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Konica Minolta announces what it claims is a hardware solution able to unify all of an organisation's technology into a single, centralised platform-- the Workplace Hub.



The Workplace Hub is a device reminiscent of a server with a paper-handling system on top. According to the company it creates an ecosystem for the management and coordination of IT infrastructure and services across both existing and future systems, devices and services. A central dashboard provides 360-degree visibility of IT usage patterns across the entire organisation, allowing system management and optimisation.

The company says the hardware, security and solutions comes from HPE, Sophos and Microsoft, while Canonical and BrainTribe bring data management capabilities.

In all the device fills one square meter of office space-- specifically the space currently filling the copier, printer and scanner. The Workplace Hub also takes care of such duties, explaining the paper-handling hardware seen on display units. Konica Minolta will also offer a version lacking that part, making a rack-mount system with cloud-based functionality and control.

"Workplace Hub will evolve to become the most comprehensive platform for the services and capabilities demanded by the workplace of the future. It means businesses can grow and manage their IT in tandem with changing business needs," the company adds. "It simplifies IT operations today and paves the way for exciting new integrations, such as AI and intelligent edge computing, to become a central part of the digital organisation of the future."

The first version of the Workplace Hub should be available from Q4 2017.

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