

THE HISTORY of COWORKING



1994

Experimental Workplaces

American ad agency, Chiat/Day, commission Gaetano Pesce to design their office to break workplace traditions. The space has no offices or desks and promotes collaborative work as coworking does today, but workers soon complain about the over-the-top design.

1995

First Hackerspace

Berlin computer engineers set up the first ever 'hackerspace', C-Base. Hackerspaces are obvious precursors to coworking spaces. They are not-for-profit spaces intended to bring together computer enthusiasts to collaborate, share knowledge and equipment.

Mother of Coworking

Schraubenfabrik opens in an old factory in Vienna. Aiming to give entrepreneurs a place to work away from home where they can collaborate and connect with like-minded people, the space soon includes architects, PR consultants and startups. It is considered the 'mother of coworking', despite not using the word 'coworking' itself.

2002

'Coworking'

The phrase 'coworking' is coined by Bernard DeKoven. However, it refers to an idea about the way we should work rather than the space we work in. He wants to evolve collaborative and non-hierarchical work practices.

42 West 24 provides the short-term flexible desk space we know of coworking today.

2005

First Coworking Space

Brad Neuberg sets up the first coworking space in a San Francisco feminist collective. San Francisco Coworking Space runs twice a week and aims to provide the freedom of independent work with the structure and community of working with others. After one month, an athlete and startup developer named Ray Baxter arrives, becoming the world's first official coworker.

2006

First Full-Time Coworking Space

San Francisco Coworking Space closes and is replaced by the Hat Factory, which becomes the first full-time workspace referred to as a 'coworking space'.

Coworking Visas

Coworking visas are introduced, meaning that members of certain coworking spaces are free to access other coworking spaces around the globe that are also included in the agreement.

2008

Wikipedia

Coworking gets its own page on the English Wikipedia.

Coworking Growth

Coworking Wiki

Chris Messina, the inventor of the Twitter hashtag, sets up an online resource called The Coworking Wiki, which helps coworkers and coworking spaces around the globe connect online.

For the next seven years the number of coworking spaces and members approximately doubles each year.

2009

First Coworking Book

The first book on coworking, 'I'm Outta Here! How coworking is making the office obsolete', is released.

2010

Coworking Growth

There are currently 600 coworking spaces worldwide. This is double the previous year and represents a period of exponential growth for coworking spaces between 2005 and 2011.

The first online magazine about Coworking, Deskmag, goes online on July 10th.

First Angel Investment

NextSpace, the California-based coworking providers, is the first provider to ever receive angel funds and receive \$425,000 from investors.

First Coworking Conference

2011

First Coworking Day

On August 9th, five years after Neuberg opened the first official coworking space in San Francisco, the first #CoworkingDay is celebrated.

The first coworking conference takes place in Brussels, bringing together over 150 thinkers, owners, activists and policymakers together to discuss the potential of coworking in Europe.

2013

Health Insurance Plan

Coworking Ontario launches the first ever health insurance plan for a coworking space.

2018

Coworking is Big Business

Coworking takes up 27 million square feet of office space across the US. WeWork is currently the second biggest private office tenant in Manhattan. The company is valued at over £15 billion pounds and has over a quarter of a million members. Impact Hub has 100 locations across 5 continents. Large coworking providers make up huge swathes of the market.

Worldwide

There are currently 18,900 coworking spaces worldwide, with 1.7 million coworking members worldwide.

2018

La capitale del co-working

London is currently the capital of coworking, with more space than other major cities like New York, San Francisco and Berlin. Coworking occupies 10.7 million square feet of office space in Central London alone.

2021

After the pandemic

Despite the COVID 19 pandemic, the co-working seems to be taking shape as the basis on which to build the new concept of workspace, with co-working spaces in the provinces to support large headquarters in smart working mode in the capitals.

Sources

<https://www.wired.com/1999/02/chiat-3/>
<https://www.deepfun.com/the-coworking-connection/>
http://codinginparadise.org/ebooks/html/blog/start_of_coworking.html
<http://www.innovationiseverywhere.com/future-coworking-coworking-visas-corporate-partnerships-real-estate-specialists/>
<http://vator.tv/news/2011-03-09-nextspace-raises-425k-for-coworking-space>
<https://www.dropbox.com/s/5n466f7mv4qs0kd/ResultsOfTheCoworkingSurveyCoworkingEuropeLisbon2014.pdf>
<http://www.smallbizlabs.com/2016/08/coworking-forecast-44-million-members-in-2020.html>
<https://www.recode.net/2018/3/22/17119012/wework-massive-growth-second-biggest-office-tenant-new-york-city-manhattan-coworking-real-estate>
<http://www.cushmanwakefield.co.uk/en-gb/news/2018/01/coworking-report>
<https://www.statista.com/statistics/554273/number-of-coworking-spaces-worldwide/>
<http://www.deskmag.com/en/1-7-million-members-will-work-in-coworking-spaces-by-the-end-of-2018-survey>

Update and Translation

Original Version

Brought to you by:

sofia
www.sofialocks.com

FREE OFFICE FINDER
ESTABLISHED SINCE 2002