

# COO Forum<sup>®</sup>

Chief Operating Officer Business Forum<sup>®</sup>

## COOs Sharing Ideas about Technology

*by Bill Shepard, Founder & CEO at COO Forum*

For the past four years, three COO Forum Chapters facilitated by CEO and Founder Bill Shepard - San Francisco, Silicon Valley and our Global Telemeeting with International/US-wide COOs - have spent half of a monthly December meeting in a relaxed session of fun, no boundary, blue sky discussion across the spectrum of technologies that they use, know about, and plan to deploy.

This topic always results in a great outcome. In December 2020, our findings were intriguing. Most likely due to our current health, social and political climate, we found the findings insightful and once again worth sharing with you.

### Key takeaways:

- Greater focus on individuals/small teams
  - Success in becoming virtual
  - Using the same technologies, just differently
  - Hardware for security and speed
  - Health and wellness of our teams and ourselves
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- ✓ **Enterprise:** Most companies have maintained the status-quo with enterprise technology.
  - ✓ **Productivity:** Virtual whiteboards and Zoom were by far most offered as a top technology.
  - ✓ **Personal:** These mostly came back to organization, health/fitness and mental well-being.

As the Founder and CEO of the COO Forum, I welcome you to share these findings with your connections and colleagues.

A very special *thanks* to all the COOs and Second-in-Command Executives who contributed to this activity in 2020!

### For more information:

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### Enterprise

**Docebo** Cloud-based LMS with AI superpowers <https://www.docebo.com/>

**Confluence** Modern social intranet <https://www.atlassian.com/work-management/social-intranet>

**PowerBI** Collection of software services, apps and connectors that work together to turn unrelated sources of data into coherent, visually immersive and interactive insights.  
<https://docs.microsoft.com/en-us/power-bi/fundamentals/power-bi-overview>

**SnapLogic** Intelligent automation to connect your enterprise <https://www.snaplogic.com/>

### Productivity

**Airtable** Tracks actions – familiarity of a spreadsheet and power of database <https://airtable.com/>

**Analogue** <https://www.kickstarter.com/projects/ugmonk/analogue-the-simplest-productivity-system>

**Anaplan** Connect teams, systems and insights for agile scenario modeling, continuous forecasting and connected teams [www.anaplan.com](http://www.anaplan.com)

**Asana** Organizes teams. Keep remote and distributed teams, and your entire organization, focused on their goals, projects and tasks. <https://asana.com/>

**Aspenify** Expense management, receipt scanning and business travel <https://www.aspenify.com/>

**AWS** for storage and cloud computing

**BetterProposals** Easy, fast and painless quotes [www.betterproposals.io](http://www.betterproposals.io)

**Bullet Journal** Purpose-powered productivity <https://bulletjournal.com/>

**Canva** Easily create beautiful designs and documents. Great tool for people who aren't designers and need templates already set up for social media, presentations, and more. [www.canva.com](http://www.canva.com)

**Constant Contact** Email marketing software <https://www.constantcontact.com/>

**Diligent** Board portal software with security – notes kept and then they disappear <https://diligent.com/>

**DocuSign** Connect and automate your entire agreement process <https://www.docusign.com/>

**FitBit** Create walking challenges with small teams [www.fitbit.com](http://www.fitbit.com)

**Google data studio** <https://datastudio.google.com/u/0/navigation/reporting> Free visualization of data

**GoogleSuite** Easy management and control for teams. [gsuite.google.com](https://gsuite.google.com)

**Hubspot** Full platform of marketing, sales, customer service and CRM software with email tracker. [www.hubspot.com](http://www.hubspot.com)

**Mendix** Application platform for everyone to make business better. <https://www.mendix.com/>

**Microsoft Teams** – Forced into it away from Skype. It is a robust program similar to Zoom, but you can have files dropped in and all links to sharepoint where things are stored and in one place. One member took advantage of phone service and integrated into teams removes cell phone use. AS DM

**Miro** Online collaborative whiteboard platform to bring teams together anywhere, anytime [www.miro.com](http://www.miro.com)

**Monday.com** Task management and developing highly effective teams <https://monday.com/>

**Newsify** News aggregator app <https://newsify.co/>

**Remo.co** Event management allows you to do group rooms with a lot of people IP. “Big person get-togethers. Great technology.” <https://remo.co/>

**Phone Calls** Back to the basics and picking up the phone. Many were using time during hiking or walking to reconnect and make those calls, allowing you to get out of your chair and connect to colleagues.

**ProcessTree** Online hosting promo codes and coupons <http://www.processtree.com/>

**Salesforce** CRM solution. Used both for B2B sales – really the storage of all of the data, but some also use Hubspot along with Salesforce. [www.salesforce.com](http://www.salesforce.com)

**Saleshood** Sales enablement and also onboarding <https://saleshood.com/>

**SAP Hybris** e-commerce and product content management software “functionality out of the box to minimize a lot of 3<sup>rd</sup> party apps that are integrated, very robust” <https://www.sap.com/acquired-brands/what-is-hybris.html>

**Slack** Real-time messaging, file sharing, and powerful search. Internal communications tool, so some choose not to use email ... “Has saved us completely and this is a great communication tool and kept interaction going in/out of the office.” [www.slack.com](http://www.slack.com)

**SmartBulb** used on doors to alert family members when you're in/out of meetings

**TM1** IBM old-school infrastructure as you are scaling up. Very seamlessly integrates with Excel; Efficiency tool

**Tableau** Business intelligence software that helps people see and understand data – real breakthrough for anyone doing data analytics, great price [www.tableau.com](http://www.tableau.com)

**WhatsApp** Free international calls, videos and great tool for doing something small on the fly [www.whatsapp.com](http://www.whatsapp.com)

**Workday** Move the needle for the company and digitally transform (JI) change the way you work [www.workday.com](http://www.workday.com)

**Woven** Free version offered, manages all calendars personal, business, family and helps schedule meetings and reports <https://woven.com/>

**Zoom** This was the winner of the year. [www.zoom.com](http://www.zoom.com) There was a lot of discussion around how to better use Zoom. How to make it more personal, friendly and engaging. How do you gauge how people are feeling? Use the polls and create games through polls. Use Kahoot [www.kahoot.com](http://www.kahoot.com) and Factile <https://www.playfactile.com/>

### Out-of-the-Box Fun

**B-hyve** Controls sprinkler systems from anywhere

**Blinkist** Read book summaries in 15-minutes [www.blinkist.com](http://www.blinkist.com)

**Calm** Meditation app promising better sleep and less anxiety [www.calm.com](http://www.calm.com)

**Capture the Flag** Gameify for your technology teams <http://www.captureflag.io/>

**Evernote** Note taking app [www.evernote.com](http://www.evernote.com)

**Headway** Breaks down books into a 15 to 20-minute summary and reads it to you <https://app.get-headway.com/>

**Hydrow** Rowing Machine – Brings the river to you with a massive display in front of your rowing experience. Hired Olympian rowers in real-life and you jump on a rowing machine and suddenly you are rowing with world champions. Positively motivating vs. being yelled at on Peloton. [www.hydrow.com](http://www.hydrow.com)

**Icebreaker.video** Gather peeps, spark new connections and have fun together – no matter where you are <https://icebreaker.video/>

**iNaturalist** Explore and share observations from the natural world. [www.inaturalist.org](http://www.inaturalist.org)

**Jackbox.io** <https://www.techradar.com/how-to/how-to-play-jackbox-games-online-with-friends>

**Kahoot** Learning games for work, home and school <https://kahoot.com/>

**Muse Meditation** Brain-sensing headband that helps you refocus during the day and recover overnight, recommended for those who struggle with meditation [www.choosemuse.com](http://www.choosemuse.com)

**Ring and Indoor Ring Drone** Security, doorbells and accessories <https://ring.com/>

**Strava** GPS cycling and running app <https://www.strava.com/mobile>

**Trello** Helps teams work more collaboratively and get more done “Super intuitive and helps facilitate meetings” <https://trello.com/en-US>

**Wifi Mesh Network Repeater** Great technology and no speed problems even into the backyard; mesh technology if installed properly bypasses throttling by ISPs

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#### **About the COO Forum®**

The COO Forum offers a safe and confidential small group peer-to-peer meeting for standing COOs and other Second-in-Command Executives across a spectrum of industries and company sizes. Participants are expressly from companies with full operating disciplines and professional leadership teams. The COO Forum is US-wide and is by invitation only and there is a modest fee to join. Members have access to our private and confidential *COOeForum*.

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