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EXECUTIVE BRIEF

TRUST BUT VERIFY: SECURING YOUR REMOTE ACCESS

Mobile access ensures your business keeps productive in a disruptive, dynamic world

Abstract

Globally, the mobile workforce is here to stay—and on the rise. The benefits in agility, continuity and productivity make secure mobile access strategically imperative for today's business. However, to effectively support this workforce, IT is faced with several challenges, including an explosion of endpoints, smarter threats, and the need to access both internal and SaaS resources, all while operating on a lean budget.

Introduction

Each day's headlines can bring disruptive challenges that require dynamic technology solutions. Public health emergencies; natural events such as earthquakes, tsunamis, hurricanes and blizzards; and political crises can all restrict mission-critical staff from travel or accessing resources at a physical site. To ensure revenue continuity, companies must have the agility to conduct business from anywhere, at any time.

Many companies also seek to benefit from increasing staff productivity and retention, as well as minimizing operational overhead costs of maintaining physical office facilities, by empowering personnel to work remotely.

According to the Owl Labs "State of Remote Work 2021" survey over 2,050 full-time workers in the U.S.:

- 84% of respondents said working remotely after the pandemic would make them happier
- 90% of those surveyed indicated they are at the same productivity level—or higher—working from home
- Nearly 70% of respondents are still working remotely
- Of those surveyed, 1 in 4 would quit their job if they could no longer work remotely
- 70% want a hybrid or remote working environment going forward
- Since the start of the pandemic, 22% of companies have reduced office space, while 21% have increased their office footprint
- 74% identified mental health as a major benefit of working from home
- For those who have returned to the office, 57% say that they prefer working from home full-time
- Only 29% of respondents want to go back to the office full-time

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

Effective cybersecurity must include secure mobile access

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

Human fallibility and risky online behavior mandate that employees cannot be trusted to ensure the security of their own mobile devices.

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

Ultimately, the security of your mobile network must match that of your wired network. This requires a zero-trust posture regarding any mobile device attempting to connect with corporate resources, whether those resources be on-prem or in the cloud. Secure mobile access is a core component of a zero-trust approach to anywhere, anytime access.

IT must also secure access from these mobile endpoints with limited budgets and skilled staff resources. This means streamlining deployment, availability and support to lower total cost of ownership. To be effective, cybersecurity must provide mobile employees with easy and secure 24/7 access to key business resources in an agile, easy-to-use, cost-effective and scalable way.

Conclusion

Whether for ensuring business continuity or enhancing workforce retention and productivity, secure mobile access is a strategic business imperative. The SonicWall Secure Mobile Access (SMA) 1000 series enables anywhere, anytime access across hyper-distributed enterprises. This gives your business the agility to stay operational regardless of what tomorrow's headlines may bring.

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

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