Securing the remote, work from anywhere public sector workforce

The coronavirus pandemic accelerated the trend toward remote workers contributing from home.

The public sector is no different in sending people home and considering the options for continuing remote work on a larger scale. The public sector, though, has some unique concerns regarding security, access to information and quick response to real-time events. Citizen information, defense and law enforcement data must be safeguarded and the networks themselves must be protected from intrusions made possible by an expansion of potential entry points.

Challenge: Ensure flexibility, but secure everything

Working remotely has the same benefits for government workers that it does for the private sector. They get more flexibility in their lives, less time wasted in commutes, and the potential for greater focus on important projects without the typical distractions of an office environment. For the organization, there can be cost benefits as well as the ability to retain high-performing employees because of their added flexibility.

In most cases, workers' remote locations are configured with typical consumer-grade devices and networks. Because public sector data can be highly sensitive, security is a key issue to address when implementing work-from-anywhere plans. Consumer-grade products cannot necessarily deliver the required security. Centralized security regimes – administered and served from an on-premises data center or the cloud – may bring too much latency to effectively react to nascent attacks at this new edge before the network is compromised.

> Securing remote user devices and applications running at the edge and protecting its data require security that is built-in and automated.

It requires continuous monitoring and immediate defenses, and the ability to control the location of the data. Security policy-setting must be able to scale to an ever-increasing number of sites.

Embedding security into the network can efficiently mitigate attacks and minimize risk. Implementing that security regime requires a trusted partner.

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Solution: Edge computing plus security when you need it

Edge computing moves security services out of centralized hosting environments and into the network, close to all these proliferating devices and applications. Cloud-like capability can protect the network and respond much faster to any threat. As part of a single solution from core to edge, security policies can scale as more remote workers are added.

Lumen® Security solutions for the edge can protect remote user devices, mobile applications, distributed web applications, and media distribution and optimization. With our robust Web Application Firewalls (WAF), Bot Management and API Protection service – as well as one of the largest DDoS deployments in the world – our vision for Lumen security at the edge is that it's seamless, built-in, automated and informed by high fidelity threat intelligence to help protect and accelerate application experiences for our customers and their end users.

Public sector administrators gain complete, code-level control over edge workload configurations, testing and global deployment with Lumen Security solutions. Run workloads securely where you define the edge using DevOps-friendly metrics, log monitoring and alerts for ongoing troubleshooting.

Results: Security and resilience without sacrificing flexibility for workers

These architectures composed of Lumen Edge Computing components, expertise and managed services can modernize networks and secure workloads at the edge. Consider just a few effects of this edge computing infrastructure for public sector agencies:

- Reduced latency for control applications and security response
- Edge-based security for sensitive data in a remote working environment
- Lower network costs from transporting only relevant data to the cloud

Edge computing approaches put data processing and storage closer to the network edge where remote workers reside.

Visit **Lumen** today for more information or contact a Lumen Expert for consultation to get started.

Edge computing complements both cloud computing and the IoT, creating seamless, low latency and secure solutions.

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