

## Top 9 Collaboration Types You Will Find In Every Company

By Richard Darell



One of the reasons so many startups become successful these days may very well be because there are so many different collaboration types of people in the world. It doesn't really matter what company you look at, there are always a number of different personality types to be found. As a matter of fact, there are said to be 9 dominating collaboration types in every company. You just have to look around, and you will find them in your company as well, if your company has more than 9 people that is.

When you find the right collaboration of people, you'll instantly know it since everything will seem to be a whole lot easier to manage. Some of the world's most successful business ideas were founded on the great collaboration of two or more people. The top 9 collaboration types are usually found in any company, but

the ones who work best together are usually people from the same type. Of course, there are collaborations that work great without this being true too. As it has been said many times before, there are always exceptions to the rule.

If you would like to identify your own collaboration type then the following infographic called *The 9 Types Of Collaborators* might be of good use to you. It's presented by [CentralDesktop](#) (design by [Visual Infographics](#)) and could easily put you and your coworkers in their respective collaboration types or type.

By identifying your own collaboration type you *could* (notice the attention on "could") possibly find compatible collaboration types which would make your collaboration easier. In the end though, it comes down to how much you are prepared to meet your collaborator halfway. If you have a common goal, it's way easier to find a collaboration type that is suitable for both of you. However, if that mediation is not met, you have a situation which is most definitely caused by incompatible collaboration types. It's not the easiest of situations to solve, but never give up. There are solutions to everything, and giving up is the last one you should ever embrace. Collaboration is all about listening, trusting and by all means truly collaborating. Now, which one of these collaboration types are you?

**Collaborators come in all different shapes and sizes. We've identified the top nine types of collaborators that typically exist within an organization. Ranging from early adopters to social butterflies to the begrudging skeptics, we're sure you'll recognize more than a couple of the characters below.**

# The 9 Types of Collaborators

## The Ringleader

The Ringleader is anything but a behind-the-scenes person. The Ringleader is a big-idea person who helps other team members arrive at "aha" moments. Ringleaders begin a lot of discussions, bookmark interesting content and add thought-provoking comments to discussions and files. Their creative energy seeps into and influences team members across all the departments.



## The Stealth Ninja

A covert collaborator, the Stealth Ninja is the one who lurks, quietly moving from workspace to workspace viewing other people's work that piques their interest. Stealth Ninjas are usually the first to view a file, even if they're not a part of the team. They usually abstain from commenting unless absolutely necessary with the only evidence of their presence an entry on the audit log.



## The Executive

The Executive is usually a decision-maker in your company or department who has limited time, yet wants or needs to be involved at a high level. Speed, efficiency and convenience are of utmost importance to The Executive, who prefers to communicate feedback and final decisions via email rather than logging into a system. When The Executive does log in, the purpose is usually to take in the status of various projects as opposed to actively engaging or working on a project at a detail level.



## The Expert

The Expert is the go-to person for questions about collaboration technology and best practices in your organization. The Expert looks beyond the normal file-sharing and project management capabilities of a collaboration solution and finds interesting and innovative ways to automate his or her work by leveraging sophisticated workflows, databases and other advanced features. Borderline geek, Experts are always experimenting, sharing new hacks on the intranet, and custom coding to create the coolest-looking workspaces on the block. Oh, and they usually have the most interesting desk toys and gadgets.



## The Socialite

This type of collaborator was born to be social. Socialites are storytellers and connectors. Sharing project details and updates comes as second nature to Socialites because they are more than used to sharing on a regular basis via Facebook, Twitter, Google+, MySpace, LinkedIn, Tumblr ... you get the point. The Socialite always has a newly updated status, helps carry on conversations and encourages others to engage. Socialites are great for easing those who are less accustomed to open communication into being more social.



## The Siloist

The Siloist enjoys working alone and is reluctant to share only because he or she is not used to it. Siloists tend to be a bit absent from the workspaces they're part of and like to do most work offline. Siloists are actually most at risk of losing files and work because they prefer not to save and backup regularly to the cloud - and they are also always the last to realize, if ever at all, that the intranet is down.



## The Skeptic

The Skeptic is a somewhat vocal opponent to collaboration. Skeptics can often be detractors because they decentralize knowledge and communication when refusing to use the collaboration workspace. There is hope for Skeptics, though, as they can ultimately be won over if convinced that the WIFM (What is in it for me?) quotient is high enough.



## The Dinosaur

The Dinosaur is not the most tech-savvy person in the organization. A creature of habit and uncomfortable with new ways of doing things, The Dinosaur tends to stick to traditional methods of work. While The Expert might equate managing projects by email to banging two rocks together to create fire, The Dinosaur prefers to be cloaked in this sanctuary of status quo. The Dinosaur does not embrace a new tool without some encouragement, so it is extremely important that the collaboration solution be simple and intuitive.



## The Taskmaster

Taskmasters may err on the OCD side or simply be organized to an extreme. No detail is too small, no action item goes unassigned and no audit log unread. The Taskmaster is operationally focused, using collaboration tools fully to execute on project plans. The Taskmaster is the one you can expect will follow up with a task list of action items five minutes after your call ends (and you're grateful for it!).

