EXECUTIVE BRIEF

Why Secure Mobile Access Is Critical To Hybrid Work

Abstract

The office of tomorrow is a new breed, the hybrid office, and it will stay with us for some time to come. The office today is no longer a defined physical place where everyone commutes, sits in a cube farm, and is ranked on their presenteeism. We are witnessing the hybrid revolution where people can work either at home or in a flexible local workspace, with occasional visits to the head office – if at all, and where they are ranked on productivity and output. These are key items to think about when logistically planning your Corporate Real Estate (CRE) footprint while maximizing employee productivity. Ensuring your partners, contractors, employees, and part-timers all have reliable, consistent, secure access to your corporate resources is paramount in this hybrid environment.

Introduction

With the massive increase in remote working, we see companies benefiting in several ways. A significant savings in real estate costs as they reconfigure and downsize this expense, especially for organizations located in high-profile cities like London, New York, San Francisco, and Hong Kong. Hybrid working is also bearing fruit with substantial productivity gains and an increased ability to attract the best talent no matter where they are located. For all of this to work, it's critical to implement a secure remote access solution that can provide anytime, anywhere access from any device.

According to IWG, some of the top trends defining the work landscape for 2022 and beyond include:

- More than 70% of candidates today are now insisting that companies have a flexible work policy.
- Hyper flexibility – if companies don't allow it, people will seek employment elsewhere. *According to the US Labor Department, a record high of 4.4 million people left their jobs in September 2021, reflecting global upheaval in the recruitment market.*
- Workforce dispersion – gone are the days where recruitment is harvested from a local pool of candidates. The ability to work from anywhere means recruiting from a global pool of candidates will become the norm.
- Virtual collaboration – videoconferencing will continue to advance with VR technology and the widespread roll-out of 5G. *Mobile network industry organization GSMA says that 5G will be available to one-third of the world's population by 2025.*
- Reduced overhead – as the new hybrid work model takes hold, companies are realizing financial gains when it comes to corporate real estate (CRE) footprints. *According to Global Workplace Analytics, a typical employer can save about $11K every year for every person who works remotely for half of the week.*

As a result, companies have increasingly relied upon mobile access to resources from both managed and BYOD devices outside of their traditional network perimeters.

Effective cybersecurity must include secure mobile access

Supplying mobile access in today's anywhere/anytime, hybrid world opens an explosion of exposure points over a myriad of potentially insecure mobile endpoint devices.

For obvious reasons, BYOD devices are inherently insecure and represent a direct threat when allowed to access sensitive corporate resources.

Moreover, the array of threat types is expanding, deepening, and getting smarter, including targeted ransomware, never-before-seen threats, memory-based malware, side-channel attacks, and encrypted threats.

Adopting a zero-trust solution where no entity – device or user, is trusted and must first comply and authenticate before access is granted, whether those resources be on-premises or in the cloud. Secure mobile access is a core part of a zero-trust approach to anywhere, anytime access.

SonicWall Secure Mobile Access (SMA) is a modern VPN with features like advanced end point control for device compliance – ensuring only healthy, trusted devices are granted access, an always-on VPN that keeps a strong security posture, as well as a clientless web portal for secure access when using BYOD or public device with easy licensing plans and flexible deployment options, SMA is streamlined for efficiency.

Conclusion

Whether for ensuring business continuity or enhancing workforce retention and productivity, secure mobile access is critical to the hybrid working environment. SonicWall Secure Mobile Access (SMA) enables anywhere, anytime access from any device across hybrid enterprises. This gives your business the ability to stay operational regardless of what tomorrow's office looks like.

Learn more at www.sonicwall.com/products/remote-access.

About SonicWall

SonicWall delivers Boundless Cybersecurity for the hyper-distributed era and a work reality where everyone is remote, mobile and unsecure. By knowing the unknown, providing real-time visibility and enabling breakthrough economics, SonicWall closes the cybersecurity business gap for enterprises, governments and SMBs worldwide. For more information, visit www.sonicwall.com.

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