9 WAYS TO ENABLE REMOTE WORK FOR YOUR EMPLOYEES

By Rawan Baher – Office Administrator

With the unprecedent event of COVID-19 global pandemic spread, a large proportion of companies' workforce is required to work remotely. Seize the opportunity to bolster your policies and get prepared for a safe workplace that satisfies employee needs.

Enabling a team to work remotely is an ongoing and challenging task, and this task differs for every company. I hope with reading this article it will help you facilitate a smooth and productive atmosphere.

Here are nine ways to enable your employees to work remotely with the use of Microsoft tools

- **VPN (Virtual Private Network)**

Data protection is one of the main challenges for companies and by operating remotely it will expose sensitive data to the risk of leakage. The VPN is designed to secure an internal network or system when it is accessed by outsiders. This means it preserves and secures the link when you are accessing your work system from a different location.

- **Multi-factor authentication (MFA)**

MFA is necessary to access all of Microsoft's corporate resources. If a user connects to our domain remotely using their Microsoft work credentials on a computer we control, MFA is essentially transparent. We deliver three authentication methods: virtual and physical smart cards backed up by certificates, Windows Hello for Business (with PIN or biometric sign-in), and Azure Multi-factor Authentication.

- **Productivity applications**

Microsoft 365 plus Window 10 help users to access services and share files across the internet, tablet, and desktop with Office apps, by default storing their content in the cloud. Desktop Outlook, Microsoft Teams and OneDrive are deployed on all our corporate computers, allowing people to access their addresses, calendars and files in Windows File

Explorer, Mac Finder and mobile Office Applications. You can do co-authoring in real-time and commenting in cloud papers, which has proven to be incredibly useful to a distributed workforce.

- **User identity and access**

Identity management is one of the basic things that should be implemented. We have a hybrid environment that allows us both to maintain and extend existing structures while using a cloud-based control panel to allow people to work safely and productively. Every user who needs to access the corporate network, whether they are an employee, partner or supplier, will receive a primary account synchronized with Azure Active Direct.

- **Teams for Meetings and collaboration**

We at IBSCY use [Microsoft Teams](#) daily for chats, meeting calls and collaboration. Now that we find ourselves operating remotely, because we are used to a digital environment, we have been able to stay productive. Every meeting is now conducted on MS Teams which offers various features such as blurring the background, recording the meeting so we can review it later and many more. While mobilising our employees to work from home, we dependent on Microsoft 365 programs to enable collaboration through self-service of Office 365 Groups or Teams while maintaining enough security, enforcement and manageability.

- **Managing devices**

As the number of employees working remotely increases, it is necessary that employees for support the bring-your-own-device scenarios. Microsoft provides self-service enrolment so that users can enter [Azure AD](#) quickly and easily and register to access company resources in MEM (Microsoft Endpoint Manager). If registered, MEM then implements suitable policies, such as ensuring that a computer is encrypted with a strong password and has certificates for it. Likewise, you can also check [Panda Adaptive Defence 360](#).

- **Monitoring software**

With the increased load and use from so many people who work remotely, service monitoring has proven crucial to ensuring that everything works as planned. We track application and

network performance carefully and have integrated product telemetry monitoring into every system. Hence, we can test reports for indicators of customer satisfaction and changes in service behaviour.

Working from home doesn't mean being isolated. Reassure workers that they can be social, keep in contact with their colleagues and yet help maintain the business intact.

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