Facebook Takes on the Workplace

Written by Marco Attard 14 October 2016

Facebook might be the bane of employers, but the company presents a more business-friendly side with Workplace-- a stripped down version of the social network designed for enterprise collaboration.



Previously known as *Facebook at Work*, the collaboration system is similar to the likes of HipChat at Slack. It includes all main components of the social network, including the news feed, events, groups and messages, only within an ad-free system installed on enterprise systems and accessible on either browser or mobile device app via separate account.

Interestingly, **Workplace also features a collaboration with Box**-- users can access files corporate Box accounts directly from the Workplace interface, with no need to switch between separate apps. The process works in reverse, meaning one can save content from Workplace to corporate Box accounts.

Meanwhile a Work Chat app takes care of instant messaging duties, as well as voice and video calls.

The company says Workplace is already in use by around 10000 people at several multinational companies, including *Starbucks, Club Med* and *Royal Bank of Scotland*, as part of a beta program. It is available on a subscription-based service, although nonprofits and educational institutions can use Workplace for free.

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