

4.1.1 Component definition: panels



Panels can support furniture components or be used for data/electrical distribution and space division.



Stack-on panels can be fabric, glass or other finish



Mobile and Desk attached screens complement more traditional panels



Clip on acrylic screens can diminish visual distraction

Panel/Screen: Panels are used for space division and electrical/data distribution. With the widespread use and increased capacity of wireless data, accompanied by voice-over internet protocol (VOIP), electrical distribution is the final “tether” to the panel. Traditionally, panels have also provided support for work surfaces and storage through 1” slots located within their vertical frames. Panel supported components, while “leg-free,” are usually moved by experienced personnel and therefore limit flexibility by the inhabitant

Most panel solutions offer a wide variety of electrical components, supporting a number of different circuit configurations. Power is fed from the wall, floor or ceiling with a “base feed” and possibly a power pole. It is then distributed through the use of “boxes” and “harnesses” which are basically flexible conduit with snap-on connections.

The best panel systems allow electrical outlets and junction boxes to be located throughout the panel and distribute “harnesses” easily between panels. Simpler, less expensive panels limit electrical distribution to specific zones or locations.

Panel height is extremely important in maintaining views and access to daylight. We recommend a typical panel height of 51-54” which maintains seated privacy, limiting distractions while seated, and maximizing light and the ability to find co-workers. Robust panel solutions will allow “stacking” which will increase flexibility by allowing the panel to grow or shrink vertically. Other recommended panel heights are 42” to qualify for LEED credits and encourage openness and 30” to align with the work surface height.

No panels should be used when furniture is being located against walls or in front of windows. Panel skins are made up of a variety of materials including glass, wood, whiteboard, metal or fabric. They can be monolithic or segmented. The most flexible solutions allow skins or tiles to be changed without affecting adjacent surfaces (non-sequential)