

The digital nomads making the world their office

Imagine working remotely from a state-of-the-art office in central Lisbon, before heading to the beach for some surfing at the end of the day. Technology such as instant messaging and video conferencing has given us the freedom to work from just about anywhere at any time.

- 5 The trend for working remotely is already well established. In the UK, for example, more than four million Britons already work from home, according to the latest official statistics. For employers, it means they can avoid costly overheads¹ such as rent and electricity. Mr Locke, whose head office is in the US, sees big advantages to working from his home in Surrey. "I can run my business using a phone and laptop, as long as I have half-decent
- 10 Wi-Fi to connect to corporate tools," he says. "Working from home means fewer distractions and no time wasted commuting between locations."

The technology driving this trend includes messaging services such as WhatsApp that allow co-workers to stay in touch for free wherever they are in the world. However, connectivity can be an issue in more remote villages.

- 15 Keen to run your business virtually? Mr Burns says: "With software such as Dropbox you can store all your information in the cloud and within reach no matter where you are."

There are disadvantages to not physically spending time with your co-workers, though.

- "Not being in the office does mean missing out on 'water-cooler moments' or ad hoc chats that lead to new ideas," says Mr Locke. "Using any form of technology limits this kind of
- 20 interaction."

So, even for those people who increasingly can choose when, where and how to work, they may find the occasional commute to the office a necessity.

By Jessica Bown, *www.bbc.com*, 3 June 2016

1) **Overheads** = basic expenses