

HomeWRK™
Secured by **FORTINET®**

BUSINESS

Enable Hybrid Workforce Productivity

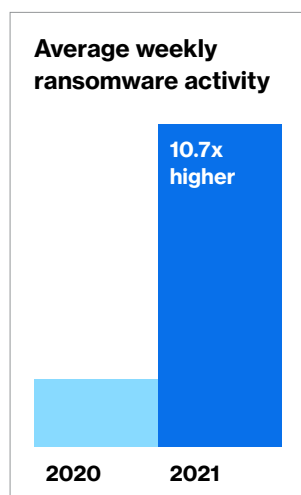
Secure Home Networking Solution
Built for the Enterprise



Linksys™

Executive Summary:

Over the last two years, the pandemic has forced businesses to transition to a hybrid work model, enabling more employees to work from home full-time or part-time. According to a recent report by The Economist, employees now spend 60% of their working time at home, compared to pre-pandemic, where that time was just 5%.ⁱ Overall, employees report an increase in happiness and productivity. **In fact, 64% of U.S. employees say they prefer working from home because they find it easier to balance work and personal life.**ⁱⁱ Even as COVID-19 restrictions loosen, 80% of employees expect to work remotely at least three days per week.ⁱⁱⁱ



Such a change in the work environment is not without its challenges. This “new normal” requires organizations to re-think their work-from-home (WFH) security strategy. With millions of employees now working away from the corporate office environment, the home office is the new edge of the corporate network and should be treated differently than a remote access location, such as a café or airport terminal. In the rush to enable a remote workforce almost overnight, IT leaders and chief information security officers (CISOs) implemented more endpoint security, VPNs, and multi-factor authentication. While these changes provide some protection, home offices still lack the layered network defenses that enterprises mandate in their branch offices, such as firewalls, IDS/IPS, antivirus protection, web and application filtering, and ransomware/phishing prevention.

With cyber attacks on the rise, it is more critical than ever for IT leaders to proactively address the security vulnerabilities at home before they are forced to react to security issues later. According to the Fortinet Global Threat Landscape Report, average weekly ransomware activity was **10.7x higher in 2021 versus 2020.**^{iv} The average ransom demand also grew 36% to \$6.1 million.^v 83% of organizations said they experienced e-mail phishing attacks in 2021, compared with 57% in 2020.^{vi}

“Most cyber frameworks did not envisage a scenario of near universal remote working and the exploitation of such a situation by cyber threat actors.”

– Financial Stability Board

Complicating the situation, 39% of employees admit that their cybersecurity practices at home are less thorough than at work.^{vii} One-quarter of all employees have noticed an increase in fraudulent emails, spam, and phishing attempts in their corporate email since the beginning of the COVID-19 crisis.^{viii} Clearly, IT leaders must introduce stronger network security controls in the home to protect their employees, systems, and corporate resources from the increase in cyber activity.

Requirements for a Scalable Hybrid Workforce Solution

Scaling a hybrid workforce requires implementing security solutions that are strong and easy to manage remotely. Without onsite tech support in the home office, businesses need a solution that does not rely on an employee's technical skills or cyber vigilance. Enterprises should consider the following requirements for protecting work-from-home employees and the corporate network they access.



1

Trusted home networks: Home Wi-Fi networks are often shared by family members and guests who require minimal authentication to join the network. Moreover, a family member that picks up malware on the Internet or via a phishing email poses a risk to the employee's devices connected to the same network. Home network security solutions should provide network filtering, malware protection, and segmentation to ensure trust is established between the home and corporate networks.

2

Network visibility and control: While IT administrators have deployed endpoint monitoring and protection systems on employees' laptops, smart devices, and mobile phones, security operations centers (SOCs) lack the network visibility and control of the home office network because they do not own or manage the Wi-Fi router. Establishing the visibility and control of the home network router is essential to meeting compliance and incident response requirements.

3

Remote automation and management: Deploying a network solution that is scalable to support a large workforce requires automation and network management tools that simplify deployment and remote administration. Enterprises need to be able to configure, stage and ship network security devices wherever their employees reside.

4

Reliable home network performance: To be productive, employees require a fast home Wi-Fi network with reliable coverage anywhere in the home. The network must also support optimization for video and other critical applications.

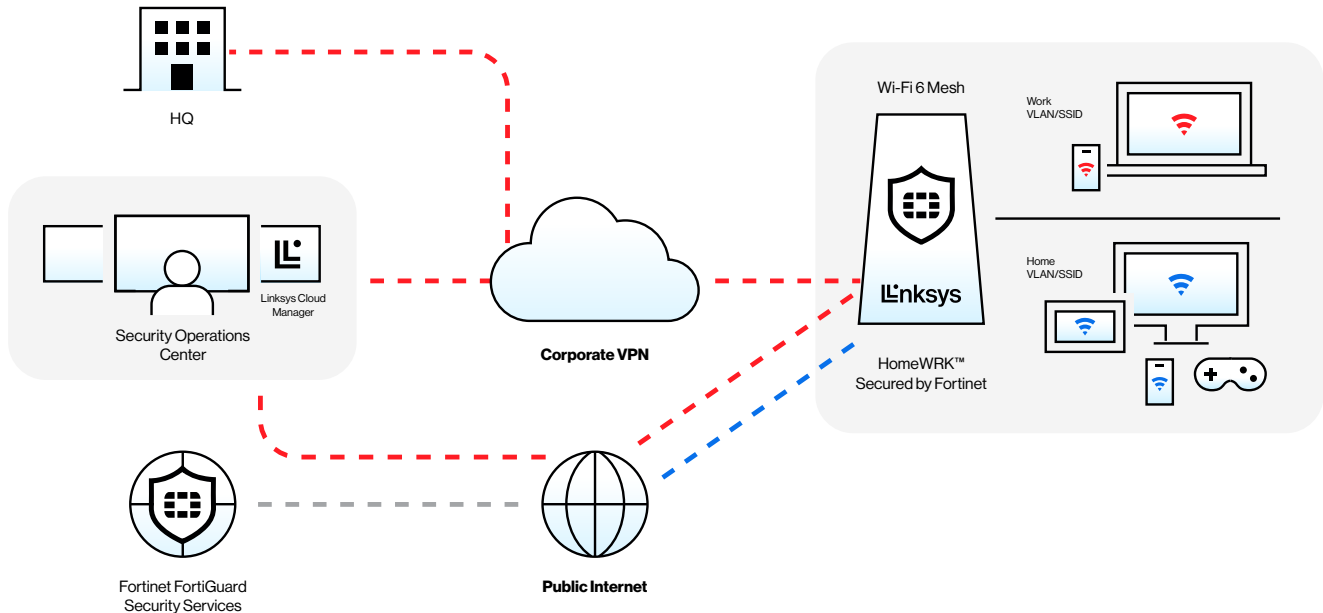
5

Employee privacy: Any solution must be able to protect the privacy of an employee's personal traffic and data. Companies should not be able to view or monitor personal data that is unrelated to work. Keeping personal data private is essential to building a system that is trusted by employees.

Partnering to Protect the Home and Corporate Networks

Linksys and Fortinet have joined forces to provide a secure and scalable networking solution that protects employees working from home while

keeping them productive. Linksys HomeWRK for Business | Secured by Fortinet, is a best-in-class Wi-Fi networking solution for the home that provides enterprise-grade security, visibility, centralized management, high-performance, and zero touch provisioning. The solution embeds Fortinet's industry-leading Next Generation Firewall (NGFW) and FortiGuard Security Services. Linksys designed HomeWRK for Business to be easily deployed by employees just like a consumer-grade system and remotely managed by enterprise IT teams, making the solution practical to implement at scale, even for businesses with a large and distributed workforce.



Linksys HomeWRK for Business | Secured by Fortinet

Linksys HomeWRK is the first truly enterprise-class security solution for the home that is simple enough.

Security

HomeWRK for Business includes dual-SSID network segmentation to keep business and personal traffic separately; intrusion protection services (IPS); web and application filtering; antivirus scanning; phishing and ransomware protection; and IPsec VPNs.



- **Network Segmentation:** The solution supports network segmentation using multiple SSIDs on the same router to separate corporate and personal traffic. Segmenting the traffic enables a higher level of protection for accessing corporate systems from the home.
- **Antivirus:** HomeWRK for Business supports automated protection against polymorphing attack components, viruses, spyware, and other content-level threats.
- **Web and Application Filtering:** AI-powered analytics and filtering help to block dangerous web, application, video content, phishing, and ransomware. The solution web and application filtering are essential for comprehensive protection.
- **IPS:** HomeWRK for Business leverages Fortinet's FortiGuard IPS Library with thousands of signatures and context-aware policies for full control of attack detection methods to address complex security applications and evasion techniques. IPS detects and blocks network-level threats and network intrusions.
- **IPsec VPN:** The solution supports IPsec virtual private networking to encrypt traffic between the router and the corporate network providing confidentiality of communications.

Visibility, Control and Compliance

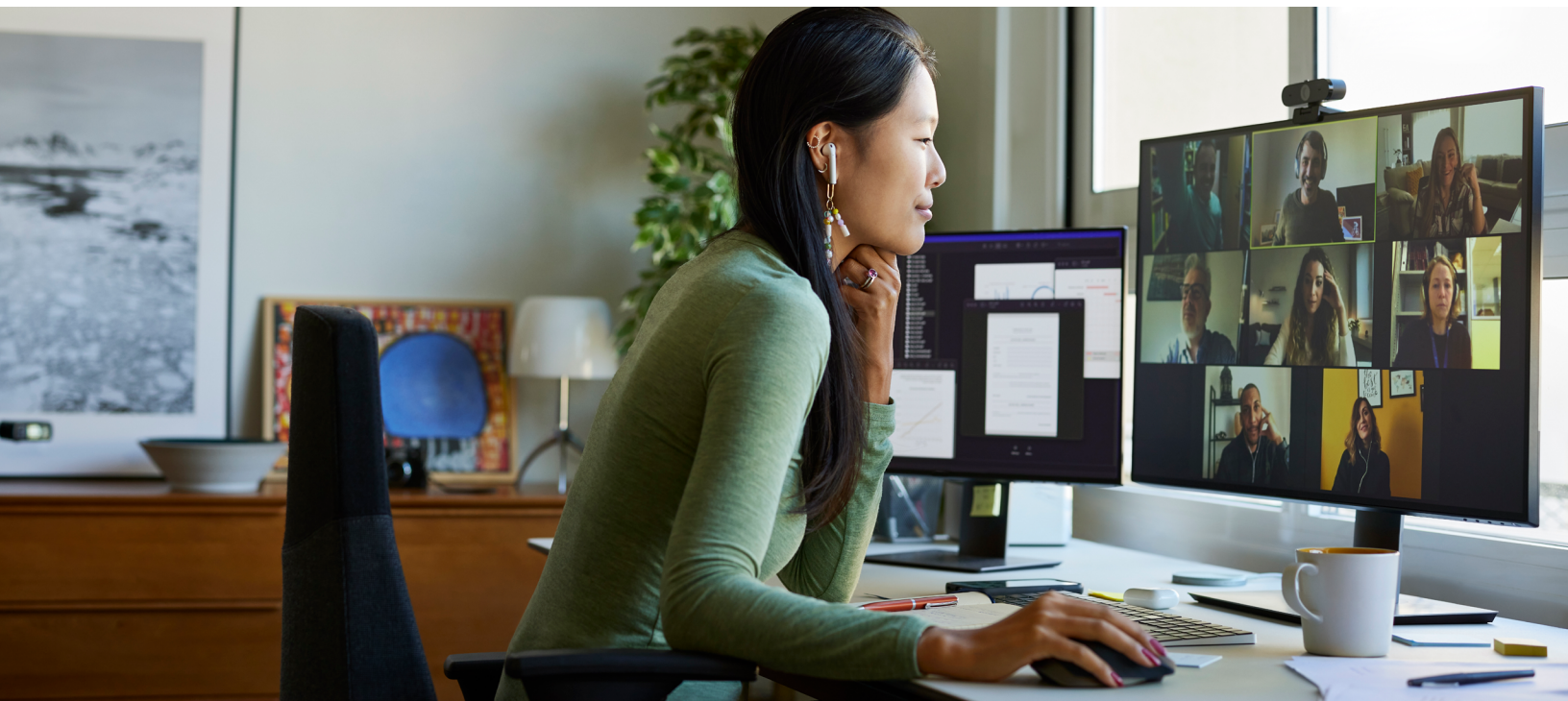
Linksys HomeWRK for Business provides real-time visibility tools to monitor and respond to cybersecurity threats, vulnerabilities, and incidents. Cloud Manager is a web-based tool that allows IT administrators to configure and manage HomeWRK devices remotely. HomeWRK also integrates with log management, analytics, reporting and SIEM platforms.



- **Cloud Manager Dashboard:** Our online Cloud Manager provides a single pane of glass for visibility and control.
- **Integration Support:** HomeWRK integrates with log management, analytics, reporting, security orchestration automation and response (SOAR) and SIEM platforms.
- **Compliance:** Linksys HomeWRK enables companies to develop corporate network security standards for the home office that align with the company's overall internal security standards and third-party cybersecurity standards such as, NIST 800-53, SOX, CMMC, HIPAA, and IEC 62443. By deploying the HomeWRK solution for all employees working remotely, organizations can better manage risks.

Performance & Manageability

Linksys HomeWRK for Business supports Wi-Fi 6 and Linksys Intelligent Mesh™, for high-speed whole-home coverage. Application optimization is built into HomeWRK, allowing employees working from home to collaborate more effectively prioritize applications, such as Zoom or Microsoft Teams. Linksys has greatly improved the manageability of home networking by simplifying provisioning, centralizing device management, and scaling distribution and fulfillment.





- **Intelligent Mesh and Wi-Fi 6:** Supports Linksys Intelligent Mesh and Wi-Fi 6 technology to deliver gigabit Wi-Fi speeds to every corner of the home.
- **Zero-Touch Provisioning:** Linksys provides coordinated staging, logistics and distribution of HomeWRK devices that enable Zero-Touch provisioning and remote administration to simplify the employee's user experience. Our Zero-Touch Provisioning simplifies the provisioning process by allowing end users to set up HomeWRK by simply powering on the device and connecting it to the network. We take care of the rest. IT administrators can pre-stage configurations on the HomeWRK device to automate setup and deployment without requiring onsite technical expertise.
- **Traffic Optimization:** Prioritization of traffic and to improve performance for bandwidth-intensive applications such as video conferencing.
- **Linksys Cloud Manager:** Cloud Manager is a cloud-based application that allows administrators to remotely manage HomeWRK devices.
- **Seamless Distribution:** Linksys provides global order management, staging, and fulfillment that eliminates the need for an IT administrator to physically administer the device before shipment. Linksys HomeWRK for Business is available provides large organizations with the ability to roll out the solution consistently, cost-effectively, and at scale.

Securing the Hybrid Workforce

Linksys HomeWRK for Business | Secured by Fortinet allows businesses of all sizes to enable their hybrid workforce, mitigate risks, and lower the cost of managing security.

Enable hybrid workforce productivity

Linksys HomeWRK for Business is a comprehensive home office network security solution that enables hybrid workforce productivity. In addition to strong security controls, HomeWRK for Business provides application optimization and prioritization. HomeWRK's support Wi-Fi 6 and Intelligent Mesh provides high-performance whole-home coverage.

Mitigate risks with improved security controls, compliance, and visibility

Linksys HomeWRK for Business provides IT leaders with an enterprise-grade security solution for the

home office. With Fortinet's Next Generation Firewall (NGFW) and FortiGuard Security Services built into Linksys HomeWRK, end users and administrators can implement the controls and visibility to be compliant with cybersecurity standards.

Lower cost of managing security with automated zero-touch provisioning and centralized management

With zero-touch provisioning, automation, and order fulfillment and logistics services, Linksys reduces the cost of deploying and managing Linksys HomeWRK devices globally. HomeWRK is designed to meet the needs of the largest global businesses.

Conclusion

Working from home is here to stay as businesses change the way they think about the way we think about work, employee retention, and enabling remote productivity. At the same time, cyber-attacks are on the rise. IT Leaders must address several challenges to protect home office networks, including untrusted home networks; lack of network visibility and control; lack of automation and management tools; unreliable home network performance; and maintaining employee privacy. Linksys HomeWRK for Business | Secured by Fortinet provides the security, visibility, control, compliance, manageability, and performance required by enterprise IT leaders and security organizations.

[Learn more about Linksys HomeWRK for Business.](#)

i "The Rise of Working from Home." The Economist. April 8, 2021.

ii "American Trends Panel Report 2021." Pew Research Center. January 2022.

iii "State of Remote Work 2021." Owl Labs. 2021.

iv "2." "1H 2021 Global Threat Landscape Report." Fortinet. August 2021.

v "2022 Global Threat Report." CrowdStrike. March 2022.

vi "2022 State of Phish Report." Proofpoint. January 2022.

vii "Why remote working leaves us vulnerable to cyber-attacks." BBC. July 2021.

viii "Cyber-crime – the risks of working from home." Deloitte AG. 2021.