Insights from The Virtual Floorplan: New Rules for a New Era of Work

A new global survey of 7,600 IT decision-makers, HR decision-makers, business decision-makers, and employees—conducted by Vanson Bourne and commissioned by VMware—revealed that a prevailing shift towards hybrid work has brought with it a new “virtual floorplan.” This new paradigm carries new security risks for leaders to manage across a distributed workforce and multiplying endpoints.

The rise of remote work has led to an increase in new security risks. With organizations likely holding less direct control over apps, devices and networks, IT is navigating a brave new world where security is everyone’s responsibility.

The risks are clear but there’s a disconnect as to how severe

With threats on the rise, IT teams must expand their toolbox

Organizations are embracing a range of education, policy, and technology solutions in order to meet the evolving risks:

- 60% are training employees on handling sensitive data
- 52% are using VPNs to access sensitive information
- 51% are encrypting sensitive data
- 48% are implementing new data protections for remote workers
- 41% are limiting the amount of sensitive data employees have access to
- 2% aren’t doing anything new

Survey respondents—across generations in particular—differ in their levels of confidence concerning the adequacy of their organizations’ data security measures.

Navigating a New Security Paradigm

As the hybrid work landscape stabilizes, it’s clear that many leaders still need to resolve the tension between security and productivity. A key focus for IT teams will be to identify tools and solutions that protect sensitive data without sacrificing employee efficiency. Mastering this balance will be crucial to securing the virtual floorplan as a business advantage for years to come.

In the Virtual Floorplan, Security is a Team Sport

Security fears temper enthusiasm around the virtual floorplan

With threats on the rise, IT teams must expand their toolbox

But some data protections are coming at the cost of efficiency

Survey respondents—across generations in particular—differ in their levels of confidence concerning the adequacy of their organizations’ data security measures.

“Proceed with caution” means something very different across functions and generations—something to consider for training efforts. But this gap in perceived risk cannot be tackled by employee trainings alone.