BT Means Business

Building a Secure future of work

Organisations throughout the UK are undergoing exciting and wide-scale digital transformation. Yet despite making vast leaps in some areas, growth in other areas remain stunted. Cyber-security progress is one area that has been neglected by many. The rush of responding to the pandemic and trying to accommodate working from home resulted in disparate security solutions patched together. That means businesses now find themselves vulnerable to data breaches that put their operations at risk.

Digital transformation is exposing organisations to new and prevalent cyber-risk. According to the Department of Digital Culture, Media & Sport, 72 percent of large enterprises identified cyber-breaches in 2021. And within the group of organisations reporting cyber-attacks, 31 percent of businesses estimate they were targeted at least once a week.

Securing the future of work for your organisation will depend on what you do today to protect your people, workplaces, and overall business. And with the right partner by your side, you can move away from outdated and legacy infrastructure and towards a solution that will scale well into the future.

Five areas you must secure to protect your entire estate

By taking the right approach across these five strategic areas, you'll help shield your organisation against reputational and financial risk, while giving your team access to the best tools and devices.

1. Secure your network

Whether your network is physical, virtual, or MPLS-based, securing it is vital – and many companies are now tasked with opening up their networks while eliminating the risk of exposing their data and operations. With so much valuable data now online and threats from outside the trusted perimeter now growing, a number of enterprises have turned to SD-WAN – and this adoption rate is predicted to reach 60 percent by 2024.

SD-WAN is more dynamic and flexible than solely using MPLS – it connects disparate operations across a wide range of locations and prioritises traffic. Implemented correctly, SD-WAN can enhance every business's security strategy: BT can assist with this (or securing any other network) depending on your individual cybersecurity strategy, whether you required Managed Firewall, Managed Cloud Security, One Mobile Secure Access, or something else.

2. Secure your cloud

Cloud adoption is picking up pace; according to the IDC, 40 percent of all enterprise workloads will move to the cloud by 2023. This is presenting attackers with easy security gaps to exploit – especially as many businesses assume the likes of Amazon Web Services take sole responsibility for security in the cloud, when that isn't the case. Two thirds of UK business leaders expect a jump in attacks on their cloud services over the next year, but only 41 percent say they understand the risks.

The lack of expertise on safely introducing the cloud to existing architecture can lead to data loss and security breaches. To ensure cloud services are only accessed by the right people, organisations must gain full visibility and control with the help of expert guidance.

3. Protect your end-users and data

Since the pandemic, 80 percent of businesses in the UK are now operating some form of hybrid working. But the blurred boundaries of this set-up are putting them at risk of data loss and theft. In fact, 76 percent of organisations have suffered one or more data breaches and loss of sensitive files since the shift to working remotely as endpoints remain the most common way for a hacker to enter an organisations network.

Business leaders must start thinking about protecting their entire cyber-estate rather than applying siloed solutions. To drive secure collaboration organisations need cyber-protection robust enough to cover all bases. This means a cloud-based end-to-end security solution that protects all users and devices, including personal laptops and phones with a consistent security policy.

4. Conduct a security audit

Online retail sales growth for 2020 was up 36 percent year-on-year – the highest annual growth seen since 2007. The desire to remain operational and meet customer needs meant businesses acted quickly when the pandemic hit. However, many adopted technology that leaves them with cyber vulnerabilities internally and in their supply chain.

Businesses must blend human oversight with real-time monitoring and automated decision-making, to proactively detect anomalies and update their protections against next-generation threats. Blocking attacks before they can happen.

5. Secure your human firewall

Working from home is a change in mindset and behaviour – one that cybercriminals exploited during the pandemic. Businesses throughout the country saw a rise in phishing and malware attacks.

Businesses must take into account the human factor of their security strategy and look at how their teams are using newly adopted tools and technologies. Helping employees understand the policies and procedures around data security and raising awareness about cyberattacks can prepare them to behave safely online. People can help act as an additional layer by adopting simple steps like not allowing strangers into the building, not shredding confidential data, and not using a personal device that isn't in line with the wider organisational IT policy. Security is everyone's job.

Partnering for success

The IDC reports that with in-house, 24/7 security solutions being so expensive and security talent so scarce, many organisations are turning to security services providers, like BT, who can implement the best practices for an evolving threat landscape – and bring the benefit of "strength in numbers" from an intelligence perspective.

Positioned in the leaders category of the IDC MarketScape for Managed Security Services in Europe, BT has the proven experience to create and deliver your cyber-security strategy. We have comprehensive visibility of the network to detect the latest threats and dangerous attacks – and the tools to respond. Our end-to-end solution means complete protection for your people, your workplaces, and your business.

With BT as your partner, your organisation is in a strong position to focus on digital transformation without disruption and risk from cyber-attackers. Our team of over 3,000 security experts will translate your business needs into future-proofed security strategy. We'll put you on a sure path to delivering productivity, effectiveness, and growth – today and in the future of work.

Why BT?

A trusted partner

We're positioned as a leader in the IDC MarketScape for European Managed Security services 2022.

3000+ dedicated security experts

We've been protecting ourselves, our customers, and the UK's critical national infrastructure for over 70 years.

Vendor agnostic

We partner with best-in-class security vendors, and we will work with you to find the best solution for your needs.

Leading intelligence

BT Security is accredited by CREST in recognition of its threat intelligence insight and capabilities. We also have access to Interpol and NCSC global intelligence.

Future proof your business

Our solutions are scalable for growing businesses. We can be both your network and security provider, offering a combined solution under one secure roof.

Offices Worldwide

To find out more, contact your account manager or call 0800 7076313.

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