

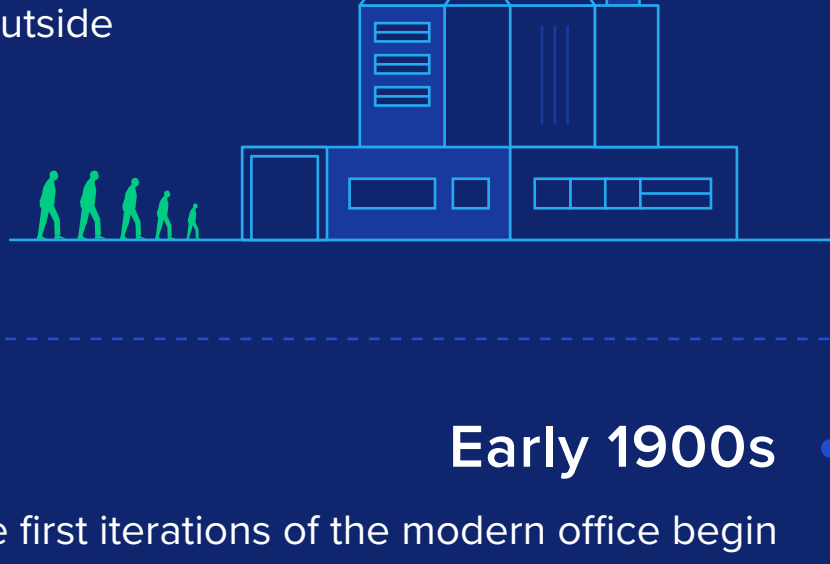
The Evolution of Remote Work

1560

Florence's Uffizi Gallery is constructed. The central administrative building of the Medici mercantile empire, it is a predecessor to the first-ever corporate office.

1760 – 1840

The Industrial Revolution creates strong social momentum towards working outside the home.



Early 1900s

The first iterations of the modern office begin to appear in America, birthed in large part by innovations such as the telephone, telegraph, typewriter, and public electricity.

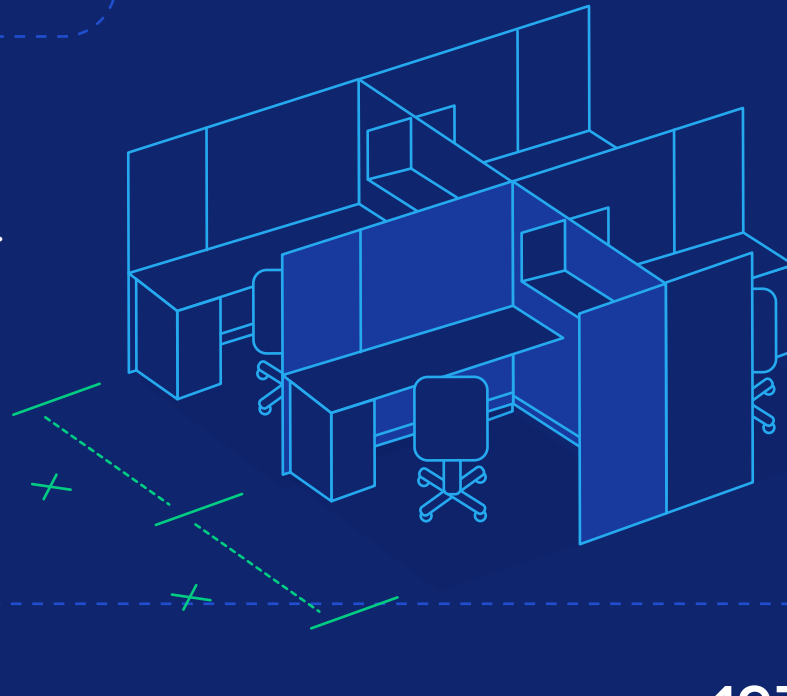


1926

Ford Motor Companies adopts a five-day, 40-hour workweek.

1968

Robert Probst designs the cubical.



1970

The clean air movement, without identifying remote work explicitly, lays significant groundwork for the movement by identifying one of its greatest benefits: zero commute time. The term gridlock is coined within the decade.



1973

The Telecommunications Transportation Tradeoff is published; Jack Nilles, the lead author, is now regarded as the granddaddy of remote work.

1975

The first personal computers hit the scene.



1979

The OPEC oil embargo is in its sixth year. The Washington Post publishes an article titled "Working at Home Can Save Gasoline." General skepticism remains concerning remote work.



Early 1983

The internet is born.

1987

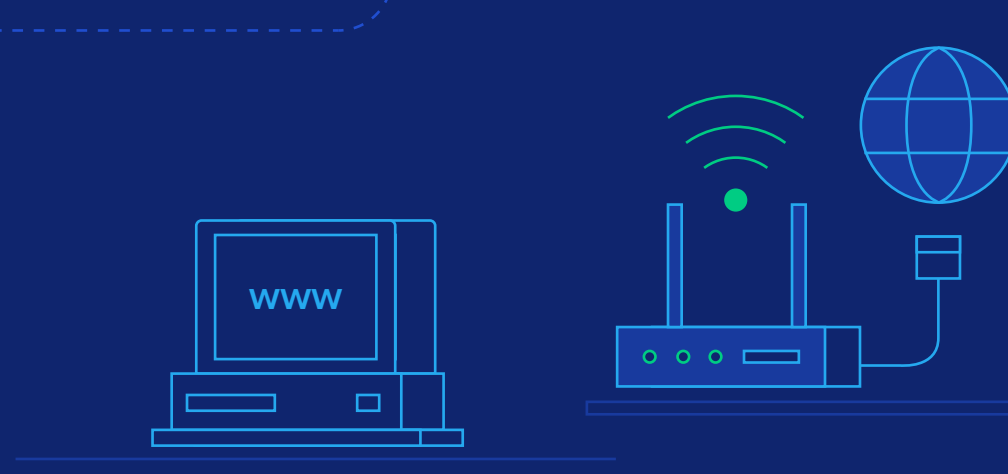
The Christian Science Monitor publishes "Telecommuting: Reality Sets In." The number of telecommuting Americans rises to 1.5 million.

1990s

Congress uses appropriations bills to enable federal agencies to support remote workers; these appropriations are made permanent in 1995.

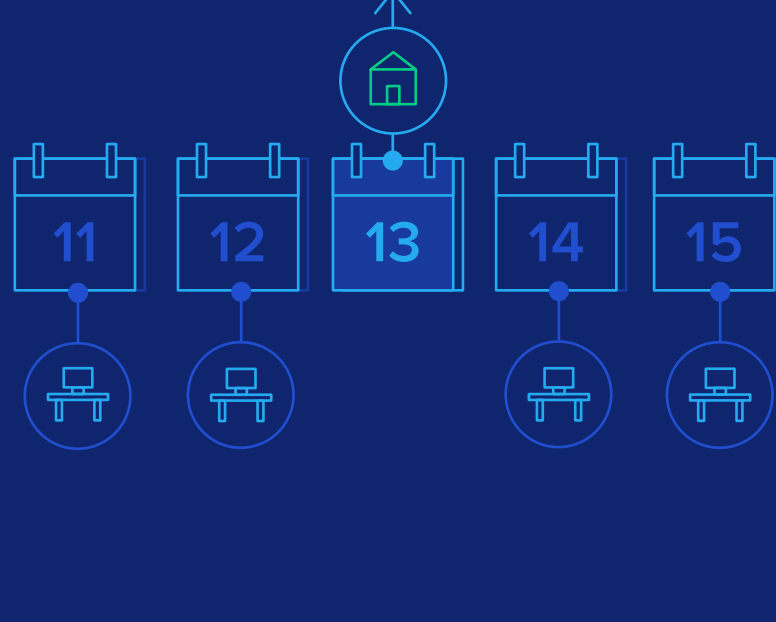
1991

Wifi is invented.



2000 – 2010

The percentage of employees working at least one day at home per week increases to 35%.



2000

The DOT Appropriations Act (Department of Transportation and related agencies) is enacted. All executive agencies are required to establish telecommuting policies. By 2004, all federal employees can telecommute, provided they do so "without diminished employee performance."

2005

The first coworking space is created in San Francisco by software engineer Brad Neuberg.



2010

WeWork is founded in SoHo, New York City.



2010

Over 59 percent of remote workers now work for private companies rather than simply freelancing.

2010

President Barack Obama signs the Telework Enhancement Act, requiring all federal agencies to create policies for eligible employees to work remotely.

2005 - 2018

Telecommuting increases by 140%

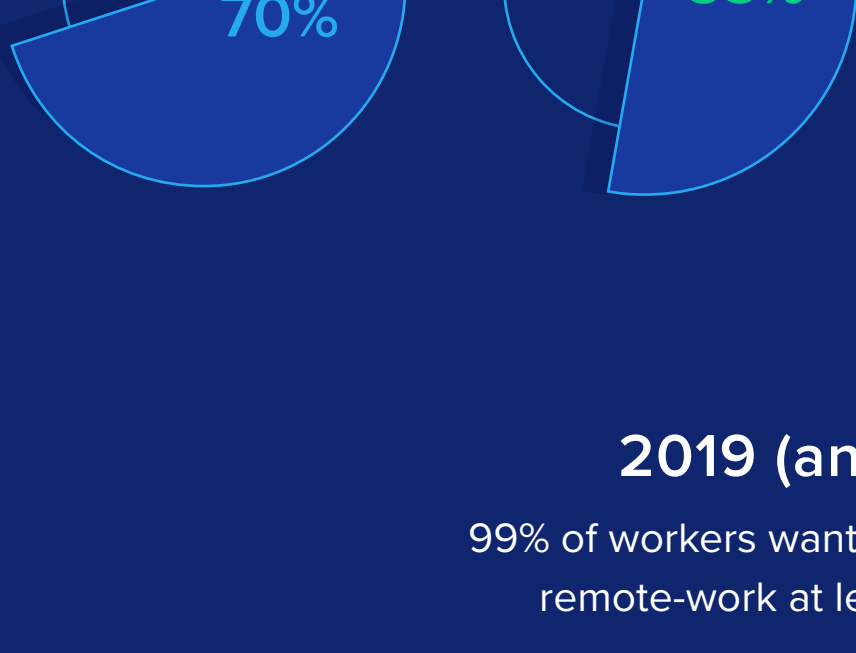
2014 – 2018

The number of fully-remote US companies jumps from 26 to 170.



2018

70% of the world population works remotely at least once a week; 53% for at least half the week.



2019 (and beyond)

99% of workers want their employers to include remote-work at least part of the time.

toptal®

2019