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Why Your Network Isn't Ready for the Internet of Things

Written by Mohamed Awais of Avaya

Businesses face a tough reality—every day, employees, customers and partners bring a growing number of mobile devices into the enterprise, opening up the network to potential security risks. BYOD is just the beginning—the Internet of Things looms on the horizon, promising everything from networked medical devices to Web-enabled lightbulbs.

Companies need policies and controls in place to protect the network, recognizing that Internet-connected devices are their new, permanent reality.

Some companies ignore the problem; others ban all unsanctioned devices from connecting to the network. Most companies undertake an ad hoc, largely manual device provisioning process. Very few enterprise networks are as secure as they could be.

The solution lies, in part, inside the network itself. If your company is running a legacy network built on multiple IP protocol topologies, you should be concerned.

It's estimated that more than 70 percent of IT security breaches are caused by corporate network vulnerabilities—many of those caused by loose networking protections around BYOD and IoT.

Consider the average enterprise with thousands of mobile devices: Its IT staff provisions networked devices using conventional techniques, with little consideration to quality-of-service or security, randomly modifying and partitioning on an already-exhausted network. This is a recipe for disaster, as the enterprise's network endpoints are most likely running older operating systems, lacking modern protection against viruses and malware, default passwords—all of which potentially amplify the risk of an attack.

The industry is moving toward single-protocol networking technology, which create invisible networks and enables enterprises to deliver SDN functionalities all the way to the edge of the network quickly, securely and efficiently.

Avaya SDN Fx is built on a single-protocol network architecture that is unique in the industry today, and more than a year ahead of competing solutions. SDN Fx makes it easy to create virtual networks in real-time and completely automate services provisioning.

Avaya Fabric Attach is a complementary, standards-based technology that allows individual endpoints to attach automatically, configuring them to join their mission-specific network. Avaya's Open Networking Adapter delivers dynamic, automated and secure, policy-based connectivity for endpoints on your corporate network.

This combination of powerful tools gives enterprises the freedom to customize their security policies, easily deliver mobility and connectivity across the company and greatly reduce the risk of misuse or misappropriation on the network.

Instead of waiting for endpoints to get built with sufficient networking intelligence, which might take years, Avaya has a suite of solutions today that allow companies to embrace BYOD and IoT in a more secure environment. SDN Fx is the answer.