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Must Have Plans for Enabling a Secure and Productive Work from Home Strategy

The work from home debate for many organizations has been forever changed. Prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, less than 10% of the labor force worked remotely. Within days, there was an estimated 70% increase in remote workers. This has meant IT staffs have had to quickly reprioritize projects and consider provisioning hardware and SaaS applications, all while ensuring security, accessibility, and procurement of tools & equipment. For most CIOs, the transition to work from home is here to stay. Many workers are enjoying ditching their commutes and find that they are equally or more effective working from home.



To help CIOs navigate the new normal, Flexential has prepared the following checklist of 5 areas IT leaders should take into account as they plan for the new normal.

NO.1

Protect the Crown Jewels

Security is the number one concern for organizations enabling a distributed workforce. During the first month of the pandemic, ransomware attacks skyrocketed 148%¹. Ransomware has quickly become one of the most pervasive, disruptive and expensive threats to organizations large and small. Not only are IT organizations fending off cyber attackers, they are supporting more BYODs, building stronger VPN tunnels and navigating reliable, cost-effective solutions for back-ups and disaster recovery. As organizations shift to a more distributed workforce, there are increased security risks and attack surfaces that may require additional security controls or a different approach from centralized trust-based security models.

Consider these solutions:

- Remote Work Security Assessment
- IT Security Assessments
- Secure Desktop-as-a-Service (DaaS) Solution
- Backup -as-a-Service (BaaS)
- Ransomware Readiness Assessment
- Disaster Recovery-as-a-Services (DRaaS)

¹Ransomware Attacks Spike 148% Amid COVID-19 Scams according to VMWare Carbon Black. [See Here](#)



NO.2

Manage a Shrinking IT Budget

CIOs are under massive pressure to cut tech spending and will need to go beyond delaying capital expenditures. Forrester predicts hardware expenses will be reduced by 50-80%. With on-premises data centers operating at an average of 50% capacity, organizations will also look to optimize their current on-premise locations and may find significant savings and agility benefits by looking to a colocation provider due to the under-utilization of facilities.

Larger enterprise projects outside the scope of digital transformation are deprioritized, or put on hold.

Consider these solutions:

- Colocation
- Hosted Private Cloud
- Managed Infrastructure

DDOS attacks are up 3x as malicious attacks threaten companies digital presence.

NO. 3

Join Networks and People

In the move to support a distributed workforce, some applications may be cloud-ready and some may need data center colocation. The ability to interconnect application environments is vital. Secure network demand will continue as virtual consumption grows from demands of more automation, increased network flexibility and new technology-enabled solutions.

Consider these solutions:

- Managed IP Bandwidth
- Data Center Interconnection (DCI)
- DDOS Protection
- Hyperscale Cloud On-ramps
- Components of an Edge Strategy





NO. 5

Access to Hardware and Supply Chain Management

Data centers, like any other complex infrastructure, are not immune to the massive supply chain disruptions caused by the coronavirus. Hardware failures are simply going to happen and CIO's need to ensure that their mission-critical applications that are hosted in off-prem data centers are continually staffed 24x7x365 by ITIL certified experts with redundant spare hardware to continually manage and maintain their data center infrastructure.

Consider these solutions:

- Secure Desktop-as-a-Service (DaaS) Solution
- Remote Hands
- Managed Services
- Cloud Computing

Additionally, the pandemic has triggered a prioritization on enabling a secure, reliable remote work force. In order to effectively meet the challenges ahead, IT organizations may accelerate enterprise investment in cloud computing technologies, as spending on the "virtual office" replaces spending on physical office space.

Next Steps

There is no question that the need to have a secure, end-to-end strategy and execution plan to enable your teams will be a top priority in the near term. Companies that thrive are accelerating their digital transformation strategies to focus on technology, tools and processes that enable agility in the wake of change. Start your journey today with a partner like Flexential.

NO. 4

Contain Public Cloud Costs

Adoption of public cloud, SaaS, remote and flexible working have all been growing in recent years. The work from home trend brought on by the pandemic is an accelerant to continue to move those forward. Businesses realize that this isn't a onetime event. CIOs will want to ensure they are monitoring the pay by the drink consumption model, else be surprised with an enormous bill. Ensure you are tracking and optimizing cloud spending on a daily basis.

Consider these solutions:

- Cloud Readiness Assessment
- Multi-tenant Cloud
- Colocation
- Disaster Recovery
- Edge Computing