



Working from home: Securely

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With the increasing threat once again from Covid-19, and many more people choosing to work from home, it is important to review your IT Support and Cyber Security strategy to ensure secure remote working.

Amid the ongoing health crisis, secure remote working is once again top of the agenda. However, switching from a trusted and secure office environment at short notice to working remotely can cause serious IT security issues. This isn't helped by the fact that cybercriminals are using the coronavirus as an opportunity for phishing scams which rely on unwary employees clicking on malicious links within emails from less secure home devices. To help you understand the procedure, following is a brief list of secure remote working methods that can be implemented.

Cloud Services:

Many companies now use Office 365 or G-Suite for their daily work and cloud-based finance packages such as Quickbooks Online or Xero, and this is a great way to allow remote working as all data is accessible from any location. Please enable two-factor authentication on your cloud services that support it as this protects against malicious third-party access to your data.

Remote Server Access:

If your data is not in the cloud but on local servers or NAS devices in your office, then it is recommended to use a secure VPN service to connect remote laptops to your office servers in a safe and secure manner. The secure VPN service allows remote laptops and desktops to operate as if they were located in the office premises. This option comes in two types; Software based which is relatively inexpensive or hardware based which is the ultimate in remote security but much more costly and something which may not be economically justifiable for what is a temporary (we all hope) measure.

Remote Desktop Services:

If your company has mostly desktop computers with a single server for Sage etc and it is not logistically possible for staff members to take the equipment home, then utilizing secure remote desktop services may be the easiest solution. This remote access software allows you to access your own office computer securely from any location and use it as if you were sitting at your desk. This also allows internal servers and devices to be accessed in a safe and secure manner.

If your systems are currently monitored and protected by our SoftalkAssist platform then secure remote desktop access to your computer is already possible. We can also offer very strict containment services to ensure your IT equipment stays safe in these difficult times. If you are concerned about home working and cyber risks or wish to discuss it further, then please contact us.