# Tips for Optimizing WFM in 2025



**400**Survey Size

50% EMEA

50% North America

# Digital Channels Increased



51%

200-499 employees

21%

500-999 employees

10%

1,000-1,499 employees

3%

1,500-1,999 employees

5%

2,000-4,999 employees

4%

5,000-9,999 employees

7%

More than 10,000

56% in 2023

by 60% in 2024

Managing the Modern Contact Center: Current Employer Trends | NiCE

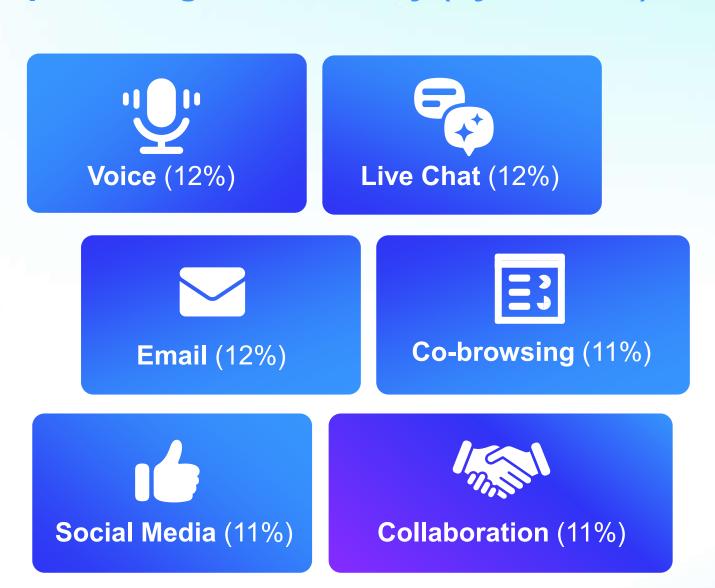
Scan for white paper



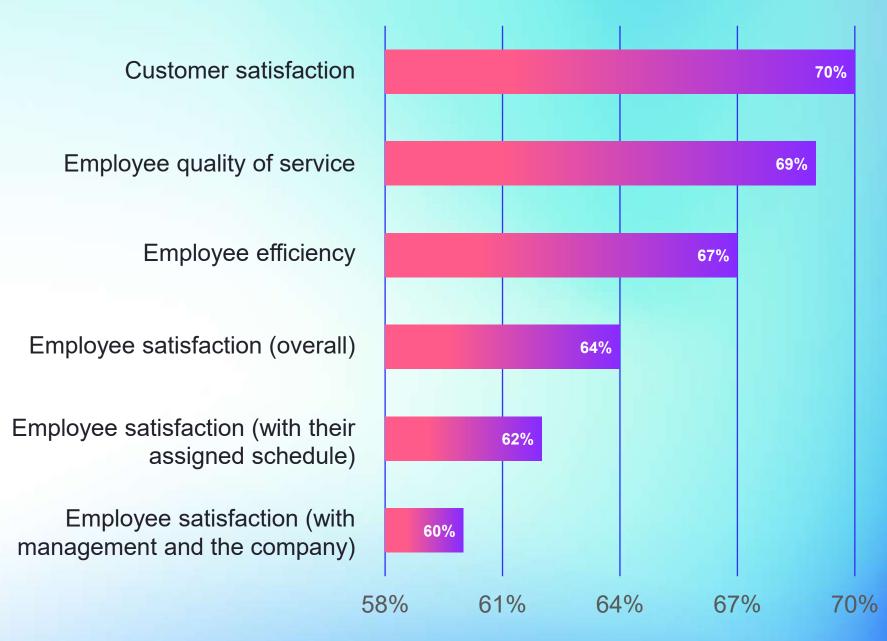
# Challenges Organizations Have Experienced in the Multichannel Environment



Accuracy of staffing forecasts / mean percentage of accuracy (by channel)



## Areas that have improved as a result of adopting new support channels



# Tip 1: Consider the challenges with Long Asynchronous Interactions



#### **Initial Email\***







Customer

sends email to

Employee

#### **Second Email\***







Employee

sends email for clarifying question

Customer



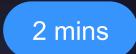




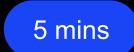


Customer

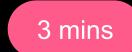
sends answer **Employee** 



For Employee to read initial email



For Employee to type & send back questions to customer



For Employee to read customer response and resolve

60 mins delay in response

**Customer sends answers 1h later** 

Business problem: was this...



One contact that lasted 10 minutes?



One contact that lasted 70 minutes?



Three separate contacts?

#### which interval should the information be reported?



When the contact started



When the contact ended



In each interval work was performed

# True to Interval (TTI) Synchronous & Asynchronous Work Item Deconstruction



#### **Today's Paradigm**

#### "When Contact Ended" (WCE) paradigm

- A contact is counted once in the interval in which it ends...even if the contact spanned intervals
- Handle Time is reported only in the interval in which contact ends

#### **Example. Contact Arrives at 9:10am & Completes at 9:40am**

Interval	Received	Handled (completed)	Handle Time (WCE)	Staff Req
9:00 am	1	0	0	0 (X)
9:15 am	0	0	0	0 (X)
9:30 am	0	1	30	2 (X)

#### Use when...

- most contacts arrive and complete in the same interval (synchronous)
- intervals are longer than the handle times

#### Creates staffing problems when...

- handle times are long or intermittent and contacts span intervals
- intervals are shorter than the handle times

#### **Invented Paradigm**

#### "Answered & Active True to Interval" (A&A TTI) paradigm

- A contact is counted once in the interval in which it is initially answered If the contact spans intervals, it is counted again in each subsequent interval where activity occurred
- Handle Time is reported in each interval in which work activity occurs

#### **Example. Contact Arrives at 9:10am & Completes at 9:40am**

Interval	Received	Answered	Active	Handle Time <b>(TTI)</b>	Staff Req	
9:00 am	1	1	0	5	.33	$\bigcirc$
9:15 am	0	0	1	15	1	$\bigcirc$
9:30 am	0	0	1	10	.67	$\bigcirc$

#### Use when...

- contacts arrive and are completed in any interval (synchronous or asynchronous)
- Intervals are *shorter or longer* than the handle times

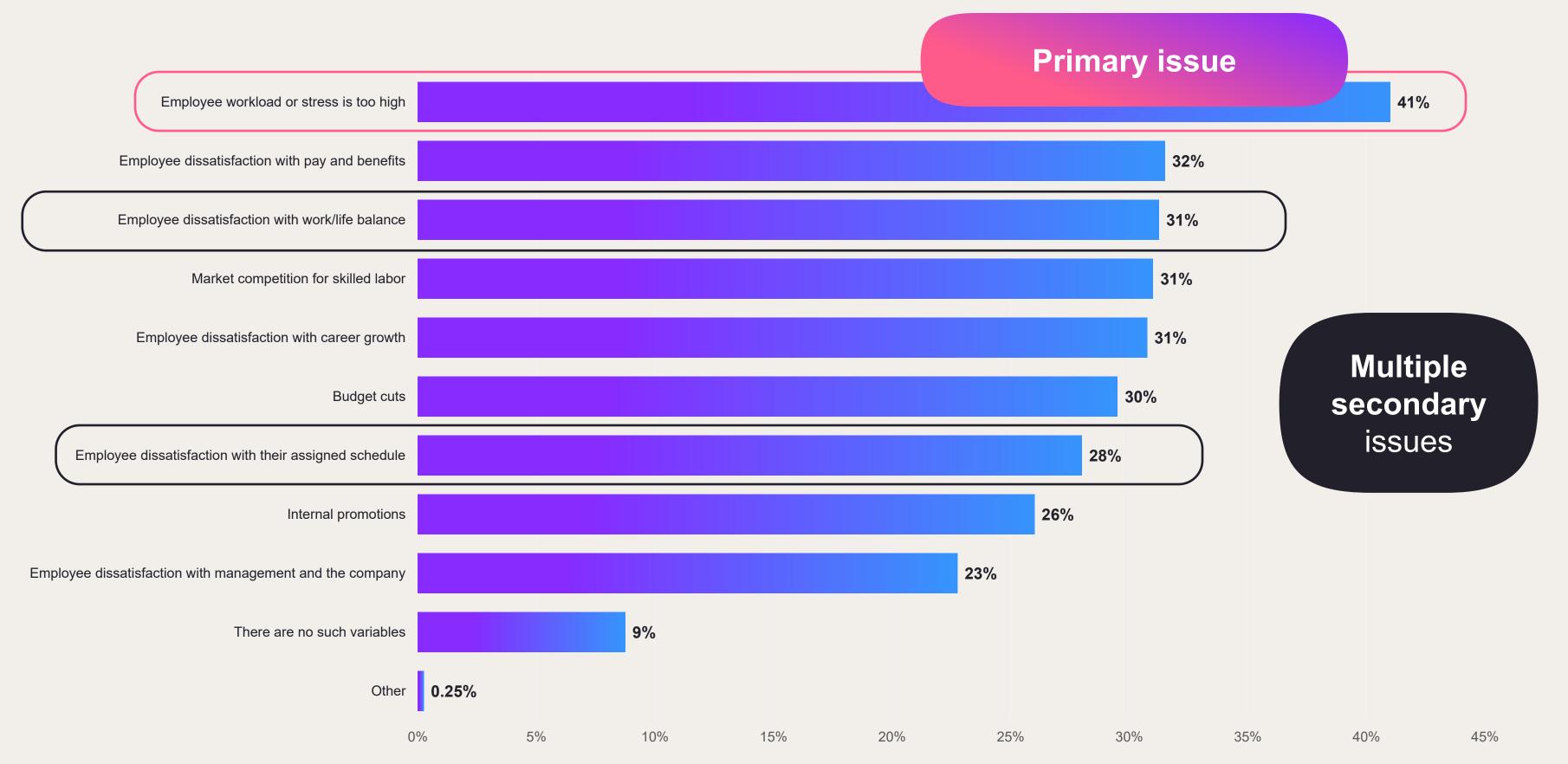
#### Solves staffing problems when...

- handle times are long or intermittent and contacts span intervals
- intervals are shorter than the handle times



## What Variables Impact Attrition









## Tip 2: Consider Cognitive Load

Employee proficiency levels

Multitasking capabilities

Cognitive Load Optimizer:



Ability to switch between tasks

Topic and content of contact

Happier Healthier Agents

Better Customer Service

Employees suffer boredom, lack of engagement, apathy

**Low Stress** 

Employees are focused, energized, deliver best results

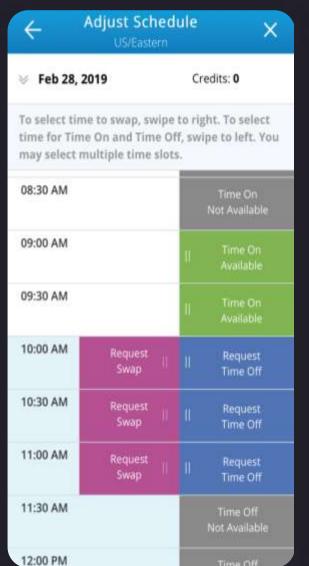
**Moderate Stress** 

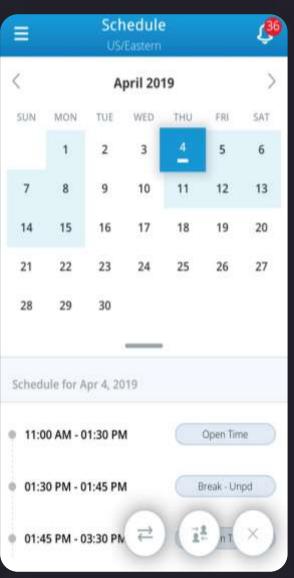
Employees suffer exhaustion, anxiety, panic, burnout

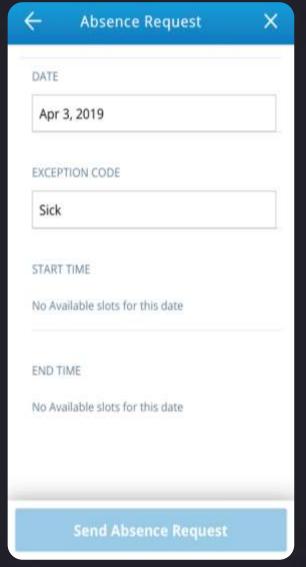
**High Stress** 

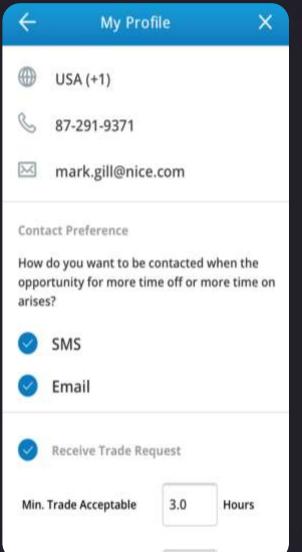


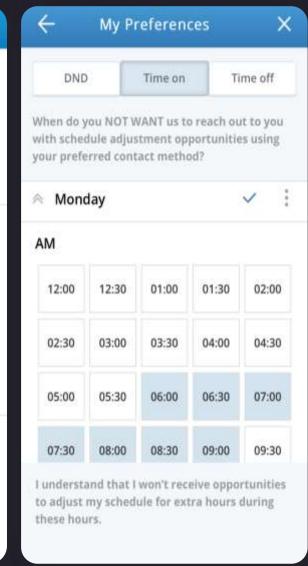
## Tip 3: Make Employees WFM Partners

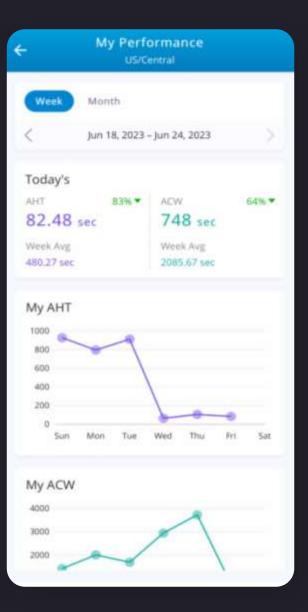












Employees Visibility into Staffing needs

Secure Mobile
Access to
Schedule View\*

Request Absence easily and update WFM Automatically

Employees
Controlled
Contact Preferences

Employees Controlled
Time On / Time Off /
DND
Preferences

Performance Mobile View



### Warėhouse

#### **ABOUT**

Utility Warehouse (UW) is the UK's leading multiservice utility provider. UW offers customers a range of products and services through one account. Customers can choose energy, mobile, broadband, insurance and a cashback card and can get discounts when they take multiple services. UW acquires its customers through a network of Partners across the country. These Partners recommend UW's services to friends, family and people they know.

#### **NICE SOLUTIONS**

Workforce Management (IEX)



7%

Fewer absences year-over-year



automated interactions with lunch/ break schedule adjustments



#### **CHALLENGE**

Before implementing NiCE Workforce Management, Utility Warehouse relied on manual workforce management processes which did not suit its multi-skilled environment and created extra costs and administration for the business.

Years of double-digit growth placed a strain on the incumbent WFM solution, which lacked automated holiday scheduling and rules-based scheduling swaps. This led to errors and omissions and an inefficient system of admins creating multiple spreadsheets for re-entry into payroll and HR systems.

#### **SOLUTION**

Implementing NiCE Workforce Management gave UW a natively integrated WFM solution that eliminated costly overheads, improved real-time bidirectional data sync, and accommodated agent requests that were previously difficult or impossible to grant. Agents can now conduct their own schedule swaps, set day off preferences, move their breaks and lunches, and benefit from an automated holiday process. UW has realized savings and gains in several areas, including a £100,000 annual reduction in administrative costs, an 11% gain in forecast accuracy, an 11% reduction in attrition, and a 7% reduction in absenteeism.



#### **GREAT** STATS

**11%** improvement in forecast accuracy

11% reduction in agent attrition



"As a rapidly growing business, it's vital that we provide our people with the tools to help them work more efficiently and enjoyably.

NiCE Workforce Management has enabled us to give our people more flexibility and autonomy over their schedules, whilst improving our productivity and forecasting accuracy. It has been crucial to helping us look after our growing customer base."

**ROB HARRIS CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER UTILITY WAREHOUSE** 

# Thank You Create a NiCE world ...