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Jaded commuters share a common dream

By Helen Nugent

COMMUTERS in London and New York may be divided by an ocean but they share a common dream: to work from home. In a survey conducted on both sides of the Atlantic, eight out of ten commuters said that they would jump at the opportunity.

People on their way to work at Liverpool Street Station, in London, and Penn Station, in New York City, whose average commute was nearly two hours, said that one of the main benefits would be their love life.

More than one in seven commuters passing through Liverpool Street said their relationships would be enhanced, and just over half at Penn Station. One woman explained that she would not be so exhausted after her long journey home.

Of the nine out of ten British and American commuters who wanted to be able to work away from the office, most believed that a regular change in location would reduce stress and enhance their quality of life. However, they said they would also miss the office social life.

Netilla Networks, *Computer Business Review* and Infosecurity Europe, who carried out the research, found that workers in both cities felt that a benevolent employer would increase their loyalty to the company.

Reggie Best, president of Netilla Networks, a global technology firm that provides software to employers to enable their staff to work away from the office, said: "This survey proves what we have all suspected but never had the evidence to prove: that we all seek the freedom to work when and where we want to, whether it is at home when the kids are off sick, or it's snowing or we're away at a hotel or indeed in a crowded train."

It is estimated that by next year eight million Britons will be working at home. An employee spending one or two days a week at home can save a company £3,500 to £7,000 through improved

productivity, fewer sick days and reduced office space.

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