The Limits at the Edge: Six Remote Network Challenges

The events of early 2020 have seen organizations scrambling to quickly enable their workforces to be productive outside the corporate office. In these highly distributed environments, the boundaries of the network extend well beyond the walls of employee homes. While rapid responses were necessary in the moment, and a good first step, these measures meant major shortfalls in user experience and support. A significant rethink is in order.

Read on for six network challenges experienced by remote workers and IT.

**U.S. BUSINESS VPN USAGE SKYROCKETED**

Since March 11, global VPN usage has increased more than 30-40%. Millions of employees around the world are spending an extra 3 hours a day working from home. In the U.S. alone, global VPN usage is up by 38%.

**FIERCE COMPETITION FOR BANDWIDTH**

 Kelley, CTO at a global health care company. “Since March, our business productivity and the number of users in our home office have increased by 38%. This has stretched our bandwidth capacity to its limit, putting a strain on our network.”

**HELP DESK OVERLOAD**

Some legacy apps were designed for clients in proximity to a server on the LAN. These apps may not perform well when remote.

**OFF-NETWORK DEVICES AWASH WITH TRADITIONAL TOOLS**

Employees are exchanging and sharing data from a variety of unmanaged devices. This increased network traffic pushes the corporate firewall and web filtering, IT has much less visibility into device behavior.

**DATA EXCHANGE VIA UNSUPPORTED DEVICES INCREASES EXPOSURE AND RISK**

Assistant jets off to another country on a business trip. ‘I need to check my documents... plus, I have to log in over and over.’

**REIDENTIAL NETWORK TRAFFIC BLOOMS**

**TOP 6 REMOTE NETWORK CHALLENGES**

**PING TIME OUT**

**“My apps don’t perform like they should. I’m not getting anything done!”**

Many workers and organizations are finding that their on-premises apps are unable to keep up with remote work. Without priority handling, business apps must compete with all the other traffic on the network.

**“We’ve got too many passwords to remember...plus, I have to log in over and over.”**

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**Average Working Hours, U.S.**

March 11

HOURS

8

March to May 2020.

Increase in upstream traffic growth and internet network in the U.S., saw a 32% increase in upstream residential Comcast. Increase in VPN traffic 30-40%.

PAIN POINT 1

“Outdated devices accessing your corporate network increase the attack surface—and your risk of a breach.”

**SOURCE:** Security Boulevard.

PAIN POINT 2

“Before: The limits ofVPN capacity are known to every IT professional...”

**SOURCE:** IT Security Guru.

PAIN POINT 3

“Lack of visibility into users and the devices they are using...”

**SOURCE:** Comcast.

PAIN POINT 4

“Business-critical apps in a home office are up against compounding limits, and leads to congestion, random disconnects or rationing.”

**SOURCE:** VMware.

PAIN POINT 5

“Employees are exchanging and sharing data from a variety of unmanaged devices.”

**SOURCE:** IT Security Guru.

PAIN POINT 6

“Enterprise cloud and SaaS apps may take unnecessary trips back to the corporate network.”

**SOURCE:** Comcast.

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