Working from Home Is Here to Stay
How to manage remote workers while keeping your small business secure

Remote Work Is the New Normal

The future of work includes more people working from home. That's good news because workplace flexibility can improve employee productivity and reduce costs for your small business. It's easier to hire top talent because you're no longer limited by geography. And, an increasing number of employees are demanding flexible work options.

Small businesses have taken note. In fact, they're twice as likely to hire full-time remote employees as larger businesses.[3] They are setting up and supporting an unprecedented number of offsite workers and their devices. And this task is not without its challenges.

Security needs to be a priority when you have a remote workforce. According to Verizon, 43 percent of cyberattacks are aimed at small businesses.[4] Hackers specifically target small businesses because they know smaller organizations sometimes skimp on security. At some organizations, what passes for security is a cobbled-together array of solutions that don't offer complete protection.

If you're supporting remote staff, instead of simply securing one building or office, now you have multiple sites of potential attack. The tools your remote employees use to communicate and share files need to be secure, but they also need to be reliable and simple to use so employees working from home don't end up feeling isolated or out of touch.

80% of workers say they would turn down a job that didn't offer flexible working[1]

66% of people want to work from home

36% would choose flexible work options over a pay raise[2]

43% of cyberattacks are aimed at small businesses

1. Global Workspace Survey, IWG, 2019
2. Advantages of Agile Work Strategies for Companies, Global Workplace Analytics
3. Global State of Remote Work 2017, Owl Labs, 2017
4. 2019 Data Breach Investigations Report, Verizon, 2019

Smart Strategies for Small Businesses

Working outside a traditional office used to be considered difficult or impossible, but today the technology to collaborate from multiple locations is mature and it works. The key is to find solutions that work together well so your employees can focus on doing their jobs, instead of fighting with clunky software with numerous hoops to jump through to get basic tasks done.

Video conferencing helps people feel connected. But many solutions aren't designed with security in mind, especially the consumer-oriented products you may use to chat with friends and family. There may be an element of fun, but do you really want to risk your business and share your customers' and employees' sensitive information on a vulnerable platform? That's why Cisco Webex® collaboration tools are secure, with protected file-sharing and built-in security for mobile meetings.

Webex provides strong encryption, compliance visibility, and control. Whether people are communicating within the business or collaborating with suppliers and vendors, data remains secure, both while in use and in transit. And after meetings, team members can collaborate using the Webex Teams™ virtual workspace. Messaging and whiteboard functionality can capture all the interactions and information about a project.

Solutions that scale are important as more employees work remotely and your IT needs increase and change. Cloud-based products are especially useful because they simplify installation and management without the need for a large IT staff. You can securely connect remote workers and devices with Cisco Meraki® and Meraki Go™ to create a fast, safe, and reliable network that you can manage using a cloud-based app. Small businesses also can take advantage of Cisco® security technology so they can work from any device, at any time, from any location.

Cisco Duo helps protect sensitive data by verifying the identity of users, devices, and applications with secure two-factor authentication.

Cisco AnyConnect® Secure Mobility Client secures endpoint access to the network so employees can work from any device, at any time, in any location.

Cisco Umbrella™ provides the first line of defense against threats to protect users everywhere with flexible, fast, and effective cloud-delivered security.

Cisco AMP for Endpoints detects and blocks malware and viruses across employee devices.

Let's Get Started

Cisco has decades of experience supporting remote workers, including our own. We can help small businesses just like yours. Our products work together and are designed for the cloud with simplicity in mind. Set up your network in minutes. Give everyone, everywhere, the ability to easily collaborate using the same secure tools. Now your employees have everything they need to stay productive and work securely—no matter where they're located and no matter what device they are on. Work happens. We can help make it easier...and safer.

Let us help you get started today delivering the best experience for your workers so you can focus on what matters most—growing your business. **Get started today.**