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Cisco Meraki, the most compelling remote IT work solutions to help your business grow

COVID-19 has not only highlighted the need for networking scalability to support work from home, but also business resiliency and continuity planning.

The following information will provide you with useful insights into which industries have been most impacted by COVID-19; the tools that companies need to stay ahead of the pandemic; and the future of the workplace.

Companies that are feeling the pain

We can all agree that COVID-19 has changed our lives in many ways. Its comparison to the Spanish Flu of 1918 is warranted, though there are noticeable differences that exist nearly 100 years later – specifically the internet and wireless connectivity in the form of Wi-Fi, LTE and 5G.

There are some broad trends relating to the response to COVID-19 by Meraki customers. To no surprise, verticals such as education, healthcare, brick-and-mortar retail, and manufacturing are struggling given the physical demands and workload requirements. Consequently, the million-dollar IT challenge seems to lie in supporting the same user experiences remotely.

It seems clear that a new tool kit that blends video collaboration tools with more software-centric capabilities to deliver network automation for higher predictability and security for business-critical applications is critical.

IT toolkit for working from home

It has become apparent that mid-sized businesses in particular, have been ill-prepared to support remote work during the peak of COVID-19. Specifically, their challenges have spanned:

- remote security;
- network and device management;
- application access and support.

There is a heightened need for simplicity and network automation to ensure the highest quality experience. Datacentrix, with the help from Meraki, is delivering on these needs with a robust ecosystem that includes location-based services capabilities, next generation wireless services and an SD-WAN platform that is cloud-enabled and secure.



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What is the future of the workplace?

Is remote work here to stay? Companies such as Twitter have committed to supporting it indefinitely. More than likely, as COVID-19 infection rates decline, there will be a gradual return to the office with a balance of work from both home and office.

Whatever the return-to-work trend, Meraki customers are able to embrace their investment in new collaboration tools, such as Cisco WebEx, and improved home office setups and audio gear in light of the pandemic experience. A positive outcome has been the revisiting of work-life balance, newly found productivity, and the elimination of office commute time. How will this impact the future of the physical office? Most companies will continue benefitting from the reduced number of physical meetings and conferences with the sustained use of video collaboration, broader adoption of location-based services, video recognition, and IoT sensors.

A strategic consideration in the overall product roadmap development effort is to help customers more intelligently manage office



Networking scalability



Security



Business continuity

buildings. Meraki has also led the smart camera segment with its MV family of cloud-managed smart cameras, which will help ensure a safer return to the office when it happens.

Conclusion

Networking infrastructure providers such as Meraki have stepped up to the challenge to deliver solutions that bring the networking scalability, security, and business continuity needed to businesses of all sizes.

Reference

The content of this document was based on and adapted from Will Townsend's post: "[Back to the Future of the Workplace](#)" of 3 September 2020. Will Townsend is a Senior Analyst responsible for Networking Infrastructure and Carrier Services at Moor Insights & Strategy. Will is also ranked consistently as one of the world's top networking analysts, as measured by ARInsights.

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