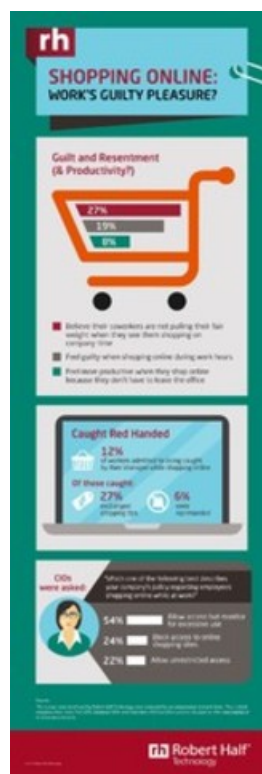


Shopping Online: Work's Guilty Pleasure?



More Companies Allowing Access to Online Shopping During Work Hours

TORONTO, Nov. 18, 2015 /CNW/ - With holiday deals starting earlier each year, the temptation to act on them – even while at the office – is great. And the ability to bag up bargains on company time is growing, a new Robert Half Technology survey shows: Nearly one-quarter (**22 per cent**) of chief information officers (CIOs) said their firms allow unrestricted access to shopping sites. Another **54 per cent** said their companies allow access but monitor activity for excessive use. Only **24 per cent** of CIOs said their firms block access to online shopping sites – down **33 per cent** from 2012.

Although online shopping seems par for the course in most workplaces, not all employees go about it with a clear conscience: **19 per cent** of professionals feel guilty about bargain hunting during work hours, and **27 per cent** believe their coworkers are not pulling their weight when they shop on company time. Managers may be slightly more lenient in their views. Among **12 per cent** of workers who admitted to being caught by the boss while shopping online, only **6 per cent** were reprimanded for their deal-seeking ways. That compares to **27 per cent** who ended up "talking shop" with their managers in a positive interaction. Only **15 per cent** of workers said they feel less productive because they tend to get distracted shopping online.

The survey of CIOs asked: "**Which one of the following best describes your company's policy regarding employees shopping online while at work?**" Their responses*:

	2012	2013	2014	2015
Allow unrestricted access	12%	12%	17%	22%
Allow access but monitor for excessive use	30%	55%	30%	54%
Block access to online shopping sites	57%	32%	51%	24%
Don't Know	2%	1%	3%	0%
	101%*	100%	101%*	100%

*Responses do not total 100 per cent due to rounding.

"Allowing employees access to online shopping is an easy way to gain their appreciation (especially during the holiday season), while demonstrating trust in their time-management abilities," said Deborah Bottineau, senior regional manager of Robert Half Technology. "That said, professionals should be careful to not abuse these digital freedoms by being wary of site security while browsing, and acting responsibly to minimize distractions during work hours."

About the Research

The surveys were developed by Robert Half Technology and conducted by independent research firms. They include responses from more than 270 Canadian CIOs and more than 450 Canadian workers 18 years or older and employed in office environments.

About Robert Half Technology

With more than 100 locations worldwide, Robert Half Technology is a leading provider of technology professionals for initiatives ranging from web development and multiplatform systems integration to network security and technical support. Robert Half Technology offers online job search services at roberthalftechnology.ca or visit our technology blog at blog.rht.com. Follow [@RobertHalf_CAN](https://twitter.com/RobertHalf_CAN) on Twitter for additional workplace advice and hiring trends.

SOURCE Robert Half Technology

Image with caption: "Shopping Online on Company Time (CNW Group/Robert Half Technology)". Image available at: http://photos.newswire.ca/images/download/20151118_C4953_PHOTO_EN_547549.jpg

For further information: Naz Araghian, 416.865.2140, naz.araghian@roberthalf.com

<https://press.roberthalf.ca/2015-11-18-Shopping-Online-Work-apos-s-Guilty-Pleasure>