

'I monitor my staff with software that takes screenshots'

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Shibu Philip admits he knows what it's like to "maybe waste a bit of time at work".

Shibu is the founder of Transcend - a small London-based firm that buys beauty products wholesale and re-sells them online.

5 For the last year and a half, he has used Hubstaff software to track his workers' hours, keystrokes, mouse movements and websites visited. [...]

"By looking at screenshots and how much time everyone is taking on certain tasks, I know if they're following procedures. [...] he says.

Employees are fully aware that the software is in use. [...]

Home 'shirkers'?¹

10 With more of us than ever working from home during the coronavirus pandemic, there has been a spike in demand from employers for surveillance software.

US-based Hubstaff says its number of UK customers is up four times year-on-year since February.

15 Another company called Sneek offers technology that takes photos of workers through their laptop and uploads them for colleagues to see.

Photos can be taken as often as every minute, although the firm describes itself as a communication platform. [...]

20 A recent study by academics at Cardiff University and the University of Southampton found that a common fear among bosses is that out-of-sight workers will "shirk", although lockdown didn't actually appear to have had much of an effect on output either way. [...]

But is technology the answer to either catch out those who might be slacking off or to help those struggling to adjust to working from the kitchen table full-time?

Adapted from www.bbc.com/news

¹ *Shirker*: fainéant, tire-au-flanc

BTS Comptabilité et gestion		Session 2021
Nom de l'épreuve : Anglais	Code : CG/ANG/ORAL/OBL	Page 1 / 1