



Ways

To build your
network to solve
real problems.



1 Create a personal support system.



Example

Maya, a leader juggling work with caring for aging parents, created a monthly lunch group for peers in the same boat.

The group shares insurance navigation tips, remote monitoring tech solutions, and more. When Maya needed to make quick decisions during her mother's sudden hospitalization, she had access to vetted resources, saving her precious time and reducing stress during a critical period.



2 Seek diverse perspectives.



Example

A risk analyst created a monthly virtual coffee with peers from three similar companies.

When faced with implementing a new regulatory requirement, she had three approaches to consider instead of starting from scratch.



3 Join a functional community.



Example

A lone data scientist at a small lender joined an industry-specific data community.

When she needed to build a fraud detection model, she had immediate access to best practices rather than learning through trial and error.



4 Develop relationships before you need them.



Example

A compliance leader regularly connected with IT and operations colleagues outside of projects. When her team needed an urgent system change to meet a regulatory deadline, these contacts prioritized her request and implemented it within hours—not the standard two-week timeline.

Her existing relationships turned a potential compliance violation into a successful save.



5 Build a cross-functional brain trust.



Example

An underwriter intentionally built relationships with colleagues in collections and customer service.

Their frontline insights about customer hardship scenarios helped him refine underwriting models to better predict successful customers.



6 Leverage collective troubleshooting.



Example

When Diana encountered an unusual credit bureau data issue, rather than spending days analyzing it alone, she reached out to her network.

Someone had seen the pattern before and immediately identified the source, saving her team days of investigation.



7 Start a collaborative analysis group.



Example

Elena, outside counsel for several financial institutions, started a monthly virtual roundtable with other attorneys after the NYDFS released complex new cybersecurity regulations.

The group worked together to interpret the requirements and shared implementation approaches. This collaboration saved each attorney days of individual analysis and gave their clients more consistent, confident guidance.



8 Maintain external professional connections.



Example

Despite being an introvert, Aisha attended one industry conference annually and maintained those relationships virtually.

When her company needed to replace a vendor quickly, she had immediate recommendations and introductions from trusted sources.



Finally, an event
designed to make
networking painless,
even for introverts!



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