SERVICE BRIEF

Understanding the Internet of Things

What is the Internet of Things (IoT)?

And what does it mean for your business?

As technology grows more potent, Internet-connectivity is becoming a more common occurrence amongst consumer goods.

In fact, according to Gartner, Inc, a technology research organization, there might be close to 26 billion devices connected to the Internet of Things by 2020. It might be difficult to adjust to such a huge technological shift, but as an IT service provider, it's our job to inform you how your business can best approach this incredible change in the online community.

If you don't completely understand what makes up the Internet of Things, you can't adequately protect your business from the challenging new security vulnerabilities it might bring along with it. Thankfully, you don't have to go this path alone. Virtual Business Solutions is here to help ease your transition into a new age of technology.

According to Gartner's IT glossary, the Internet of Things is, "the network of physical objects that contain embedded technology to communicate and sense or interact with their internal states or the external environment." In other words, devices that can connect to the Internet will eventually be able to influence both themselves and the environment around them by using their Internet connection.

Essentially, it's important that you're ready to deal with the avalanche of new devices which will soon be able to work across a network. Are these devices going to present a viable threat to your business? There's a possibility they will, and it's important to make sure your business takes steps to protect itself.

Protect Your Business' Network Security

More devices means more network access points.

There's no argument when it comes to network security. Keeping your infrastructure secure should be at the top of your priority list, regardless of whether or not the Internet of Things poses a viable threat. This involves keeping all of your operating systems up to date, and patching known vulnerabilities in your applications.

However, the main problem with network security in the age of the IoT might be the result of so many devices connecting to the Internet; namely, your business' network. Will it be ready to deal with more connected devices? Have you taken measures to protect your network from unauthorized access from devices? Virtual Business Solutions can equip your business with our Unified Threat Management device, which is designed to protect your network from a variety of threats and vulnerabilities.

Reinforce Your BYOD Strategy

Adopt mobile security best practices.

Maximizing your network security will only get you so far in the battle against the threats which might be brought by the IoT. More devices will be connecting to the Internet, which means that your employees will probably be bringing more technology to the office with them. It's important that you emphasize the importance of proper security procedures to them in order to minimize vulnerable access points.

What Makes Up The IoT?

The Internet of Things contains many different types of devices :

- Wearables—Perhaps the most visible example of an IoT device, smartwatches and similar devices function via an Internet Connection.

- Smart 'Home'—While these devices aren't necessarily always found in the home, Internet-connected thermostats and other utilities that respond to voice commands are increasing in popularity.

- Security—The IoT can be used to assist in ensuring a business' physical and online security by requiring devices with embedded sensors and the like before access is granted.

Judging by trends and patterns thus far, the Internet of Things will only increase in popularity and implementation. As a result, it will only become more important to not only be able to support these devices on your network, but also do so securely.

Reach out for assistance in managing the IoT in your business operations.

Get proactive and call us TODAY!

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