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CIT
COMPUTER INTEGRATION TECHNOLOGIES

Make Security Intrinsic at the Desktop Level

Securing the primary gateway to enterprise resources and assets

Most organizations manage desktop security governance through a centralized server that authenticates connected devices when users log on to the network, and continually manages device permissions while devices are connected. While this process facilitates security management for IT departments, the mounting complexities of network sprawl, combined with the growing sophistication of hackers, add more vectors of attack that leave security professionals in catch-up mode.

A recent poll of enterprise security leaders found that 64% of respondents stated that network security is getting harder, with 21% of those polled affirming that network security is getting much harder.[1] Since most attacks take place at the desktop level, ensuring robust desktop security protection is essential.[2]

Preventing the Biggest Security Risks

Cybercrime is one of the biggest threats to businesses today, at an average cost of $11.7 million per organization.[3] Cyberattacks are not only financially costly, but they can also permanently damage a brand's reputation. Organizations can prevent the biggest security threats by taking certain steps, including the following:

- **Implement employee security training.** Employees with weak passwords, who visit unauthorized websites, click links and open email attachments from unknown senders, or who are otherwise uninformed of security policies present as big of a risk as an employee who accidentally leaves an unlocked device behind.
- **Secure personal devices on the network.** When employees' personal devices are regularly used outside enterprise firewalls, they can permit malware or Trojan horses to infect enterprise networks. Providing employees with access to enterprise systems via hybrid and private clouds can mitigate this risk with the added security and privacy they afford.
- **Remove unpatched devices.** Unpatched hardware and software make networks easily exploitable. PCs, laptops, servers, routers, and printers that don't have the latest security features or patches should be removed from the network immediately.
- **Monitor third-party vendors.** Many third-party organizations remotely access enterprise networks, often without following optimal security protocols like regularly updating passwords. By choosing only vendors who follow best practices and disable their accounts once they're no longer needed, organizations can reduce their attack perimeters.
- **Beware of internal attacks.** Disgruntled employees and former employees are a major cybersecurity threat. To mitigate this risk, IT managers must identify these accounts and disable them immediately.

Every Device Decision Is a Security Decision

In addition to putting in place the proper security policies, a smart investment in PCs and notebooks that provide built-in security features helps organizations mitigate breaches and protect enterprise assets. Hardened desktop security protection can be achieved by investing in secure PCs from HP, which are built with these advanced security features:

- **HP Sure Click.** Disables web-based attacks from spreading across other browser tabs, onto the PC, or infiltrating the network by containing the attack to an isolated tab.
- **HP Multi-Factor Authenticate.** Enables system administrators to require up to three authentication factors for login, including facial recognition and fingerprinting.
- **HP Sure View Gen3.** Prevents unwanted viewers from seeing the screen when the user presses F2 to activate a privacy filter.
- **HP Sure Run.** Keeps key security services running in the event of an attack.
- **HP Sure Start.** Inspects the system BIOS and automatically reinstalls it with a trusted copy in the event of an attack.

Count on Us for All Your Security Needs

Computer Integration Technologies, Inc. (CIT), an HP Silver Partner, offers a broad range of managed services, cybersecurity, hybrid IT solutions, and other services to support business growth. As a one-stop solution for all things IT, you can rely on us to keep your technology up-to-date and up-to-speed. By joining with top leaders in the technology industry, we support the products and services our clients need.

Contact us at 651.450.0333 or info@cit-net.com to learn more.

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[1] Security Boulevard, "14 Reasons Security Professionals Give for Why Network Security is Getting Harder," July 2, 2019.
[2] Vanson Bourne, commissioned by Bromium, "The Battle Against Cybercrime," Jan. 2017.
[3] Ponemon Institute, "2017 Cost of Cyber Crime Study," 2017.

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