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The Official Newsletter of the Flight Deck

HUD: A NEW WAY TO FIND YOUR TOOLS

By Silvia George, UX/UI Developer

It's Silvia from the Flight Deck, here to tell you about one of our newest projects! With many in the RCAF now working from home, our workflows have definitely changed. New communication and collaboration tools are being introduced to help everyone work remotely, but some of us are starting to find that these tools are piling up. Enter HUD, a new site that the Flight Deck has been developing in the last couple of weeks. Yes, it's another tool - but it's a tool to help you keep track of all your other tools. Each team has a unique stack of tools they use, so we've built a system where team leads can log in to create their team's stack. You can add, edit, or delete from your collection of tool links at any time, then share the stack with the rest of your team. With this system, only team leads need to remember login credentials, while team members simply receive a link to their team's HUD and have all of their relevant tools in one place!

HUD also has a feature which we call Ground School, where you can find media that helps you learn about different tools that are out there. For example, you can watch a video talking about a new Dispatch feature or follow an introduction on how to use Slack. Maybe you'll learn a new trick about your favourite tool, or even decide to start using something new! HUD is constantly being improved and we have a lot of other cool features we hope to be adding soon.

Sign up to get your team a HUD at hud.digitalaf.ca!

Flight Deck FAVOURITES



BRAIN TEASER

A man stands on one side of a river, his dog on the other. The man calls his dog, who immediately crosses the river without getting wet and without using a bridge or a boat.

How did the dog do it?



FLIGHT DECK GONE DIGITAL

By Vikki Babic, Lab Director

When the RCAF opened the Innovation Lab at Communitech back in 2017, their main goal was to use the lab to promote and develop an innovative culture within the Air Force. Teaching it's members the Design Thinking Methodology and the Agile approach to solving problems was the first step in achieving that goal. Little did we know then that 2020 was going to bring us challenges where we would have to put our teachings to the test.

COVID-19 Pandemic brought on devastation to the entire World, not only in terms of lives lost, but the impact it has on our day to day lives - how we live, work and engage with one another. As we all scrambled to get our private lives adjusted to the new situation, the Flight Deck team also acted quickly to set up remotely, without skipping a beat.

Like so many other Labs at Communitech, our team already had 'work from home' capabilities: using G-Suite for document repository, Monday.com for task planning and tracking, Slack for communication and Microsoft Azure for building, testing and deploying code. The missing pieces, however, were to establish communication requirements as well as to be connected and working productively with the RCAF members who did not have the same remote capabilities.

As a team, we determined to hold daily video conference calls where we discuss the accomplishments of the previous day and also cover what each of us is going to work on that day. All tasks are captured in Monday.com and visible to all team members and Sr. leaders at the RAWC. We resolve issues quickly, when they arise, through Slack and Google Hangouts. Our RAWC members also quickly established their workspace via G-Suite and Monday.com allowing us to stay connected and aligned.

Even though working remotely did drastically change our interactions, it has been a very positive experience for the Flight Deck. This experience serves as a reminder that we have a strong team culture, even when we are not physically connected.

Issue: April 3rd - Talk about a tool you have been using while WFH	Person	Status	Date
HUD: Tool Dashboard	[Avatar]	Done	Apr-3
Chat: Slack / Teams	[Avatar]	Done	
Video: Google Meet / Zoom	[Avatar]	Done	
Productivity: Monday.com / Trello / Asana	[Avatar]		
File Sharing: Drive / Box / Dropbox	[Avatar]		
+ Add			

Issue: March 20th	Person	Status	Date
Coop Corner: Silvia	[Avatar]	Done	Mar-18
[Task]	[Avatar]	Done	Mar-18
[Task]	[Avatar]	Done	Mar-18
[Task]	[Avatar]	Done	Mar-18
[Task]	[Avatar]	Done	Mar-23

This is how we track tasks for our newsletter!

An example of one of our Monday.com boards

VIRTUALLY CONNECT WITH GOOGLE HANGOUTS!

By Kiran Manoj Kumar, Full Stack Developer

For the past 3 weeks working remotely, the Flight Deck has extensively utilized Google Meet. This application is very useful for scheduling and running meetings planned in advance and those on the fly.

Joining a meeting is really easy. Anyone with the link can join and it supports both video and audio calls. Creating a meeting is as simple as heading to meet.google.com and pressing 'Join or start a meeting', then sharing the link to meeting guests. In addition, being able to share your screen with others in the meeting makes it very easy to collaborate in real time, making it just as effective as meeting in person.

There's also a really neat closed captioning feature that transcribes what people are saying in real time on the screen. I highly recommend for all of you to give Google Meet a shot if you're not already using it!

**WFH TIP:
TAKE ADVANTAGE OF
MODERN TOOLS & UTILIZE
THEM TO STAY
PRODUCTIVE.**

**WFH TIP:
DO NOT FORGET TO TAKE
BREAKS EVERY NOW AND
THEN.**

DON'T STOP THE CONVO, START IT WITH SLACK

By Chris Young, Tech Lead

Slack is an incredibly popular team communication platform that has dominated the tech industry where remote work, system integrations and workflow automation are the norm. Slack is a very simple system that looks a lot like Internet Relay Chat (IRC) for those old enough to remember. Conversation topics are broken down into #channels, people can be notified with @mentions and the 3rd party integrations are endless. This third piece is where the true power of Slack resides.

The integrations enable Slack to act as the hub of your tools, where tools are typically used in conversations. The Flight Deck also makes heavy use of integrations for our development and operations (DevOps) processes. When one of our apps has an issue we get a message, when we push new code we get a message and when a new version of an app has been deployed ... we get a message. You can also interact with other tools directly from Slack. For example, to start a Google hangout I just need to type /hangout.

Slack is free to use but only stores 10k messages, which, when working remotely can go quickly! Interested in learning more? Reach out to us at hello@theflightdeck.ca