

# Case Study: Re-configuration: Lower Your Cubicle Walls



*When CMC called Office Furniture NOW! to discuss selling us their used cubicles and replacing them, we suggested a re-configuration and a modification of their existing Haworth panels to lower the cubicle height to 53."*

CMC Limited is an information technology services, consulting and software company. The US office is headquartered in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, with satellite offices in Georgia, Texas, Illinois, Michigan, New Jersey, California, and Virginia. It is a wholly owned subsidiary of CMC Limited, which is headquartered in India. Other global offices reside in New Zealand, United Arab Emirates, and the United Kingdom.



## **Project Overview: Re-configuration/Lower Cubicle Panels**

CMC's Austin office moved to their current location in 2011. The space was already furnished with 119 Haworth Premise Enhanced, 6' x 8' cubicles, left in the space by a previous tenant. CMC did not need to buy office furniture when it relocated, but after working in the space for about two years, both employees and managers felt the 66" walls were too high and not conducive to employee collaboration.

CMC decided to sell their cubicles and buy new cubicles with lower panels so their employees could work together more easily. Additionally, CMC wanted their office space to exude a more friendly and open plan environment. To replace the existing cubicles with lower profile comparable new cubicles would have cost CMC approximately \$200,000.

When CMC called Office Furniture NOW! to discuss selling us their used cubicles and replacing them, we suggested a re-configuration and a modification of their existing Haworth panels to lower the cubicle height to 53," thus achieving their goal with a relatively small expenditure. We removed the top "stackers" from the cubicles, eliminated the overhead storage bins and installed new top caps to create a finished look. The cubicle wall heights of the existing cubicles were lowered for approximately \$32,500 rather than the \$200,000 it would have cost the company to replace the cubicles. This was a cost savings of approximately \$167,500\*.

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## CMC Cubicles Office Before Re-configuration



- Existing 66" High Haworth Premise Panels made CMC's offices a dark, non-collaborative working environment.
- High cubicle panels and heavy overhead storage made each cubicle feel confined and small.

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### The Process

- Site visit by Office Furniture NOW!'s Space Planner and Lead Installer confirmed project feasibility.
- Space plans were created which revealed that some finish ends would have to be modified on site.
- It was determined that panel heights would have to remain high on corner locations where there was a power pole.
- An initial test was done on several cubicles to ensure feasibility and client satisfaction with the end result.

### Scheduling

- Office Furniture NOW! worked with CMC to establish a schedule of four successive Saturday work days so normal workflow was uninterrupted.
- By utilizing the same installers each Saturday, their efficiencies allowed the project to be completed with only three days work.

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## Electrical/Data Work

Typically, all data and electrical has to be removed during a re-configuration project like this. We worked closely with CMC, and mutually agreed to a damage waiver that allowed us to leave the electrical/data in place thereby further lessening the cost and downtime. Our team worked carefully and thoroughly to avoid damage to the data cabling (electrical really wasn't as much of an issue). CMC had an IT person on site while we were installing to instantly confront any issues with data connections.

## Cubicle Modifications

- Removed top caps and connector covers
- Removed and disposed of overhead storage
- Relocated data and electrical cables as required
- Dropped down and/or replaced trim and covers for 2-way, 3-way, 4-way and in-line connectors

## CMC Cubicles During & After Office Re-configuration



- Lower cubicle panels encourage employee collaboration and provide an airy, open airy plan office.
- Top tiles and overheads were removed which made moving electrical and data cables necessary within the cubicle walls.
- Cubicles next to power poles remained at the 66" height while everywhere else they were lowered to 53".
- The office re-configuration provided an open airy plan, encouraging employee collaboration