Home sweet sucking life force

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Some of the country's most progressive businesses are debating the simple question I ask myself everyday: Does working at home make you more productive? The answers trend in opposite directions. On the one hand is the beehive model: set up your company like a beehive where all the workers' personal, social and emotional needs are met so they spend lots of time at work not only working, but also having innovation-inspiring encounters with colleagues. On the other hand is the flex-time model: let your employees work from home, give them autonomy over their time, and they will be more productive, happier and loyal. Personally, I'd love to work in a beehive workplace, like Google or Zappos, with their napping rooms, massages, on-site childcare, swimming pools, organic gardens, parties and pets. I've worked from home for the past 2 years and nothing about being at home inspires me to get down to business contributing to the GNP. The simple act of blinking my brain to focus on lesson planning, syllabus drafting, research, writing and whatnot, while not reacting to the stimuli of home, is really, really hard. I'm not talking about having kids, I'm talking about having a life.