

Participant 1

For this contextual inquiry, Austin followed a friend to his dedicated office space and observed how he set up his work environment. Austin chose this participant because he is always working on something and tends to float between different workspaces. He has a dedicated work office away from where he lives however, he often works whenever he has the time to do so.

Questions

Where would you say do you primarily get your work done?

- It depends on the day, sometimes when he has more time to spare, he will drive over to his office. However, he is equally content with just doing it in the communal living space.

What tools are required when you work? Do you have to bring them with you?

- He needs his computer, an internet connection, the prototype device that he is developing, as well as some cables to sync everything together. He keeps everything in a backpack that he can quickly take with him from place to place. Nothing is so bulky that he cannot easily travel with it.

What are some difficulties with having multiple work environments?

- The hardest part for him is when he has to quickly change locations. If he is working on his device, he would much rather prefer to just leave everything where it is and come back to it the same. However, since he never knows where he will be working next, he has to take everything apart which is hard sometimes when he tries to continue a train of thought from earlier.

Do you allocate different work to different workspaces?

- Not really, everything he is working on can be done everywhere. He built his device in a way that it can be worked on anywhere and does not require any special connection or hardware for him to work on it.

When do you find yourself most productive?

- Also depends, usually wherever has the least amount of people around him. That is a major reason why he likes having the remote office space because while he is there, he knows he will not get distracted from the people he lives with.

What is the reason you have a dedicated workspace away from your home?

- He needed dedicated meeting space and it just so happened that he is able to do a lot of his work there too when he isn't meeting with people.

Observations

- He tends to keep most of his required tools on him so that whenever he has time, he can do so in whatever space he is capable of working in.
- Despite having various pieces of hardware to bring around with him, he is pretty flexible in terms of where he works.
- He really only goes to the off-site work environment when he needs to be really productive or needs some solitude that he cannot get where he is living.
- All he needs is a flat surface and for his computer and an internet connection.
- He uses a whiteboard when one is available for him.
- He does not mind having to relocate his workspace all of the time. He likes the change of pace and does not like to be stuck to one location.