Office and Remote Workforce
Securing your remote identity

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Overview

For countless U.S. workers, the corporate office has moved from a multi-story building downtown to a four-walled room in their home.

Remote Security Tips!

In the early days of the pandemic, many businesses went from a small portion of their workforce being remote to virtually all of it. This shift brought new complications to teams charged with controlling network access and ensuring compliance and security. Suddenly, there were new factors to account for: an uptick in users logging in from personal devices, attempts to access network resources from places that would normally be considered unusual, and more.

1) Why You Should Think Identity First

As companies balance realities such as cloud adoption, remote workers, and the use of personal devices, a growing realization has emerged: identity is the connective thread between the enterprise and its users. Regardless of what device they are using or what service they are consuming, identity follows employees everywhere. To threat actors, those identities are worth their weight in gold.

When enabling a remote workforce, the importance of effective identity and access policies and controls is clear. Remote work brings new risks. If nothing else, there will be a surge in workers attempting to interact with network assets from unprotected networks and personal devices

2) Verification in a Remote Work World

It is always critical for organizations to quickly provision users and devices without compromising security—not just during the hiring and firing process, but in the face of job changes and organizational shakeups as well. In all cases, moving too quickly can result in employees having either too much or too little access.

Being able to trust newly onboarded employees requires being able to verify their identification documents. In practical terms, this may require businesses to rely more on identity verification services. Organizations need to establish an authoritative identity record that can drive downstream identity data and access.

3) Employee Offboarding in a Remote Work World

One of the many unfortunate realities of the pandemic is layoffs. Just as the onboarding process changes for remote employees, so too does the offboarding process. Once an employee is let go, step one for businesses is to recover any company-issued laptops and devices. Normally, the employee could drop these assets off at the front desk as they left the building.

Another critical step is to revoke a terminated employee's access to the network and corporate data, reducing the risk of malicious activity by the fired employee or an attacker abusing their credentials.

4) Endpoint Security and Security's Endpoint

Security policies for remote workers have to account for users doing things they would not do if they were in the office. Staff would not have access to his spouses computer normally; each would be using their own machine, which had been provisioned by IT. Since staff are telecommuting, however, each will be requesting access to systems and data from off-site, changing the profile of his normal user behavior

The most basic and critical layers of this defense involves implementing the principle of least privilege

5) Secure Remote Collaboration

There was a surge in attacks targeting Remote Desktop Protocol (RDP) that coincided with the rise of the pandemic in the U.S. RDP is used to connect Windows machines to each other so that a remote user can access a system. It is typically used in Help Desk situations for troubleshooting. Its capabilities make it a juicy target for attackers and preventing exploitation by ensuring it can only be accessed through a VPN connection and MFA offers an additional level of protection.

Secure collaboration involves using VPNs more extensively. While some companies may have only enabled a limited number of employees to use a VPN, the realities of the pandemic will lead to increased usage.

""Outstanding! Already there is a clear and profound difference over what they have received in the past. Thank you so much!"

-Leading Logistics Firm

How we can help

The growth of the remote workforce has long been predicted. Few, however, would have projected that its growth would involve a pandemic.
To catch-up with the remote workforce we implement behavior based solutions that alert on contact.

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