



White paper

## **The drive is killing me**

Working from home can make you happier

[www.stdtime.com](http://www.stdtime.com)  
Scoutwest, Inc.

## The drive is killing me

I've worked from my home office for a long time, and I don't miss the commute one bit. I can vividly recall times when daily commutes got the best of me. This brief chapter describes my telecommuting home office experience. I probably haven't covered all the bases, but these are the areas I've found to be beneficial to me as a telecommuter. I can assure you that telecommuting is perfectly compatible with a product development or consulting career.

During the earlier years of my career, my wife home schooled the kids. This meant that the entire family was home virtually all the time. There was plenty of commotion, noise, emergencies, and interruptions, yet my productivity was 25% higher than those same hours spent at work. Why? Because I was home. The relaxed atmosphere makes a huge difference in your mental attitude. Spending time with my family was important, and so was building my career. It was impossible to do both until I began working from home. Now the two mix so seamlessly that I can't imagine not doing it.

I often work from 6 A.M. to 6 P.M., with an occasional hour or two at night. Without a daily commute, I can easily sustain longer hours. Driving is harder work for me than developing products, and my employers never pay me to do it. It's probably related to the stress of paying constant attention to heavy traffic. My meetings are more planned, and work time is more focused. When I go into a meeting, I go prepared to learn everything I'll need to complete my work later. I ask more questions, and demand exacting details. This prepares me for focused work time later.

I enjoy the ability to shovel the snow from the driveway, fix a leaky faucet, or take a nap right in the middle of a workday! Those things help me focus and think more clearly. Work is about being productive, not about being under the ever-watchful eye of a nervous manager.

## About Us

Scoutwest, Inc. develops and publishes project management and time tracking products for consulting, manufacturing, government, and general business applications.

Thousands of small to large businesses, in dozens of countries worldwide, trust their mission critical business processes to Scoutwest products. Standard Time® and Standard Issue® work together to offer well-rounded project management solutions.

We specialize in packaged software for timesheets, project management, time tracking, defect tracking, and issue tracking. Standard Time is a web-based timesheet that also runs on Windows, Palm OS, and Pocket PC. It can be used for client billing and task management. Standard Issue is used for bug tracking and general issue tracking.

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