

SOLUTION BRIEF

Optimize Employee Productivity With the Linksys HomeWRK Secure Home Network Solution

Executive Summary

The modern office was designed around productivity as its core, but the pandemic has pushed businesses to shift from a traditional work model to remote-working models almost overnight. As organizations learn from this remote work experience, many are adopting a new hybrid work model to provide more flexibility to their employees. Based on the Accenture Future of Work Study 2021, 83% of workers surveyed say they prefer a hybrid model in which they can work remotely at least 25% of the time. A hybrid work environment results in many business benefits, from better access to top talent, happier employees, and improved innovation. However, it is also critical for IT leaders to implement new strategies to secure remote employees, safeguard their corporate data, and protect against cyber threats.

Linksys HomeWRK for Business | Secured by Fortinet is a next-generation firewall (NGFW) for remote and hybrid workers to have secure access to corporate and personal networks at home. The solution comes with enterprise-grade security from Fortinet to protect employees' remote access to the corporate network as well as their local network. IT has centralized visibility of corporate access and network performance across all devices, wherever they are. Linksys HomeWRK also provides employees with control and privacy for their personal networks, separate from corporate networks. Zero-touch provisioning helps streamline user experience and optimize employee productivity for business continuity with a safer and faster mesh Wi-Fi network and flexible work management.

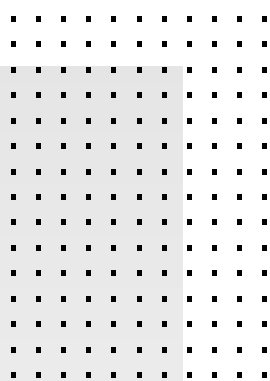
Connectivity at Its Core

Connectivity is the key for employee productivity. According to a recent survey, 84% of employees working from home revealed that they have suffered from an unreliable internet connection.³ This resulted in 9 out of 10 home workers wasting an average of 30 minutes a day, with 1 in 8 losing an hour or more. Without a reliable home network, these remote and hybrid workers cannot have effective communication and collaboration to get their jobs done.

The rising number of remote and hybrid workers has also increased the security risk of remote accesses to the corporate network. Research from Upwork shows that 36.2 million Americans will be working remotely by 2025, an 87% increase from the pre-COVID era.⁴ IT teams are facing increasing workloads in order to enable their workforce to work effectively at home, while protecting their corporate network and devices from security threats, including malware and phishing attacks, that are introduced by home networks. Moreover, IT teams often have to manage complex systems with the increasing number of bring-your-own-device (BYOD) and Internet-of-Things (IoT) devices in order to support always-on connectivity for their remote and hybrid workforce.

Network and Security Coalesce

Combining expertise in security and connectivity, Fortinet and Linksys have partnered to create a first-of-its-kind secure network solution to help maintain employee productivity while working from home. This smart home network solution, Linksys HomeWRK for Business | Secured by Fortinet, enables organizations to create a flexible digital workspace for their remote and hybrid workforce with safe and fast whole-home internet connection.



29% of workers indicated their productivity soars when they worked from home, while 45% remains the same, according to Gartner.¹

Email phishing attacks were the most common source of data breaches while working from home. In April 2020, Google blocked more than 18 million daily malware and phishing emails related to the coronavirus.²



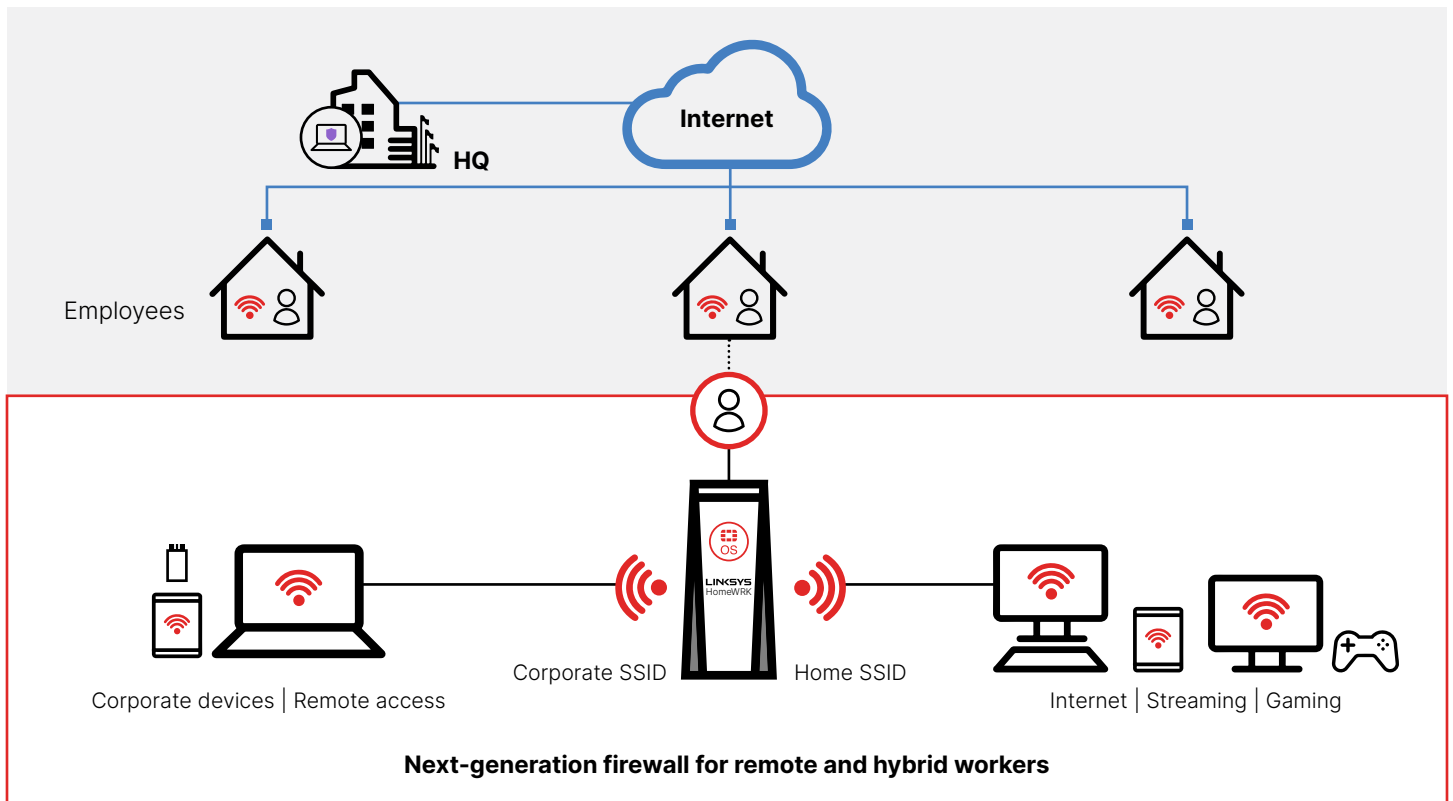


Figure 1: Linksys HomeWRK business diagram.

Single device for high-speed corporate and home networks

Built with the latest Wi-Fi 6 tri-band technology, Linksys HomeWRK delivers high-performance corporate and personal network connections for employees at home via a single device. The remote, hybrid workforce can enjoy a blanket of coverage and seamless roaming, without worrying about a weak signal or dead spots.

Enterprise-grade security and protection

Linksys HomeWRK provides local protection for home networks and secure remote access to the corporate network with Fortinet security, including antivirus, web filtering, intrusion prevention, app control, botnet control, and virtual private network VPN built in. Work-from-home employees can enjoy safer and efficient Wi-Fi coverage to protect their sensitive corporate and personal information from cyberattacks.

Intuitive management and console across devices

A smart management console gives IT the real-time visibility to monitor and diagnose all devices' performance connected to the corporate network, anywhere, anytime. Zero-touch provisioning streamlines employee onboarding with simple plug-and-connect devices, without complicated wiring or deployment.

Prioritized traffic for corporate applications

Linksys HomeWRK for Business allows IT to prioritize network traffic that is optimized for videoconferencing and collaboration tools, like Microsoft Teams and Zoom. Remote employees can have clearer, more reliable meeting experiences to get the job done efficiently.



Security and Reliability Built In

Today's workers need a hybrid work environment with all the flexibility that it promises. The right tool and technology to support this new hybrid work model can drive great employee experience, achieve effective team collaboration, and help organizations maintain a competitive edge. Linksys HomeWRK for Business is designed for organizations to enable their employees to have high-performance home networks with the same connection capability and security protection as they need in the office.

Excellent employee experience with true Wi-Fi mesh network

Linksys HomeWRK's simple plug-and-connect system gives remote and hybrid employees whole-home mesh Wi-Fi coverage. Employees can enjoy fast and secure connections to both corporate and personal networks with reliable internet signals in every corner of their home.

Optimal team collaboration and operational efficiency

Linksys HomeWRK is designed to give users quality online meeting experiences at home with bandwidth prioritized for collaboration tools, like Zoom and Microsoft Teams. Employees can enjoy clear communication with colleagues, customers, and partners for better work performance, team collaboration, and customer satisfaction.

Safer digital workspaces for business continuity and personal privacy

Linksys HomeWRK is equipped with the industry-leading security from Fortinet to provide employees with local protection and secure remote access by proactively blocking harmful cyber threats entering corporate and personal networks. The system also supports multiple service set identifiers (SSIDs), which employees have complete ownership and privacy of their home networks, separated from the corporate network, without digital surveillance from IT teams.

Scalable and affordable Hardware-as-a-Service

Linksys HomeWRK's affordable subscriptions provide the flexibility to add new users and scale as business grows. Companies can eliminate upfront investments and ease IT's efforts and resources in maintenance and updates.

Conclusion

A hybrid workforce model is an approach that facilitates the integration of both remote work and on-site work arrangements in order to leverage the benefits of both working styles and accommodate for the flexibility that today's workforce demands. With the Linksys HomeWRK for Business | Secured by Fortinet solution, all workers can have a safe and reliable digital workspace at home, with secure remote access to all of the resources they need to get their jobs done. Fast, secure, whole-home Wi-Fi connectivity helps employees stay engaged, productive, and collaborating effectively.

The average cost of data breaches per incident has reached \$4.24 million, the highest cost in history. Nearly 20% of organizations reported that remote work was a factor in the data breach.⁵

¹ "Gartner 2021 Digital Worker Experience Survey," Gartner, 2021.

² Neil Kumaran and Sam Lugani, "Protecting businesses against cyber threats during COVID-19 and beyond," Google Cloud, April 16, 2020.

³ Joe O'Halloran, "Poor connectivity sees home workers lose over half an hour of work a day," Computer Weekly, August 10, 2020.

⁴ "Upwork Study Finds 22% of American Workforce Will Be Remote by 2025," Upwork, December 15, 2020.

⁵ "2021 Cost of Data Breach Report," Ponemon & IBM, July 2021.



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