPLOYEE EXPERIENCE PROJECT?





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As part of our IT rhythm of business, we're developing a renewed set of commitments for our 2023 Productivity and Collaboration strategy. Our first objective was to pursue a renewed understanding of how foundation employees actually work, what needs are unmet, and what trends are likely to shape our future.

These insights will help us identify and prioritize our bodies of work, as well as empowering all of IT with tools for greater customer understanding.

WHAT DID WE DO?

Objective

- A **six-month human-centered design discovery project** focused on *internal* collaboration and productivity at BMGF, informed by extensive interaction with and observation of employees.
- The project goal is to build an updated end-to-end understanding of key employee scenarios, and insights regarding the most impactful potential improvements.
- In H1 2019, we focused primarily on employees based in the US: both established and new employees.

Out of scope

- We did not travel to, or specifically study, remote offices in the first 6 months. A few participants were based in WDC, Europe, or fully remote.
- Collaboration from the perspective of partners, grantees, and others external to the Foundation is out of scope for this project; instead, the Partner Experience project is leading that charge.

EEUX 2019 DATA SOURCES

In-person discovery sessions



Interview participants 20-30 minutes each



Observation sessions 1-2 hours each



Total minutes of interview and observation analyzed

Additional data sources

- Diary study
 - Self-reports of meeting failures that did not result in service tickets (15 entries)
- Journey mapping sessions
 - Participatory end-to-end scenario exploration with service owners and other stakeholders
- Onboarding
 - Participation in new employee events and activities
- Observation of IT sessions
 - IT Office Hours and training sessions

PARTICIPANT DEMOGRAPHICS (N=29)

21%

27%



- Job families and levels drawn from HR & org chart
- Tenure segments: New (one year or less); Established (3 years or less), Veteran (more than 3 years)

Participants by Organization (n=29)



Participants per Job Family (n=29)

12



DESIGN PROCESS DOUBLE DIAMOND

HOW HUMAN-CENTERED DESIGN WORKS



OUR DELIVERABLES

Full Report

A complete guide to the top satisfaction drivers, pain points, and trends revealed by the research.

Each item is supported by insights and direct quotes from multiple participants across the study.

Recommendations are included where further action may be warranted.

Journey Maps

Visualizations of key end-to-end employee experiences:

- Meetings

- New employee experience

Each journey map is informed by insights across multiple employees, and by input from service owners.

Collaboration Profiles

Reference posters that detail insights from two patterns that emerged across all teams:

The first pattern is **team collaboration models:** how teams are structured to work together.

The second pattern is **individual collaboration roles**: what responsibilities a single person has to the group.

Executive Summary

Top findings from the full report out

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CHECKING IN ON FIVE YEARS OF PROGRESS

The **Program Personas project** (led by Jon Wu) came back with **10 key pain points as observed from 2011-2014** across an extensive set of interviews and observation sessions with foundation employees around the world.

Our 2019 EEUX discovery project lets us evaluate the progress we've made during the ensuing years amidst the digital transformation paradigm shift.

	Issue	Status
1	I can't connect to the internet from phone or laptop	Addressed
2	I don't have a simple method to share docs externally	Continued
3	Skype doesn't work outside the US	Improved
4	My laptop is too heavy for commuting & travel	Improved
5	I don't have an easy way to categorize my emails and contacts	Worsened
6	Our meeting rooms have too many cables	Not reported
7	I don't understand how to use SharePoint effectively	Worsened
8	I can't connect to the Internet on my flight	Addressed (PC only)
9	I'm annoyed by the number of login prompts	Not reported
10	I can't keep my devices charged out in the field	Improved

TOP SATISFACTION DRIVERS

Three themes emerged regarding positive experiences with today's IT services.

- 1. Flexible working arrangements
- 2. Integrated conference rooms
- 3. Reliable client devices & workspaces

Note: It's harder to obtain positive feedback from an interview, as people rarely remember or cite services that "just work." It's likely safe to assume that the general reliability of Exchange services is a strong positive, as only Mac users reported difficulty connecting to email servers.





TOP PRODUCTIVITY ISSUES

The most common issues discussed across all IT services.

- 1. Widespread Skype failures
- 2. High email volume
- 3. Lack of a standard knowledge management policy
- 4. Insufficient IT service communications
- 5. SharePoint is perceived as difficult to use
- 6. Limited support for MacOS device connectivity



WHY ARE WE MOVING TO TEAMS MEETINGS?

Teams based entirely in Seattle are happy with Skype, especially conference room click-to-join. But distributed teams, grantees, and employees working remotely struggle to stay connected.



Employees AND grantees face consistent barriers to staying connected on the road AND at home.

Dial-in connections and the **Skype for Business mobile app** are both prone to connection issues, audio problems, and dropped calls for anyone offsite.



Skype is heavily optimized for Windows. Any employee or grantee with an **alternate OS or browser** faces significant issues.

"One touch join" is magical when it works, failures are hard to troubleshoot and usually require hands-on IT assistance.

TRENDS IN OUR WORKPLACE

Changes that may impact current and future IT services.

- 1. Larger, distributed, matrixed teams
- 2. Increased mobility is changing collaboration
- 3. Growing need to perform document reviews
- 4. Increasing data debt and desire for change
- 5. OneNote is increasing in importance and scale
- 6. Paper is valued, but tablet curiosity grows
- 7. Foundation-supplied phone peripherals don't meet expectations



TOP 5 OPPORTUNITIES

Recommendations that have the greatest opportunity for positive impact upon the employee experience at the foundation.



- Dramatically reduce the prevalence of conferencing issues by accelerating the replacement of conference room hardware.
- Target the Teams rollout to specific workgroups, and tailor training to their collaboration needs.
- Develop and launch a formal knowledge
 management policy at the foundation, with fewer
 apps and options.
- Consider and explore improvements (like tablets) to the document review experience.
- Ensure MacOS devices have Intranet connection parity to PCs, regardless of work location.

Broader insights

Looking at behaviors and end-to-end experience



NOT ALL COLLABORATION IS IDENTICAL, BUT THERE ARE DISTINCT PATTERNS. COLLABORATION PATTERNS AT BMGF



TEAM COLLABORATION MODELS

Across all divisions, workgroups across the foundation tend to fit one or more of the following profiles:







SATELLITES



POD

A small, tightly knit group of daily collaborators

UXP-001, 006, 011, 020, etc.

A group of similarly skilled peers drawing from a shared work pool UXP-007, 019

POOL

Groups "orbiting" a shared goal with different focus areas

UXP-004, 005, 008, 012, 026

MATRIX

Cross-cutting teams or individuals who support many different business partners. UXP-017, 022, 027, 028, 029

WHAT ARE SATELLITE TEAMS?

Satellite teams are largely separate working groups orbiting around a shared goal. Compartmentalization means tools often vary between subteams, which makes life hard for **matrixed** employees.

FSP is the 30 employees that are full time employees of the Gates Foundation. They're part of the FSP program. Then within that is what we call I-2 or Initiative 2, which is the infrastructure initiative that I focus mostly on. And the I-3, which is the usage and emerging technologies initiative which I also work with. I-2 is where we've adopted Zoom, in that group of 6 people. For the time being. And it'll spread if people think it's useful to them.

Deputy Director, Global Growth (UXP-004)



INDIVIDUAL COLLABORATION ROLES

Individuals contribute to their teams in different ways, with a few common patterns across BMGF:



WHO ARE CATALYSTS?

Catalysts are individuals who see across multiple teams and may influence multiple working groups from the ground up. They're often program coordinators, program managers, or business analysts.

> I can only encourage, not mandate anything. I don't have the power to mandate anything. But I can encourage... and help think through different use cases and options for staff. Knowing that down the road we're sort of focused in this Microsoft Office environment, and our tools are geared towards the best utilization of that technology. So I do a lot of thought partnership on using it. Where's best to store the content, how to collaborate around where they're storing the content.

> > Senior Business Analyst, US Programs (UXP-015)

OUR CURRENT APP ECOSYSTEM

Our employees currently navigate over a dozen apps with overlapping capabilities.

Matrixed employees and other catalysts often have *at least half* of these open all the time – and that's when we count all of Office 365 as a single product!



DIGITAL DISCUSSION FOR DISTRIBUTED TEAMS

Microsoft Teams is already available, but organic adoption only goes so far for collaboration-based tools.

As teams become more distributed, we lose the sense of community from co-location. Tools like Teams and Slack can help.

Organic adoption is tricky for Teams, since the major **benefits of Teams only surface once an entire working group has migrated** to the platform.

For broader adoption, we can't just introduce the tool – we must help traditionalists **build a mental model** for this new way of working. Enthusiastic Teams users
 Slack users

3. Traditionalists

A TALE OF TWO MENTAL MODELS

"I really like Slack. So when we first started using it... it was, "Oh, we'll reduce email traffic between our team." Which I think has been largely true. Mostly... I think of it more as a relationship building tool? It's just people are on it all the time. Kind of a constant running commentary. It's easy to ping people with questions. And easy to share things about personal life. So... there's a little bit of just, kind of, having that constant communication." Program Officer, USP (UXP-010)

People say... 'IT tells, teaches us how great Teams is, and how much we're going to love it!' But we haven't been able to really have the time or understanding of how we're really... making easier. Right now it just feels like a burden to add another... program." Program Assistant, Global Health (UXP-017)

JOURNEY MAP: MEETINGS

There are two overarching "jobs to be done" regarding meetings. These should be used as test cases for the Teams rollout.

1. Book a meeting

- Meet right now
- Reserve space for a remote call
- Schedule an employee meeting
- Schedule a meeting with externals
- Schedule a meeting for someone else
- Schedule a recurring meeting

Meeting Experience @ BMGF (2019)

End-to-end Journey Map

UXP-017

UXP-024

Recurring meeting

Service feedback

UXP-005, 017

logistics are hard

Phase	Plan & book	Prepare	Start the m	neeting	During	the meeting	Pos	t-meeting
Thinking	 P Is there a day that works? P What kind of room do I need? P Is this a recurring meeting? P Who needs to attend? P Do I need formal AV support? P D I need to order food? 	 Who has confirmed attendant How do I set my meeting up for What room for my recurring n What materials will attendees Do I need to add Skype? Can my meeting be recorded? 	or success? ? Who might be atten meeting? ? How do I connect si s need? ? Is anyone having co ? Are video and audi	uding remotely? uccessfully? mnection issues?	 8 Are we on train 8 How do we ke 8 Can everyone 8 What are our 8 Can everyone 	ep remote folks involved? be heard? action items?	💡 What ha	accomplish everything? appens next? ssed the meeting?
لم Doing	Compare calendars Compare calendars Cook for available rooms Send out invite Contact AV and/or catering	 Test connection Check responses Send out agenda and pre-rea Update meeting details Register visitors 	 Plug in HDMI cat Connect to the cal Find a private span Connect microph Contact AV team 	l ce (remote)	 ✓ Track agenda ✓ Take meeting ✓ Troubleshoo ✓ Facilitate cor 	g notes t AV problems	Schedu	risitors out p conference room le follow-ups ate meeting notes
*	BMGF Laptop	BMGF Laptop	BMGF Laptop	Conf room hardware	BMGF Laptop	Conf room hardware	BMGF L	aptop
Using	Dutlook	Outlook Image: OneN Skype for Biz Image: Visito mana		📋 Outlook	Skype for Biz	Dial-in number	Uutlook	ConeNote
	ience insights: Boo Meet right now (in person or remote)	Skype for Biz	or gement Zoom	Dial-in number			ıg as a	[
Experi	ience insights: Boo	Skype for Biz E Visito Mana Oking a meeting Reserve space to join a remote call	yr gement Zoom Schedule a meeting with	Dial-in number	Treeting with	Schedule a meetin proxy for the ho	ig as a ost	Schedule a recurri
Experi	ience insights: Boo Meet right now (in person or remote)	Skype for Biz E Visito Mana Oking a meeting Reserve space to join a remote call	Schedule a meeting with other employees	Dial-in number	meeting with partners	Schedule a meetin proxy for the ho	ng as a Dost 3, 024	Schedule a recurri meeting
Experi Goal	ience insights: Boo Meet right now (in person or remote) Integrated Skype rooms an	Skype for Biz Units Skype for Biz Units Oking a meeting Reserve space to join a remote call re easy to book Most bookable spaces	Schedule a meeting with other employees UXP-003, 013, 016	Dial-in number Schedule a r external Nice to requ distributed team	meeting with partners	Schedule a meetin proxy for the ho	ig as a ost 8, 024	Schedule a recurri meeting JXP-001, 013, 016,
Experi Goal	ience insights: Boo Meet right now (in person or remote) Integrated Skype rooms an	Skype for Biz E Visito Oking a meeting Reserve space to join a remote call re easy to book	Schedule a meeting with other employees UXP-003, 013, 016	Dial-in number Schedule a r external Nice to requ distributed team Lity UXP-004, 008,	Dest AV help in a	Schedule a meetin proxy for the ho dvance UXP-023	ng as a pst 3, 024 me look bad	Schedule a recurri meeting JXP-001, 013, 016, UXP-022,
Experi Goal	ience insights: Boo Meet right now (in person or remote) Integrated Skype rooms an In-office speakerphone hardware not great	Skype for Biz Units Skype for Biz Units Oking a meeting Reserve space to join a remote call re easy to book Most bookable spaces are overkill for calls.	Schedule a meeting with other employees UXP-003, 013, 016 Skype lets us work as a o	Dial-in number Dial-in number Schedule a r external Nice to requ distributed team lity UXP-004, 008, successful Skyp	Deeting with partners less AV help in a less	Schedule a meetin proxy for the ho dvance UXP-023	ng as a pst 3, 024 me look bad	Schedule a recurrin meeting JXP-001, 013, 016, 0

UXP-016

Time zones are a struggle

AV requests are complicated and unchangeable

Can't book directly on their calendar

Experience insights: Joining a meeting

JOURNEY MAP: MEETINGS

There are two overarching "jobs to be done" regarding meetings. These should be used as test cases for the Teams rollout.

2. Join a meeting

- Host in person
- Join in person
- Join from a secondary BMGF location: regional office or entity
- Join from offsite (out of network)
- Join on a mobile device



Experience insights: Joining a meeting

Goal	Host in-person	Join in-person	Join from another BMGF or subsidiary office	Join from offsite (out of network)	Join on a mobile device
	One-touch join gets us connecte	d immediately. UXP	2-013, 014, 016, 008-M1, 008-M2	Video helps us feel connected.	UXP-010, 013, 016, 020
	Skype works pretty well for my	needs in general.	UXP-001, 003, 005, 020	Remote connections from my Windows PC work fine.	
Positive	The AV techs are very helpful.		UXP-013, 016	UXP-001, 012, 019, 020	
Positive	The table tents help me connect	& make me look good.	Service feedback		
	I know I'm in the right place that	nks to the room panels.	Service feedback		
	Losing 5-30 minutes per meetin	g due to connection issues (all type	es) for both BMGF employees and e	xternal partners	JXP-004, 008, 022, 024; D-01, 02
	Had to use phone instead of in-r	oom HW or laptop	UXP-008; D-03, 11	Missing audio or video	UXP-005, 008, 020; D-07, D-08
\sim	General frustration at repeat iss	UXP-008, 013, 020, 021, 022, 024	Remote participants can't parti	cipate in creative collaboration	UXP-010, 015
Pain	In-room hardware glitch	UXP-008-M2; D-09, 10, 11, 12, 13	Participants split between multiple digital connections	Meetings don't work well if all a	ure dial-in UXP-024
points	Skype troubleshooting is comple	UXP-006, 009, 013, 024; D-14	UXP-004, 024, D-04	Can't connect on mid or low bar	dwidth UXP-011, 016
	Regular connection issues embarrassing for hosts	The in-room microphones are inadequate for discussion	BMGF headset is uncomfortable and awkward	Skype for Business does not work well on MacOS.	Join meeting links and/or dial-in broken on mobile
	UXP-004, 008, 013, 022, 024	UXP-008-M1	UXP-010, 018, 019	Service feedback	UXP-010, 018, 019; D-02, 07

JOURNEY MAP: EMPLOYEE ONBOARDING

A subset of participants qualified as "new" – less than a year at the foundation. Their insights (and my own as a new employee) were synthesized into this journey.

Six phases of onboarding emerged:

- 1. Pre-hire
- 2. Orientation (Day 1)
- 3. Settle into my team (Weeks 1-2)
- 4. Learn about my job (Weeks 2-4)
- 5. Learn about BMGF (Weeks 3-8)
- 6. Establish my routine (Weeks 3-8)

Phase	Pre-hire	Orientation (Day 1)	Settle into my team (Weeks 1-2)	Learn about my job (Weeks 2-4)	Learn about BMGF (Weeks 3-8)	Establish my routine (Weeks 3-8)
(P) Thinking	 What's Workday? Why not on my first day? Background check done? 	What's it like to work here? P Are my benefits set up? P Mhat tools do I meeil? Why is my inbox full? P How do I get around campus? P Do I get a workspace and phone?	 Who are my peers and key partners? How does my team communicate? Where does my team store information? What documents do I need to review? How is my organization structured? 	 8 How do I use our tools? 8 How do I book a meeting room? 9 How do I book a trip? 9 What's our rhythm of busines? 9 What's expected of my role? 	 What does Operations do? What are our Programs teams? What's annual planning like? How does career planning work? How do I meet other teams? Yor doe there any cool events? 	 Prove do 1 host a remote meeting? How do 1 work on the road? How can 1 cope with email volume How can 1 work more efficiently? How do 1 work with grants? How do 1 collaborate on document
Doing	Tax paperwork Non-disclosure Open enrollment	 Two-factor authentication Sign up for training Computer/account setup Verify HR info 	 Meet with my key coworkers Join ongoing team conversations Review team documents Sit in on team meetings 	 Skill-oriented training Get corporate credit card Book my first BMGF trip Connect with functional peers 	 Self-directed learning Connect to BMGF communities Attend foundation events Review foundation news 	 Learn communication best practi Set my career goals for the year Host my first meeting Create my own deliverables
첪	Background check	i Orientation session	Team meet & greet	1 onboarding	Starting Gates (Connections	and Programs)
Events		🖻 Meet m	anager 📄 Required Training	🗟 Tech Learning App	First BMGF travel	首 CEO Q&A
%	Workday Workday	Workday BMGF Email	Workday BMGF Email	& Ampersand (Sharepoint) BMGF Email	& Ampersand (Sharepoint) ▷ V Y Y Y Y Catalyst (BMGF Email)	Personal or BMGF phone
Using		IT Quick Training Checklist	Dropbox OneNote	BMGF Laptop	BMGF Laptop Daily News (BMGF Email)	Skype for Biz
	Is my background check done	"I liked the HR session and working with Natasha." (UXP-019) My inbox is full of	I've been encouraged to ask lots of questions. (UXP-016)	My division scheduled a 1:1 tools training session for me. (UXP-003) The IT Welcome email arrives late and	The content at Starting Gates was helpful. (UXP-005, UXP-011) The daily news updates are too	It's great that my manager sets clear priorities for me. (UXP-018)
<u>:</u>	Is my background check done yet? Why is Workday spamming	My inbox is full of confusing emails. I wish I had digital versions of	I don't know how to get non-standard equipment. What should I use to communicate?	The IT Welcome email arrives late and isn't noticed by many. The Tech Learning app invite arrives late	The daily news updates are too overwheming to be useful. (UXP-013) Starting Gates isn't available for a long	I'm not sure what professional learni resources are available. I miss tools from other jobs, like
Not great	me with so many emails?	the IT booklet and training checklist. (UXP-019)	Email? Teams? Yammer? (UXP-013)	and duplicates things I already learned.	time after my start date.	Slack & GSuite. (UXP-003, 011, 010, 013, 016)
		"From a training onboarding	I can't find my team's documents!	Finding my stakeholders and functional	It's hard to learn about how the	Skype isn't meeting my needs when I
(;;) Negative	Why do I need a second Workday account? I needed one to get hired.	standpoint those videos were TERRIBLE. " (UXP-016)	(UXP-003, 005, 013, 016, 019) It's not clear if I'm supposed to order a phone, or how I go about getting one.	peers is hard. (UXP-018) Acronyms are intimidating and gratuitious. (UXP-016)	rest of BMGF works, especially (C) in a way that's meaningful to me.	remote. (UXP-005, 011, 016, 018) Sometimes I feel like I'm drowning i information overload. (UXP-016, 01
C: Negative	Workday account? I needed	standpoint those videos were	It's not clear if I'm supposed to order a	Acronyms are intimidating and	in a way that's meaningful to me.	Sometimes I feel like I'm drowning i
-	Workday account? I needed one to get hired. I never got an email about the	standpoint those videos were TERRIBLE. " (UXP-016) Session isn't long enough to complete enrollment tasks.	It's not clear if I'm supposed to order a phone, or how I go about getting one. Navigating conflicting tools is time-consuming and stressful.	Acronyms are intimidating and gratuitious. (UXP-016) My email volume is much heavier than expected.	(UXP-005, 011, 018) My Starting Gates cohort didn't bond in session, or keep	Sometimes I feel like I'm drowning i information overload. (UXP-016, 01 The way our teams work is inefficient, but hard to change.
Negative Phase "That's one of the haad of files on OneDrive, Dron OneDrive, Them I saw use the Sharepoint' So 3, 4 different tools that	Workday account? I needed one to get hired. I never got an email about the completion of my pre-work. Pre-hire White when if it could ge using the their indicator groups sure using their indicator in the group sure of the second seco	standpoint those videos were TERRIBLE. * (UXP-016) Session isn't long enough to complete enrollment tasks. (UXP-019) Orientation (Day 1) Trach. I word any the fast and well The set part of the set of t	The state of	Acronyms are intimidating and gratuitious. (UXP-016) My email volume is much beaver than expected. (UXP-005, 016, 018) Learn about my job (Weeks 2-4)	In a way mark meaning us one. Concerning the series of the	Sometimes I feel like I'm drowning i information overload. (UXP-016, 01 The way our teams work is inefficient, but hard to change. (UXP-003, 013, 016, 019) Establish my routine
Negative Phase "That's one of the haad of files on OneDrive, Dron OneDrive, Them I saw use the Sharepoint' So 3, 4 different tools that	Workday account? I needed one to get hired. I never got an email about the completion of my pre-work. Pre-hire White when if it could ge using the their indicator groups sure using their indicator in the group sure of the second seco	standpoint those videos were TERRIBLE. * (UXP-016) Session isn't long enough to complete enrollment tasks. (UXP-019) Orientation (Day 1) Tybel Lyndi tyr he for much wer_ two lot tyr) we will end for for much wer_ two lot tyr) we will end for for the set of the tyr tor the tyr.	The state of	Acronyms are intimidating and gratuitious. (UXP-016) My email volume is much beaver than expected. (UXP-005, 016, 018) Learn about my job (Weeks 2-4)	In a way mark meaning us one. Concerning the series of the	Sometimes I feel like I'm drowning i information overload. (UXP-016, 01 The way our teams work is inefficient. but hard to change. (UXP-003, 013, 016, 019) Establish my routine (Weeks 3-8) A particular divergencient on saming a soy and and if are depicto. Phyroby has maning I'k ro chalanging to find inf. 1 don't have

Moving forward

How can we apply these insights, and how can HCD best contribute?

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10 RECOMMENDATIONS FOR 2020 AND BEYOND: IMPROVING BMGF PRODUCTIVITY & COLLABORATION

To address top productivity blockers

- 1. Accelerate replacement of conference room hardware.
- 2. Add in-room support for multiple conferencing apps.
- 3. Emphasize MS Teams as an email reduction strategy.
- 4. Develop a formal knowledge management policy with fewer tools.
- 5. Leverage MS Teams to improve IT service communications.
- 6. Improve baseline support for MacOS network connectivity.
- 7. Improve the information architecture on Ampersand / SharePoint.

To address trends

- 8. Evaluate future projects against collaboration patterns.
- 9. Formally (re)introduce tablets as a service offering.
- 10. Offer hands-on data cleanup as an IT service.

STILL CURIOUS? WANT TO DIG DEEPER?



Reach out to Cheryl Platz if you'd like more context on any of these findings. Specific individual names can't be shared, but roles and organizations can be shared.

- More quotes on a specific topic
- Smaller scale observations not large enough to make the report
- General tool use not mentioned in this report
 - GSuite, INVEST, Unison, etc
- General demographic information
- Deep dive on Meetings or Onboarding journey

OPPORTUNITIES FOR CONTINUED HCD TEAM ENGAGEMENT







Knowledge management

Conduct a dedicated discovery project to investigate the usage of today's tools in a high level of detail to inform foundation-wide formal policy.

Microsoft Teams rollout

Full design engagement on the in-room software user experience. Research and observation during pilots. Contribute to collateral and training.

Document review

Conduct a dedicated discovery project on this emerging scenario, and build document lifecycle journey maps to inform future services.

Here's to our future of collaboration!

Questions about EEUX process or findings?

- Contact Cheryl Platz

Service feedback?

- Contact Bob Benoit or Albert Foster

Want to explore on your own?

- See the deep dives in the appendix
- Read the full report



Deep Dive: Satisfaction Drivers

Summary of the top 4 drivers of effective collaboration at BMGF

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TOP SATISFACTION DRIVERS

Three themes emerged regarding positive experiences with today's IT services.

- 1. Flexible working arrangements
- 2. Integrated conference rooms
- 3. Reliable standard configurations

Note: It's harder to obtain positive feedback from an interview, as people rarely remember or cite services that "just work." It's likely safe to assume that the general reliability of Exchange services is a strong positive, as only Mac users reported difficulty connecting to email servers.

SATISFACTION DRIVER #1: FLEXIBLE WORKING ARRANGEMENTS

Work anywhere, at home or on the road

The flexibility offered by our more robust cloud services has become a critical part of the employee experience for some employees.

"One thing that <I hope> never changes? I mean, our ability to work remotely... I think the one thing that keeps me in this job, here, now? Is ultimate flexibility... Being able to connect to our business systems remotely is huge. And I feel like all of those things work fairly well right now. And I hope that doesn't change." (UXP-022)

80% of participants interviewed perform some work at home.

- Many employees work from home when sick
- Working from home allows employees to cope with time zones and high workload
- 25% of participants specifically mentioned regularly working from home on Fridays – a growing trend.

Exceptions

Some employees intentionally refrain from working remotely, even if their laptop is with them, to ensure greater work/life balance. (UXP-014)

Veteran employees (3+ years) may be more likely to avoid using devices at home due to negative experiences in the past. (UXP-007)

SATISFACTION DRIVER #2: INTEGRATED CONFERENCE ROOMS

Swift and simple

When functioning correctly, the click-to-join Skype meeting integration in BMGF conference rooms means meetings get up and running **nearly instantaneously.** Some participants felt the click-to-join technology is more inclusive for employees who may not be as technology inclined.

"I do like how integrated... whatever software that we do have right now, I like that the meeting rooms are integrated with the meetings. It's easy to book a room, those kind of things. It's all kind of in Outlook and it's all connected. So that does help. I think that's extremely helpful." (UXP-016) "...I also think it enables some of the less IT, um, comfortable folks, that you can have someone who, like, "Oh, I'm not an IT person". But then they can walk into a room, and 9 times out of 10? They're going to be able to start a video call. Which is something that I think you would lose... maybe if we didn't have that kind of integration." (UXP-013)

Exceptions

The WDC office in summer 2019 is a notable exception to this satisfaction driver, with multiple daily issues (UXP-024 and Diary entries).

Seattle conference room **issues are becoming more frequent:** from error messages to nonresponsive systems. See <u>Productivity Issues</u> for more information.

SATISFACTION DRIVER #3: RELIABLE STANDARD CONFIGURATIONS

iPhones and Lenovos

iPhones received specific praise from 20% of participants (UXP-008, 014, 017, 018, 020, 024).

Even employees who were not offering praise did not cite complaints about the iPhone experience itself. Usage still varies greatly, but iPhones are a welcomed and appreciated part of the employee experience.

While the Lenovo PCs generate less outward enthusiasm, they did receive some positive feedback regarding reliability – and very few complaints about hardware faults.

Dual-monitor setup

The default workspace configuration with two monitors was cited multiple times as a delighter; especially when compared with other workplaces where obtaining a second monitor was time-consuming.

"TWO monitors! I had to fight at PWC to even get one monitor. So, it's like, "I have two!" And it's just so easy to do. And it works so well. Because we do a lot of screen time. And just being able to have two monitors, and all the peripherals, they work perfectly." (UXP-011)
SATISFACTION DRIVER #4: TARGETED IT SERVICES

1:1 services

When employees have a reason to engage directly with service owners or our Tech Learning staff, the impact is often a lasting positive impression.

Over 25% of participants called out a specific positive IT interaction, including classes, service support, and new projects. (UXP-003, 005, 007, 009, 015, 017, 018, 023)

Mobility support

- **Concur:** Concur was generally called out as a timesaver and was noted for its good mobile experience.
- **Mobile tethering:** Frequent travelers appreciate their ability to tether their laptops, and others use it as a backup even when locally on the move. (UXP-001, 006, 018, 019, 022, 028)
- **Travel outreach:** Travelers seem to feel well-supported by IT's travel kits, mobile hotspots, and pre-trip email outreach with helpful travel information.

Deep Dive: Productivity Issues

Summary of the top 5 obstacles to effective collaboration at BMGF

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TOP PRODUCTIVITY ISSUES

The most common issues discussed across all IT services.

- 1. Widespread Skype failures
- 2. High email volume
- 3. Lack of a standard knowledge management policy
- 4. Insufficient IT service communications
- 5. SharePoint is perceived as difficult to use
- 6. Limited support for MacOS device connectivity

PRODUCTIVITY ISSUE #1: WIDESPREAD SKYPE FAILURES

Less meeting time, more stress

Skype failures are the most widespread blocker to collaboration at BMGF. Multiple employees report losing 30 minutes a day or more, and many live in fear of these failures.

"I - my stress level is so high, because anytime that my manager is having a call, I'm WAITING for something to happen. And- what's going to be the failure? What's the correction to it? And, you know, every time something goes wrong, I can't go to her and say, 'This is what happened this time.' So that's INCREDIBLY stressful!" (UXP-024)

Frequent issues include:

- Split virtual rooms
- Missing audio or video
- Connection failures
- In-room hardware glitch
- Poor microphones
- Dropped calls
- Dial-in failures

RECOMMENDATION 1: Accelerate replacement of conference room hardware

The "split virtual room" scenario is common, but the MS Teams infrastructure should solve this problem since it includes dial-in conferencing support by default. One-touch join is valuable enough for employees that the lack of conference room support will be an adoption blocker.

For this reason, conference room hardware replacement should be considered as a high priority customer experience fix.

PRODUCTIVITY ISSUE #1: WIDESPREAD SKYPE FAILURES

Working around Skype

When mission-critical meetings are at risk due to Skype issues, our employees turn to other technologies. (UXP-004, 005, 009, 010). Often, these are introduced by external partners. However, some grantees are unable to use Skype successfully due to local policies or lack of training.

"We've just found that it's simply too complicated to try to get these things to work... where some people are joining by phone and some people are joining with the app. Whereas Zoom is completely seamless. And it's a one-click join, which is the other thing nice about it. In addition, Zoom allows me to swipe left when I'm in the car, go to mute, and still hear everything. And simply tap a button when I want to speak.... So it's basically purpose built for what we're trying to do. And for that reason, we're switching over to that." **Deputy Director, Global Development (UXP-004)** RECOMMENDATION 2: Add in-room support for multiple conferencing apps

No matter what standard the foundation chooses, we will always have grantees who use alternate apps. And in many cases, grantees do not have the IT support or knowledge to connect reliably to Microsoft services. Whatever fixes we pursue, attention should be given to ensuring any laptop-run conferencing experience is supported fully by our conference rooms.

PRODUCTIVITY ISSUE #2: HIGH EMAIL VOLUME

Email is performing too many roles

Over half of employees interviewed described high email volume as a significant factor in their daily work.

The most common reports:

- 1. Email is difficult to manage (9/29)
- Policies or techniques help me cope with email overload (6/29)
- Digital discussion tools are reducing my email volume (7/29)
- 4. Emails are hard to find (6/29)

Email is currently used for:

- Team discussions
- File sharing
- Instant messaging
- Knowledge management
- Process and approvals
- Social conversations

RECOMMENDATION 3: Emphasize MS Teams as an email reduction strategy

This study confirms that excessive email volume is one of the largest productivity issues facing employees at the foundation. Those who have moved to discussion-based tools report that email volume is down as a result. Use these success stories to drive interest amongst the many employees looking for a better way to conduct day-today communication.

PRODUCTIVITY ISSUE #3:

LACK OF KNOWLEDGE MANAGEMENT POLICY

Conflicting tools with missing rules

Freedom to choose one's own apps seems useful on paper, but it is exhausting our employees.

The problem has worsened since our shift to a more matrixed organization. Some employees work in as many as a dozen tools every day.

Even within a single tool (like Dropbox), the hierarchies are uncurated and become unwieldy. Search across apps isn't an option, either. "This might not be within your power... I would love for the various teams in USP to use one cloud storage solution... I don't really care what it is. I just want everyone to be using the same one and for me to have access." (UXP-003)

"That's the biggest issue for me personally. Is not knowing where to look. So you can do your search on your computer, but it's not going to access Sharepoint, Dropbox, the network share... and the cloud maybe?" (UXP-014) RECOMMENDATION 4: Formal knowledge management policy, fewer apps

A 2018 report from RingCentral estimates that most workers lose 32 days of time per year to frequent app switching. While our goal is not to extract value out of every moment, this information reinforces our hypothesis based on these insights: reducing the number of apps we use to communicate would lead to measurable improvements. However, the apps chosen must support reliable collaboration with trusted external partners.

INSUFFICIENT IT SERVICE COMMUNICATIONS

Viral, not value-driven

In many cases, employees hear about new services and service changes from their peers, not IT. While viral adoption has been framed as a positive, these interviews indicate viral adoption also creates unintended anxiety and some wasted time. Additional missed opportunities were noted around service changes and related comms:

- Migration support
- Service changes
- Incident reporting

RECOMMENDATION 5: Leverage MS Teams to improve IT communications

Many of these communication challenges stem from a lack of consistent community engagement. If the move to Microsoft Teams is successful, we may have a new outlet for both on-demand information and communicating critical outages. We should keep an eye on ways we can leverage Microsoft Teams to evolve IT comm strategy.

"I only use the web client. That has been problematic. There was a big change that they didn't really tell us about with Outlook a while ago. Where the old mail... the web client just stopped working. And it was a freakout in K12. Because a number of us use the web interface. And it just... went away! And we were like, 'Uh... OK.'" **Business Analyst, US Programs (UXP-026)**

PRODUCTIVITY ISSUE #5: INSUFFICIENT MAC SUPPORT

Unmet need for reliable connectivity

Three clear use cases emerged amongst employees using MacOS devices: communications & creativity, development, and data science.

For employees specialized in one of these fields, the inability to work RELIABLY on MacOS leads to significant dissatisfaction. While IT ostensibly supports MacOS, only one help desk tech in Seattle is generally trained to assist, leading to costly downtime when they are not available.

The F5 VPN client is a particular issue – MacOS users don't even have reliable connectivity on BMGF property.

"I would want the foundation to acknowledge that Macs are part of the equipment that are needed here, and to provide a level of support that's satisfactory... Because the way that they're doing it now is to not really provide that adequate support. And so, it's not stewardly... I cost a lot per hour. And for me to be spending those hours sitting, waiting for someone to maybe try to help me at the IT desk just doesn't feel like a good use of resources." (UXP-027) RECOMMENDATION 6: Improve baseline support for MacOS network connectivity

Even if all employees found a way to do their work on a PC, we typically cannot control the devices used by vendors and contractors. Many of those collaborators bring Mac devices into the workplace and suffer from many of the same issues as pointed out by our FTE and LTE participants. Improved support for MacOS network connectivity will increase productivity in multiple ways.

PRODUCTIVITY ISSUE #6:

SHAREPOINT DIFFICULTIES CONTINUE

Confusing hierarchies and frustration

Research in 2014 indicated that SharePoint confusion was one of the top 10 pain points. Unfortunately, there is little evidence the situation has improved. For many employees, it seems that "SharePoint usability" equates to "ability to find content". Over 25% of participants brought up browse and search on SharePoint as a pain point.

"I HATE SharePoint. I think it stinks. I think the architecture, you know, of how you navigate SharePoint and where people put things is terrible. I - you know, and every time I go back in and I bookmark a page so I can go find things, it's changed for some reason, and I have to re-navigate that over and over again." **Deputy Director (UXP-008)** RECOMMENDATION 7: Improve Ampersand / SharePoint information architecture

We don't have much control over SharePoint's search, but we DO have control over the Browse experience. Today's Ampersand is confusing to new employees and confusing even to veteran employees.

A simplified navigation scheme would make SharePoint *itself* seem easier to use.

Deep Dive: Trends in our workplace

Important context about the way we work together

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TRENDS IN OUR WORKPLACE

Changes that may impact current and future IT services.

- 1. Larger, distributed, matrixed teams
- 2. Increased mobility is changing collaboration
- 3. Growing need to perform document reviews
- 4. Increasing data debt and desire for change
- 5. OneNote is increasing in importance and scale
- 6. Paper is valued, but tablet curiosity grows
- 7. Foundation-supplied phone peripherals don't meet expectations



TRENDS IN OUR WORKPLACE

Changes to our culture and organization that may impact IT services

- 1. More patterns of collaboration
- 2. Increased mobility changes team culture
- 3. Document review is increasingly important
- 4. Data debt leads to inefficiency

TREND #1: WORKGROUPS ARE LARGER, DISTRIBUTED, AND MATRIXED



INCREASED MOBILITY CHANGES TEAM CULTURE

Distributed teams need a digital hub

Greater mobility means our teams are now both permanently distributed (across multiple offices) and situationally distributed (work from home).

There is a growing desire for informal connections and team bonding at a distance.

Slack filled this need for a few teams until the introduction of Microsoft Teams.

However, many at the foundation ("traditionalists") does not yet see a reason to adopt these products; they are waiting for clear IT guidance and the support of their teams.

"I really like Slack. So when we first started using it… it was, "Oh, we'll reduce email traffic between our team." Which I think has been largely true. Mostly… I think of it more as a relationship building tool? It's just people are on it all the time. Kind of a constant running commentary. It's easy to ping people with questions. And easy to share things about personal life. So… there's a little bit of just, kind of, having that constant communication." (UXP-010)

Recommendations for amplifying individual team success with Microsoft Teams:

- Tailor training and outreach to specific teams and their collaboration models.
- Learn from the use of Slack at BMGF and its emergence as both a social and informal productivity tool.
- Help traditionalists build a mental model connected to their specific daily work or role.

GROWING NEED TO CONDUCT DOCUMENT REVIEWS

The big reading squeeze

As we scale, document review becomes a more daunting task across the foundation. Unfortunately, our tools are largely optimized for solo editing, not doc review. To cope, some employees have developed complicated strategies to get docs for review onto a personal device. Meanwhile, many leaders have been issued iPads, and other employees are curious. RECOMMENDATION 8: Formally (re)introduce tablets as a service offering

The distribution of BMGF tablets to leadership means that services already face additional work ensuring usability and availability on tablet devices. Since this work is already underway, the introduction of tablets as an option for employees is an incremental expense that would help heavy travelers as well as the growing number of employees seeking inkable digital replacements for paper note-taking.

""You mean like, someone will send me a document and I'll review it? Um, yes. If they're sharing, if they are saving it on a Sharepoint or a OneDrive, I will... save it in the same folder. And usually I'll just update it with like, uh, dot... and then the date... adding that to the file path name. And then if they sent it to me as an attachment, it's just like, changing the name and then emailing it back to them and saving it locally." (UXP-013)

INCREASING DATA DEBT, AND DESIRE FOR CHANGE

Digital Konmari for old files

Teams across the foundation are finding their scattered knowledge bases stressful, time-consuming, and intimidating. (UXP-003, 015, 026). There is a growing desire to digitally "clean house", but without dedicated help the task usually remains on the wish list. A few determined teams have partially or completely overhauled their data stores (UXP-007, UXP-026). These efforts are very time consuming, and only provide lasting benefit if paired with strong guidance about future practices. RECOMMENDATION 9: Offer hands-on data cleanup as an IT service

With multiple teams expressing a desire for help in cleaning up their confusing file storage hierarchies, we have the perfect opportunity to ease the transition to Microsoft Teams by pairing it with a dedicated team-by-team effort to clean up old, confusing hierarchies and replace them with logical structures and a well-defined team policy.

And continuing to keep all our content organized and findable and searchable and... yeah, for the team. Which is... you'd think that's not of a huge deal, but it is. Because of the amount of different tools we collaborate in. Where is everything stored? Where is everything... you know, are trying to find something? Can't find it. So, um... trying to figure out... how to keep folks a little bit more organized and efficient. And also clean up our stuff. Yeah. Part of my goals. <laughs> (UXP-015)

ONENOTE IS GROWING IN SCALE AND IMPORTANCE

Increased usefulness, more growing pains

A significant subset of participants (9/29) reported a reliance upon OneNote in their daily work. At the foundation, OneNote is typically used in 1 of 3 ways:

- Personal cross-platform knowledge management system
- Group tracking of meeting agendas, notes, and process
- Collaborative knowledge management: drafts, guidance, and documentation

As usage grows, new problems are emerging:

- Unclear personal > group migration
- Sprawling, inefficient notebooks
- Cross-platform challenges

"I mean, OneNote has been just, kind of a game-changer for me. Because it's so easy to access notes that I've used to prepare for those meetings. Um, and to take notes during the meeting? Just great." (UXP-029)

"And then we also use OneNote. Which I actually, for the most part, like. I think that... without having anybody that's focused on keeping things clean over time? Um, having been here, I guess technically a while? I don't know if three years counts as a while. But having seen all of the OneNotes that have been created, and that are kind of still sticking around? It's hard to find stuff, and then I worry about... like, how much CAN OneNote actually handle?" **Program Officer, US Programs (UXP-010)**

PAPER IS VALUED, BUT TABLET CURIOSITY GROWS

Despite progress towards greater digital transformation, personal notebooks are still relatively common (UXP-012, 013, 017, 019, 020, 024). Furthermore, there are many examples of printouts playing a key role in daily work: from printed investment status to collaborative calendaring and usability studies. Some employees are starting to wonder about tablets to replace paper, especially where leadership has adopted tablet usage.

TREND #7

JABRA PERIPHERALS DON'T MEET EXPECTATIONS

Of those who discussed headset usage, two-thirds complained that the Jabra headsets from the foundation fall short on quality, comfort, and usefulness. (UXP-007, 010, 019, 022)

The Jabra speaker puck is useful at home, but not as a landline replacement for those with offices (UXP-008)

"They're not great... The headphones are kind of cheapy and they kind of hurt after awhile when you wear them a long time. Especially if you're on the phone all the time. The little swivel microphone feels a little outdated at this point. It feels like there are, you know, great mics that are embedded and have ... you don't need to put the thing in front of your face anymore. So if you're trying to drink your coffee while you're on the phone, you have to move the thing away from your face." (UXP-010)

Appendix – unused slides

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