

Collaboration – The Back Up Team

Renny Whip is the Canadian inventor who created a wireless backup camera. A lifelong Canadian tinkerer and inventor, Renny has harnessed the power of the Internet to identify and build a virtual team that created what he calls the Hindsight backup camera. Working geographically separate but connected, they collaborate using design software and 3D printing tools to develop a refined and working product that only a major corporation could have created 10 or 20 years ago.

1. What two ways did the internet help Renny collaborate with others?

Digital technology and the internet have made working as part of a virtual team possible, but it is not without challenges. One thing teams with members who are working in distant cities need to be considerate of its time zones, when booking online or telephone meetings. The table below shows the time zones in Canada and the time in each, relative to the other time zones.

St. Johns (Newfoundland Time)	Halifax (Atlantic Time)	Toronto (Eastern Time)	Regina (Central Time)	Calgary (Mountain Time)	Vancouver (Pacific Time)
3:30pm	3:00pm	2:00pm	1:00pm	Noon	11:00am

2. For each of the situations below, choose the time and the time zone you think would best allow the team to work together.

Situation: A company head office is in Calgary, but the team also has members in Halifax and Toronto. The offices are open from 9am to 5pm. For the Calgary team, it is important that the 2-hour Monday meetings start no later than 1pm Calgary time. What is the best time for the meeting?

- a) 1:00pm Calgary
- b) 8:00am Calgary
- c) 2:30pm Toronto

Situation: The Halifax team members need to schedule a weekly 1hour Skype meeting with the Vancouver members. Usual office hours in both cities are 9am to 5pm. What is the best time to schedule the meeting to cause the least inconvenience?

- a) 1:00pm Halifax
- b) Noon Vancouver
- c) 10:00am Halifax