3 reasons why tribal organizations need to embrace smarter collaboration

With the Federal government’s latest initiatives to close the digital divide for tribal communities, IT leaders are exploring solutions to take advantage of broadband availability. Adoption of hybrid work and collaboration tools empower new opportunities and greater engagement.

A focus on smart collaboration solutions reliably improves productivity, employee retention, and the IT experience for the entire community. Already, research from The Brookings Institution shows that while the remote work divide still exists, the gap has shrunk since the COVID-19 pandemic. Tribal organizations will have greater access to the remote work economy.
Hybrid work matters.

Support for long-term hybrid work is needed now to attract and retain talented workers, while helping them build upon their skills from any location. Public sector IT leaders are catching up to this fact. Of state and local government human resources professionals surveyed, 49% say managing long-term or permanent remote work is important or somewhat important.²

As many tribal organizations are adopting cellular broadband for the community, organizations should begin adding devices that are LTE- and 5G-ready.

Support for hybrid work can make a real difference. Enabling staff to work from anywhere can reduce resignations by 35%, while boosting productivity.⁵ And, 75% of workers say they are more productive with work-from-home options while 84% say it’s improved their job satisfaction.⁶

Smarter collaboration tools make this transition easier and more effective for the organization.

More than $2B earmarked for tribal broadband infrastructure improvements, as part of the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act, and an additional $720 million in the Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) of 2022, aim to deliver the much-needed connectivity.³,⁴

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Connections between co-workers matter.
Among workers surveyed, 91% said they wanted to be more connected to their co-workers.7 Further, 78% of employees and 83% of IT leaders say collaboration powered by technology has unlocked new opportunities for staffing.6 Smart collaboration features, from noise cancellation to visual sharing with background enhancements for remote environments, ensure even the busiest household can become a productive workplace. Workers are more productive and part of the team.

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But it’s about more than experience. Better connectivity, along with durable devices, improves the ability of workers in the field to better coordinate and collaborate. This includes the ability of first responders to have better information and coordination on location in an emergency, which could save lives.
This is why 44% of IT leaders plan to make investments in hybrid collaboration tools specifically to improve connections between workers.6

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Connection to the community matters.
Your IT team and organization is an extension of the tribal community, and what helps connect one team member, helps further connection for everyone. Especially within government agencies, investments in infrastructure, future IT team members, and ideas for improved technology can all result from proactive digital communication with your community.

Only 67% of tribal lands in the continental US have access to broadband internet.8 As the digital divide initiatives begin to deploy, smarter videoconferencing tools and software, like hubs, can help you connect with underserved groups and create new opportunity within the community in easier, more cost-effective ways.

With managed services to take care of routine connection and processing issues, IT teams can be freed up to focus on technology initiatives for the future of the community and drive organization growth and competitiveness.

Discover the many ways your collaboration tools can work smarter for your organization with the following checklist.

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Lenovo recommends Windows 11 Pro for business.
Make collaboration work smarter for your tribal organization.

Ask the following questions to find collaboration opportunities for your organization.

- **Is your organization prepared for broadband access?**
  Ensure your devices are as up to date as possible, with multiple options for connectivity, including 5G, in addition to collaboration tools. Taking advantage of highly-adaptable digital communication tools, like Microsoft Teams and the Lenovo devices you already own, can make hybrid work and support seamless — enhancing productivity and the overall IT experience.

- **How will you plan for stronger communications in the field?**
  When possible, consider the stronger and more reliable wireless connection over time with Lenovo’s durable, 5G- and Wi-Fi 6-ready. Tribal public safety agencies can also take advantage of FirstNet Built with AT&T-approved devices.

- **How are you proactively managing security for remote and hybrid workers?**

- **Is your workforce well-connected?**
  Lenovo and Microsoft offer solutions for connecting remotely or in-person, augmented by collaboration tools. The Lenovo ThinkSmart Hub is an all-in-one Microsoft Teams Rooms system that turns any room into a conference room, enabling in-office and remote teams to meet and collaborate more easily.

- **Are “as a service” models a good fit?**
  For organizations that want to step away from the day-to-day management of endpoint devices as better connectivity rolls out, Lenovo TruScale DaaS can take care of everything from provisioning and deployment through end-of-life reclamation for one monthly fee.
Learn more about Lenovo’s complete portfolio of award-winning devices and comprehensive service solutions for tribal businesses and organizations at www.lenovo.com/Tribal or contact your Lenovo representative for Tribal Organizations today.

**The many benefits of collaboration from one partner**

Lenovo is ready to help support tribal-owned organizations across all types of public- and private-sector businesses with solutions engineered to keep IT teams connected, secure, and productive, while staying on-budget.

**The simplest way to access all of our solutions.**

Lenovo TruScale provides a simple, convenient way to access all of our solutions through an as-a-service model. With Device-as-a-Service through Lenovo TruScale, you can equip your workforce and get an end-to-end solution wrapped in every device.

- Free up your budget and improve productivity.
- Get end-to-end services and support that precisely match your needs.
- Enjoy the simplicity of one predictable monthly fee.
- Easily add or remove devices from your plan or pause your service as organization needs change.

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The ThinkPad X13 Gen 3 lets your teams work from anywhere. Running up to Windows 11 Pro and powered by Intel vPro® An Intel® Evo™ Design, with up to 12th Gen Intel® Core™ i7 processor and integrated Intel® Iris® Xe graphics, this laptop can tackle any task. It’s also light and thin enough to go everywhere with a battery that can run all day.

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**SOURCES**

1. Gregg, Matthew, and Maxim, Robert. “Native Americans are getting left behind in the remote work economy.” The Brookings Institution, September 26, 2022.

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