"more than one in four office workers complains about lack of privacy on the job."
Beyond Four Walls and a Door, 2001

The control of open-plan acoustics is a matter of control over three acoustical problems: sound level, speech intelligibility, and sound paths.

Sound Level
It's not necessarily loudness that is a problem; it's distraction from other people.

Speech Intelligibility
A conversation can be heard from 32 ft (9.7m) away. There needs to be control over all the spreading sound waves.

Sound Paths
Sound waves spread out everywhere.

"Controlling the speech privacy of an open-office plan space require a systems approach that takes into account all acoustical components of the space. Those components include room dimensions; placement of windows and doors; workstation size and configuration; ceiling height and absorbency; wall and floor absorbency; sound-masking system; and panel height, absorbency, and sound blocking."


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