



# **How to understand if you need more or less office space**

# In today's session we'll cover

The changes to real estate strategy teams can make to maximise ROI and efficiency

Which metrics and data-points are central to leasing decisions and space allocation

The various ways utilisation data can be gathered across real estate portfolios to inform decision making

## Today's host



David Thomas  
Business Operations

# Key considerations when evaluating real estate strategy

Keep the following questions in mind as 'Guiding Principles' when making changes to ensure your projects deliver the desired changes:

- What is the purpose of this office?
- Who needs to attend and when?
- With what frequency and for what function?
- What scale is needed?
- What are the primary location considerations?
- How do we fund, operate and control it?
- How do we make it more agile?



**Louis Lhoest**  
Veldhoen & Co

# How to get started: What challenges are you facing?

Change for change's sake is redundant, start projects by identifying your pain - ask yourself, which of the following statements apply:

- Our office is empty for most of the week
- Employees regularly struggle to find space
- People spend most of their time at their desk versus in meeting rooms?
- Our employees require 1:1 desk allocation - yes / no?
- Our offices haven't returned to pre-Covid occupancy levels



# Key metrics for long-term adjustments

## Building stats

**153**/Day

**23** Under-utilised Workstations

## Desk metrics

**54**% Monthly utilisation average

**67**% Peak utilisation

**1.24:1** Peak to average ratio

Good = Below 1.3:1 | OK = 1.3 - 2 : 1 | High = Over 2:1

## Meeting room metrics

**9** Under-utilised Meeting Rooms

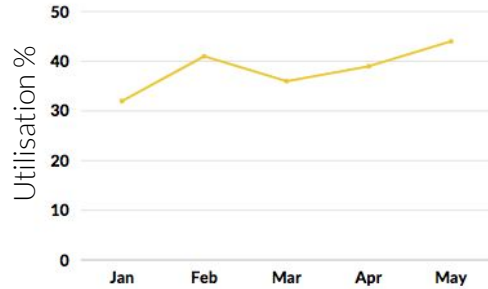
**02:42** Average utilisation per day

**3** Average # of occupants  
(Average max capacity = 8)

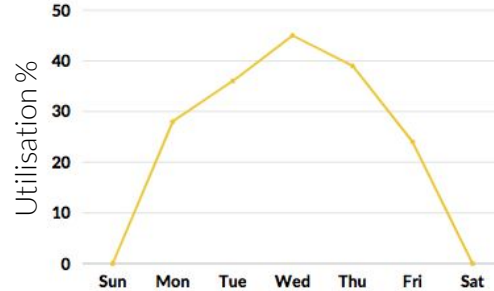


# Key metrics to examine in short-term planning

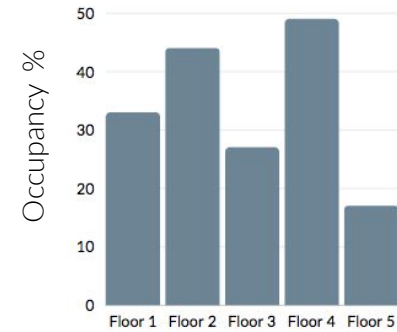
## Monthly occupancy trends



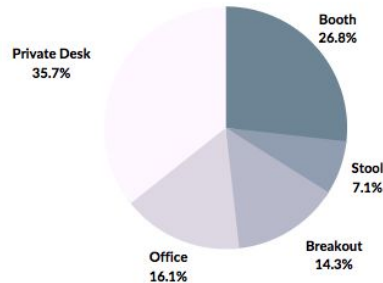
## Weekly occupancy levels



## Occupancy by floor



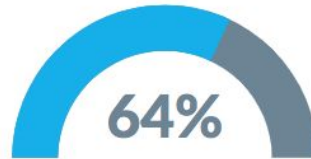
## Asset usage



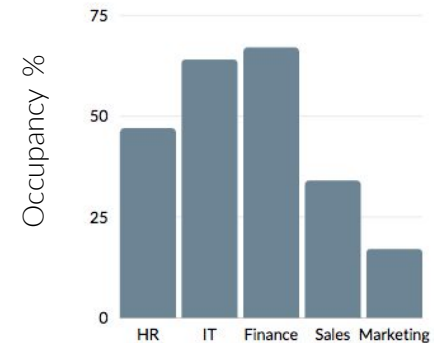
## Lowest occupancy Area



## Highest occupancy area



## Occupancy by department



# Our approach to gathering data

## A secure and flexible network

Understand how often workspaces or assets are being utilised

- Desks
- Focus rooms
- Meeting rooms



Encrypted data



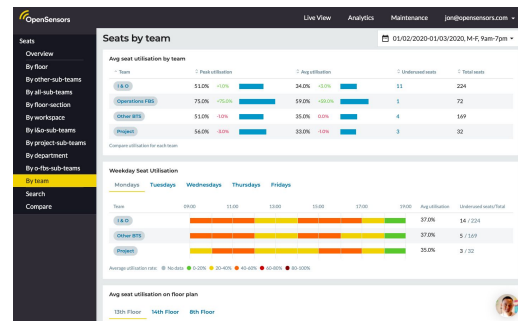
Data gathered and transmitted through LoRawan



Powerful analytics software

Accessible data anywhere, anytime

Compare workspaces and asset usage



# Types of sensors deployed



## Desk PIR

Detects heat and motion on individual assets



## Footfall Counter

Counts number of people passing into or through an area



## Room Counter

Detects number of individuals in a space

## Key considerations in planning:

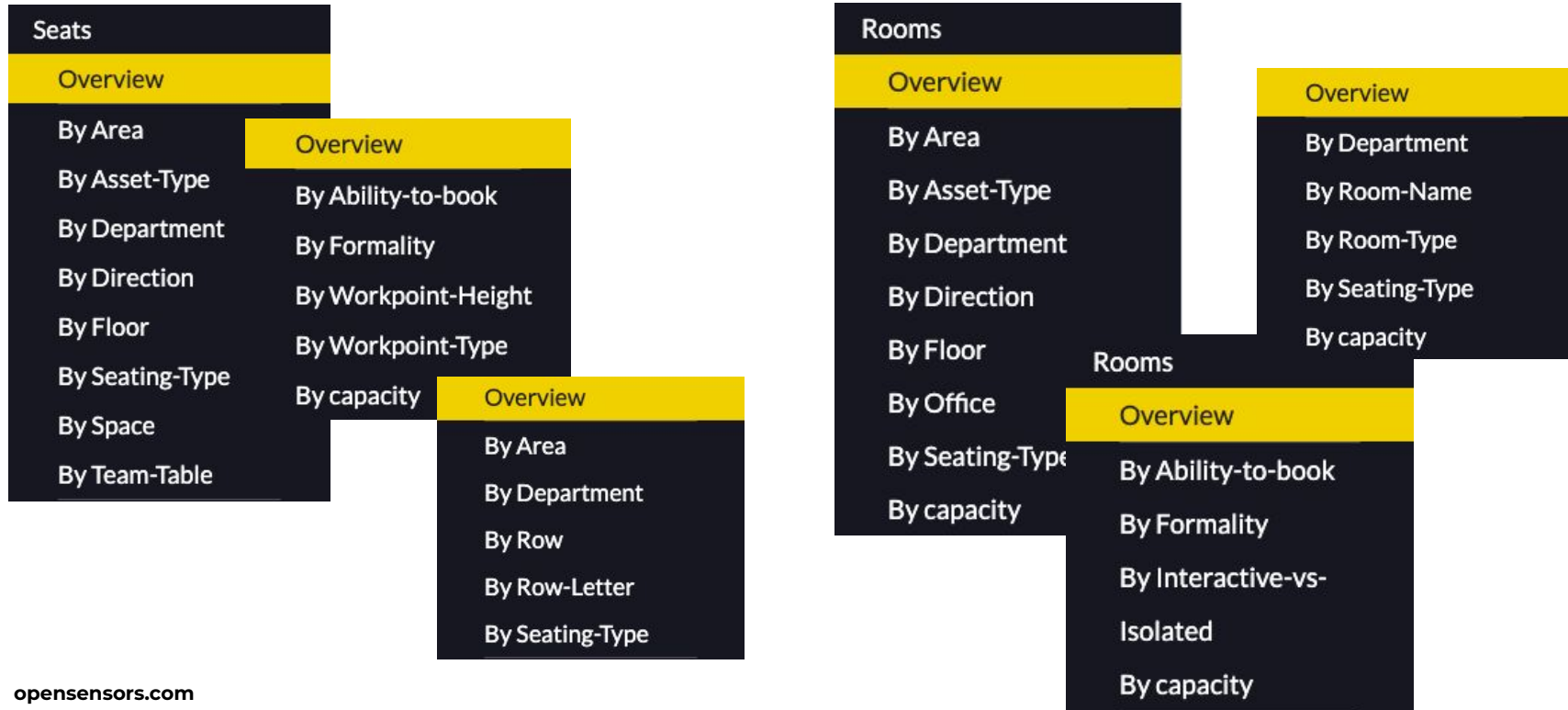
- Define goals and objectives of study ahead of deployment
- What level of granularity is necessary?
- What are the timeline considerations?

## Key considerations in sensor placement:

- What is the nature of the space - fixed space or flexible?
- Are there any unusual spatial considerations?
- How to maximise longevity of placement?



# The importance of sensor tagging



# Gauging utilisation on a macro level

## Monitoring floor-by-floor footfall



Place footfall sensors above the entrances and exits of floors to gain a high-level view of their occupancy throughout the week to see which spaces have potential for growth.



Footfall Counter

# Assessing current capacity levels

## High-level indicator metrics by desk & room utilisation

### Seats overview

📅 29/06/2022-27/09/2022, M-F, 9am-5pm ▼

#### Underused seats

● **278** / 979 total seats

Used < than 15%

#### Average utilisation

**30.0%**

+2.0%

#### Peak utilisation

**49.0%**

+2.0%

Wednesday, 6 Jul 22, 13:00

#### Peak occupied

**471** / 979 total seats

Occupied for any time within 1 hour

### Rooms overview

📅 29/06/2022-27/09/2022, M-F, 9am-5pm ▼

#### Underused rooms

● **3** / 107 total rooms

Used < than 15%

#### Avg time occupied per day

**4h 4m**

Work hours: 09:00 - 17:00

#### Busiest day

**5h 43m** / Wed, 29 Jun 2022

Day with highest occupancy of rooms

#### All rooms occupied per day

**0h 0m**

Time when all rooms are occupied

# Locating low-occupancy areas

## Underused desks floor-by-floor

### Seats by Floor

29/06/2022-27/09/2022, M-F, 9am-5pm

#### Avg seat utilisation by Floor

Floor	Peak utilisation	Avg utilisation	Underused seats	Total seats
1. 5th Floor - South	66.0% +0.0%	36.0% +2.0%	22	93
2. 5th Floor - North	47.0% -3.0%	27.0% +1.0%	105	263
3. 5th Floor Cafeteria	100.0% +0.0%	49.0% +5.0%	2	47
4. 4th Floor - South	49.0% +5.0%	22.0% +1.0%	78	150
4th Floor	48.0% +3.0%	28.0% +3.0%	198	508
5. 4th Floor - North	53.0% +2.0%	29.0% +5.0%	120	310
5th Floor	53.0% 0.0%	32.0% +2.0%	128	402
6. 4th Floor Cafeteria	100.0% +0.0%	47.0% +3.0%	0	48
7. Upper Ground Floor	93.0% -2.0%	40.0% -6.0%	7	43
8. Lower Ground Floor	76.0% +1.0%	43.0% +2.0%	5	25

Compare utilisation for each Floor

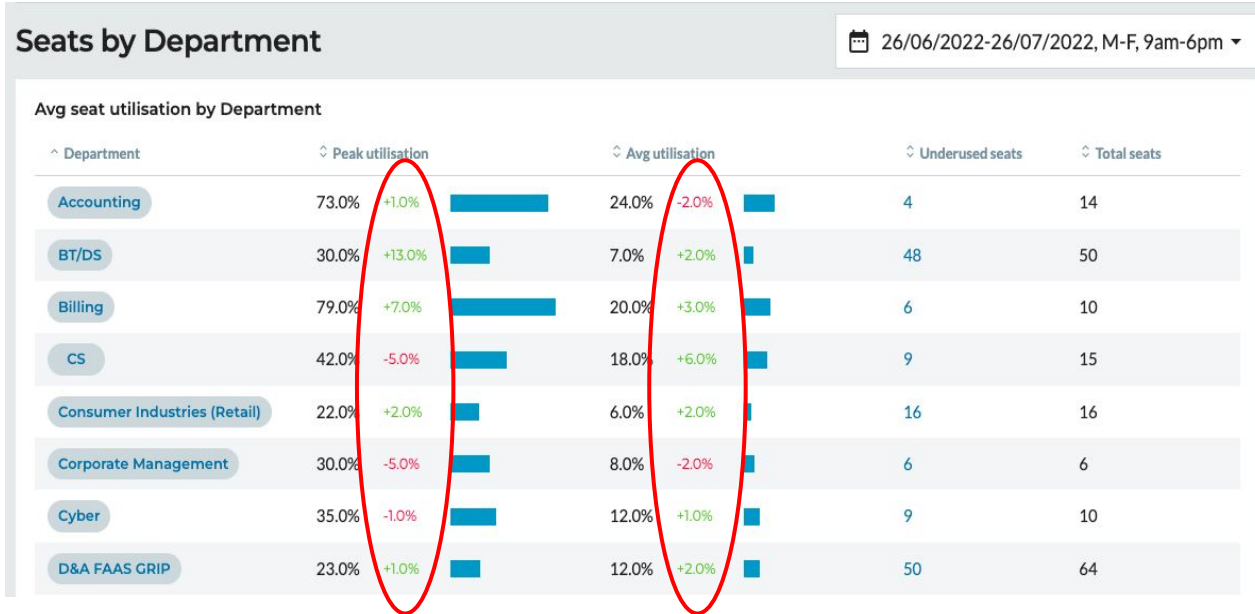
Tag individual desk-PIR sensors to reflect the floor they are on to show how many desks are currently underutilised throughout your building.



Desk PIR

# Understanding departmental space requirements

## Addressing trends in occupancy

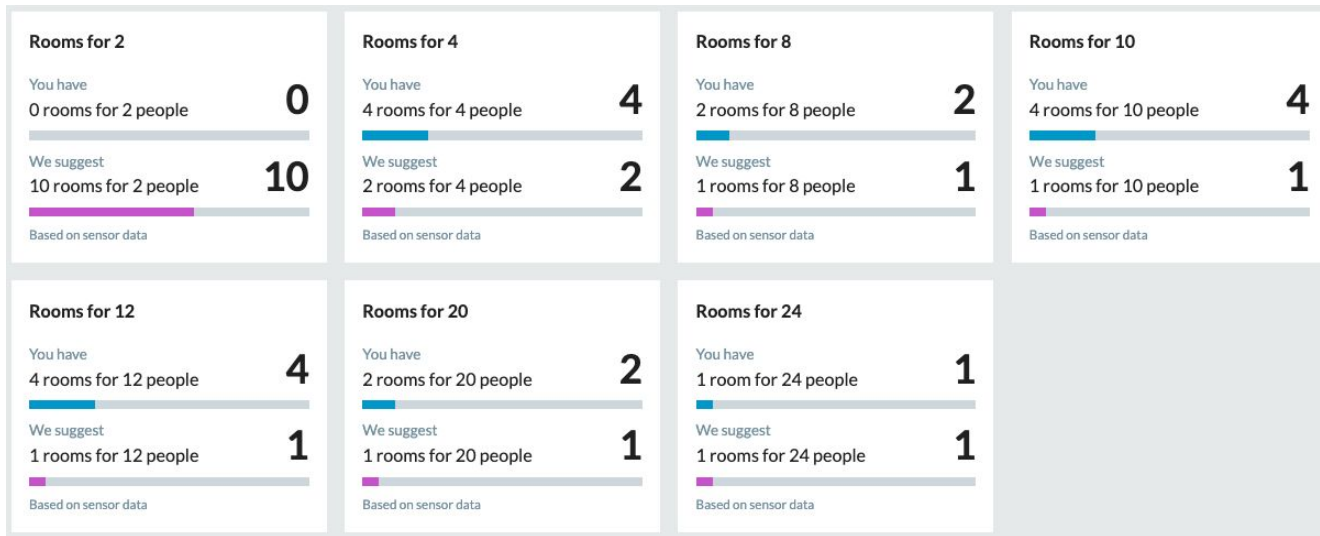


Identify which departments require more space and which are well provided for by tagging assets on a team-by-team basis.

Compare how usage has changed over time to forecast future requirements and gauge which will require more space.

# Improving Meeting Room Usage

## Rightsizing meeting rooms



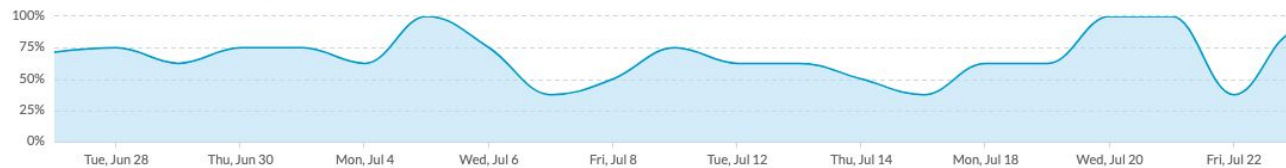
Assess the usage of your entire meeting room portfolio - taking into account their maximum capacity versus actual utilisation - to generate a behaviour-based recommendation.

# Providing the right meeting space

## The importance of data from counter sensors - example 6 person room.

### Avg room utilisation over time

**5h 27m** Avg time occupied per day   **8h 0m** Busiest day   **5h 13m** All rooms occupied per day   **1** Total rooms



Average utilisation over time for a selected time period

### Avg number of people

**3** Avg occupied   **6** Peak occupied



Average number of people over time

Occupancy data alone isn't sufficient to ascertain whether or not rooms are being used appropriately.

When space is limited it is vital to ensure spaces are being used to their full potential - this requires occupancy counts.



Room Counter

# Leverage mobility profiles to assist with space sharing

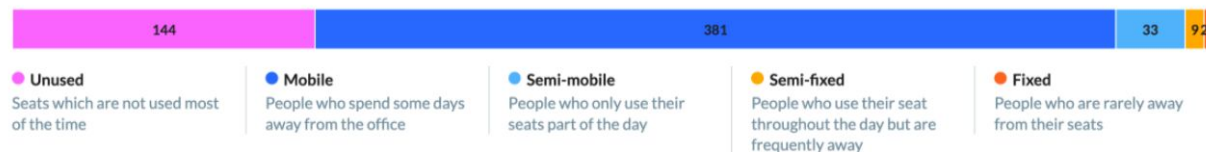
## Move away from 1-2-1 desk allocation

Shift away from average utilisation to deepdive into how individual asset types are used throughout the day and week to better provide the correct array of bookable versus fixed assets.

Workplace policy will need to be aligned with new ways of working to ensure individuals are not 'occupying' multiple assets at once - i.e. introduction of lockers and clear desk policies

### Overall seat behaviour

569 Total number of seats



### Seat behaviour by workspace



### Seat behaviour by bank





# Thank you

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