

E Space replaces traditional offices

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People who routinely conduct business from home or coffee shops will soon have the chance to rent space in Cool Springs in an environment made for workers on the move.

E Space, which now has a Belle Meade office, provides workers who don't have permanent work spaces with an office and professional amenities for a monthly fee.

Phil Gibbs, who heads the company, says a growing number of workers in Middle Tennessee are becoming untethered to traditional offices, yet wish for a centralized work setting.

The Cool Springs site will open in February, and Gibbs said he's planning a third location in the Nashville area.

"Now that it's all mobile and people are working from iPads and laptops, the need for the traditional office is just gone," Gibbs said. "But many want a place to schedule meetings and meet with clients. They want a better place to enhance their brand."

After Gibbs, former CEO of Encore Interactive and Executive Learning Inc., opened the first E Space office last year on the fourth floor of an office building in the Hill Center Belle Meade, he saw a growing demand for rentable professional spaces.

The next E Space outpost will be in more than 10,000 square feet in the McEwen Building at West McEwen Drive and Mallory Lane. There, members will have access to high-speed wireless; conference rooms; copiers, scanners and fax machines; and what Gibbs calls "a casual modern office environment."

Members bring their own laptops to the office, but all other perks are included in the monthly fee. There's a \$125 startup fee to become a member of E Space, and rentals start at \$195 a month for five half workdays a week.

"Our goal is to support them once that they're launched," Gibbs said. "We're trying to appeal to the existing small-business professional, and we see major trends in this office-renting direction."

Rent is based on use, not a flat fee. Gibbs said the new type of office life "represents a dramatic shift from the way people have traditionally thought about office space."

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Abstract (Document Summary)

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