Security for the
Modern Workplace

Empowering the new workforce for better productivity

Lenovo

Windows 10

Lenovo recommends
Windows 10 Pro for business.

The 'New Perimeter' calls
for a new view on security

Back in the old days—and twenty years ago is almost prehistoric in IT terms—life was a lot simpler. Organizations utilized corporate networks with servers and nodes, and everything was connected.

That began to change with better connectivity outside of the office as the modern workplace evolved. Working remotely became a norm instead of the exception.

It wasn't perfect from an IT management standpoint, but it was workable. Even though the trend towards working from home continued to gain momentum, the most activity and data traffic still happened 'inside' the network.

A Sudden Pivot to Remote Work

Almost overnight, the modern workplace made remote work not only acceptable, but expected.

It's forced organizations to rethink their network-centric view of security. Those distributed endpoints—notebooks, desktops, workstations, even smartphones—are now effectively the perimeter of the corporate network.

But out of sight can never mean out of mind.

Remote employees, like office-based staff, need ready access to sensitive information held on the corporate network. That means they must have the same level of security as the network itself.

And that's a major challenge—how can organizations keep their people, devices and critical data, safe and secure?

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Start at the Endpoint and Work Backward

Carolina Milanesi, Technology Analyst with Creative Strategies, laughs when she recalls how previously companies would simply issue employees with a connected PC and expect them to be productive.

Instead, she recommends looking at what the machine will be used for—and the security risks involved.

Connectivity alone is a minefield. High-speed broadband is becoming more prevalent, but if employees are accessing data on company servers, the cost and set up of VPN licenses should be factored in.

Wi-Fi networks are notoriously leaky and prone to unwanted intrusion. Supporting them with security solutions not only improves productivity, but also employee experience.

Look for 'baked-in' security that detects suspicious activity and protects computers from being attacked.

Then there's video calling. It's been around for a while, but has lately seen a dramatic rise in popularity, and is proving invaluable to speed the work of virtual teams.

The best collaboration solutions, such as **Microsoft Teams,** keep uninvited callers out and protect employees and information.

Helping Security and Productivity Play Well Together

More often than not, productivity and security are natural enemies. And security usually loses the fight.

The answer? Make security effective, but not intrusive. And the best way is to integrate it into devices and the ecosystem that supports them.

At Lenovo, from R&D through a secure supply chain to the finished device, we work closely with partners such as Microsoft and Intel® to ensure our portfolio is as secure as possible.
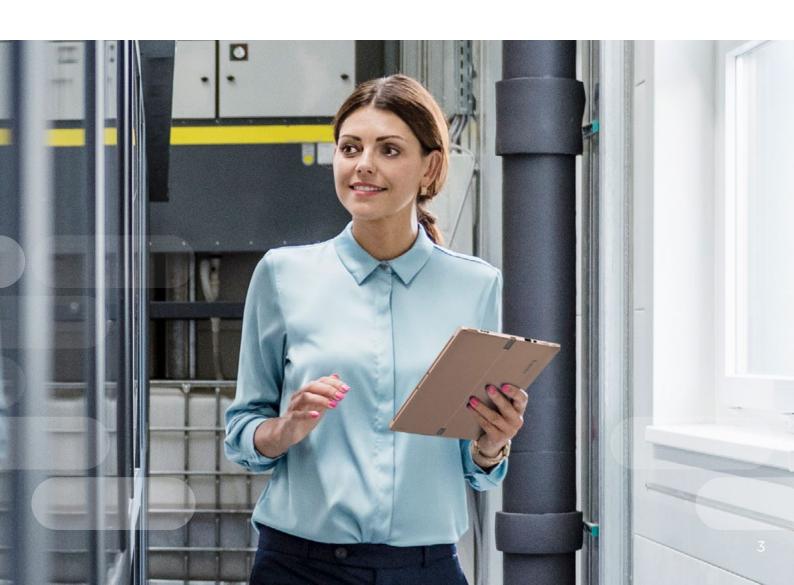
Lenovo ThinkPad devices support Windows 10 Secured-core PC functionality.

Secured-core PCs provide customers with **Windows 10** systems that are pre-configured with a set of hardware, firmware, and OS features enabled by default.

Remember Carolina Milanesi's wry recollection of PC provision? Zero-touch deployment such as **Windows Autopilot** overcomes the impracticalities deploying a fleet of PCs or upgrades to various remote locations.

Even then, businesses must be on constant guard against cyberattacks and employee error. Although the digital natives who now form over half of the global knowledge workforce are more security-aware, they're not experts.

Responsibility for corporate security must reside with security professionals, who can take a holistic approach to protection and prevention. Knowing what we know now about sudden shifts in working patterns, the watchword is preparation.

Future-proof Your Security

Productivity in the new workplace depends on preparation

With endpoints as the new perimeter, security goes well beyond the corporate network. Keeping your data safe in the modern workplace takes constant vigilance and a little help from the experts at Lenovo and Microsoft.

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