

CONSOLES VS. OFFICE FURNITURE



There are many compelling arguments of consoles over office furniture in a critical space application like a control room. Control room environments are a special area within an organization where critical operations take place. Often, life and death decisions are being made by operators and their focus and attention cannot be disrupted. Their functions are so important that ISO has developed specific standard around control room design. The ISO-11064 standard for control room design highlights in great detail the important factors of control room console furniture and the configuration of the room. Winsted has designed our console furniture in compliance with this standard. Listed below are the top reasons to consider purpose-build consoles over office furniture.

1

Winsted consoles are designed for handling high equipment loads, (multiple monitors, multiple processors), while remaining ergonomically correct. Each operator may be required to monitor 4-6 or more screens at one time. Winsted consoles can manage multiple monitor configurations in many different ways. Office furniture is optimized for one or two monitors. With the addition of more screens, the ergonomic correctness of office furniture falls off. In critical space environments, these operating positions CAN'T afford to miss any information. The chance of that happening increases with the use of traditional office furniture.

2

The other aspect of equipment load is the management of processors and other peripheral devices. With purpose-built Winsted consoles, processors are safely kept behind closed, lockable doors in the base of the console. There is no chance that the control room will experience a failure due to equipment being bumped or wires being pulled out of equipment. Traditional office furniture might offer a processor holder, but it doesn't offer equipment protection and certainly cannot handle multiple processors without sacrificing ergonomic knee space.

3

In a proper console design, like the Winsted Sight-Line console, the furniture offers multiple levels of wire management. It allows you to separate high and low voltage wires, (power and data), and also provides wire management capabilities right up to the user interfaces. Office furniture is not designed with heavy wire management capabilities. With minimal equipment in an office environment, they can't handle load. In a control room, especially in an incident situation, clear and effective wiring can minimize down time in the event that equipment needs to be swapped out or added.

4

Control room environments run 24 hours a day 7 days a week and put incredible stress on the equipment in them. Winsted consoles are built to withstand the rigors of this type of use. A good console design uses a steel substructure and high performance materials that do not wear as quickly as traditional furniture. Office furniture is designed for an 8 hour a day, 5 days a week use and will wear out 3x faster than a purpose built console. The furniture in a control room cannot break down without creating serious interruption to the operator. When it happens, serious consequences can take place.

5

Winsted console furniture is warranted for 24/7 use and traditional office furniture is not. Even if you find a supplier that will warranty their product for that type of use, they won't have the infrastructure to handle repairs and replacements in a timely fashion the way a console manufacture does. This can leave the room less than fully operational for too long.

6

Winsted control room consoles are built with both front and rear access to processors and rack mounted equipment. This allows IT departments and other service providers' access for equipment repairs, replacements or updates without disrupting the operations of the room. Traditional office furniture has no provision for this type activity and thus they must disrupt operations.

7

Another important factor in control room environment is the ability to reconfigure the furniture to accommodate future changes. Traditional wood, glue and screws furniture has no future flexibility in the design. Metal substructure based Winsted console furniture allows you to reconfigure existing furniture to meet future needs without having to start from scratch. Although you can't predict all future needs, you can choose a product that allows you to be as flexible as possible.