



Creating a modern workplace in a socially distant world

5 key priorities for empowering, securing and connecting your workplace in a more socially distant world.

A whitepaper by Lenovo and Blue Connections IT

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The COVID-19 pandemic has turned life on its head and its effects have been felt across virtually every sector, and every household. Businesses of all sizes have had to adjust – extremely quickly – to enable new, remote ways of working. Investment in workplace collaboration solutions has skyrocketed, IT teams have been challenged with supporting very disparate and complex remote working set-ups and businesses have had to update or initiate ‘working from home’ policies and processes.

While some businesses have adjusted seamlessly, others are only just finding their feet and others continue to face all kinds of hurdles. Most companies acknowledge the speed of change has left considerable gaps – particularly when it comes to the employee experience, and overall workplace security.

At the same time, these new, remote ways of working look set to stay – at least in some capacity – for many Australian businesses. Approximately 74% of CFOs surveyed by Gartner expect some of their employees who were forced to work from home because of COVID-19 to continue working remotely after the pandemic ends.¹

In this eBook, we share five key priorities for Australian businesses looking to adjust and thrive in this new more distant world and explain how a Blue Connections IT’s Modern Workplace solution with the latest Lenovo devices and Microsoft 365, can help.

“Remote working is here to stay and will more than ever become an integral part of the way we work. Now is the time for companies to prepare for this ‘back to the new normal.’”

Ernst and Young - Why remote working will be the new normal, even after COVID-19²

“This is a time of unprecedented innovation, where staying with the status quo is not an option, and strategies are executed based on data not experience.”³

Microsoft – The Modern Workforce

1.

An engaged, capable, mobile workforce

Even before COVID-19, employees were expecting increasing levels of flexibility and mobility when it comes to when and how they can be productive.

Employees are already working on twice the number of teams than they were five years' ago⁴, and remote working looks set to stay – at least in some capacity – in Australian businesses of all sizes.

Technology plays a clear and obvious role in enabling this productive, remote workforce. Already, mobile and tablet usage exceeds desktop usage worldwide⁵.

And, according to a recent survey by The Economist, respondents who identified their organisation as a 'pioneer' in its use of mobile technology scored 16% higher for productivity than respondents who described their organisation's use of mobile technology as "bad"⁶.

How can Blue Connections IT help?

To cater for the fact that remote working has become the new 'normal', it's important that businesses provide employees with the means to securely access company networks, documents and communications systems from devices they are already familiar with.

This also means giving employees ongoing access to the most modern and up-to-date devices – like the latest Lenovo devices, which are included as part of a Blue Connections IT Modern Workplace solution.

74% of CFOs expect some of their employees who were forced to work from home because of COVID-19 to continue working remotely after the pandemic ends.⁷

Gartner

2.

Rapid, simple and effective collaboration

Another vital marker of an effective, remote modern workplace is collaboration. To provide exemplary customer service and to work as efficiently as possible, employees need the tools to communicate anywhere and at any time, via multiple channels.

According to a recent global study by a U.S university⁸:

- 86% of employees and executives cite a lack of collaboration or ineffective communication for workplace failures
- 97% of employees and executives believe a lack of alignment within a team impacts the outcome of a task or a project
- 39% of surveyed employees think people in their organisation don't collaborate enough.

How can Blue Connections IT help?

In this new, more socially distant era, more and more businesses are turning to cloud-based solutions such as Microsoft 365, which can be accessed on the latest Lenovo devices as part of a Blue Connections IT Modern Workplace solution.

This powerful, cloud-based software enables individual workers to work productively and to collaborate from anywhere – securely sharing files and working together to get the best possible outcomes for the business.

3.

Data is central, secure, recoverable

The amount of data within businesses is increasing at an astronomical rate. Even though most already store huge volumes of data, many don't use it to its full capacity. Plus, with an increasing percentage of Australians now working from home on a disparate collection of devices, effective security has become an imperative and is complicated by increased global and local data regulations.

According to a recent survey by Trend Micro, the theft or loss of a mobile device is one of the main causes of security breach for organisations⁹. At the same time, device loss is the major cause of data theft (41% of breaches) ahead of those derived from hacking and malware (25% of breaches)¹⁰. And according to Microsoft, 160 million customer records are leaked through holes in organisations' security processes.¹¹

How can Blue Connections IT help?

With Microsoft 365 as part of a Blue Connections IT Modern Workplace solution, businesses have access to a suite of powerful data analytics tools which can help drive insight and determine decision-making. Businesses can also benefit from the enterprise-grade security offered by Microsoft 365, Lenovo devices, and Blue Connections' expert support.



4.

Support for diverse workplace contracts

According to a recent survey by recruitment firm Robert Half, the way in which people are employed is set to change in coming years. They suggest that the workplace of the future will embrace a different resource configuration with job rotation (34%) interim staff (33%), and job sharing - either with an automated tool (29%) - or with other part-time employees (28%) becoming the norm¹².

The survey also reveals an imminent change in employment contracts across all levels with contract/ interim workers operating on either a short-term, or less than six months (33%), or long-term basis of more than six months (41%), catching-up with permanent employees (37%).

Given this, it's becoming increasingly important for businesses to have flexible set-up with regards to their IT infrastructure.

How can Blue Connections IT help?

With a Blue Connections IT Modern Workplace solution, our expert team takes care of the frequent on-boarding and off-boarding requirements instead of a business needing to manage it internally. By investing in cloud-based licensing, businesses can also scale up and down depending on demand – rather than over-spending on traditional software licenses.

5.

Employees are productive, reliable and efficient

One of the main characteristics of a modern workplace is productivity. When enabled by the right processes and technology, employees can work far more efficiently and accurately – which has significant flow-on benefits in terms of the overarching customer experience.

How can Blue Connections IT help?

With Microsoft 365 on the latest Lenovo devices as part of a Blue Connections IT Modern Workplace solution, employees gain access to a range of familiar tools to help them work as productively and easily as possible. They can communicate readily and securely, from anywhere, make video calls when they're out of the office, share files, chat, co-author documents in a range of formats and much more.

Blue Connections IT Modern Workplace Solution

The best Lenovo hardware

A world-leader in quality hardware, Lenovo offers a broad range of innovative hardware specifically designed for the needs of the modern workplace. Whether for a team of one or 100, Lenovo has the technology that's needed to run a modern business.

Microsoft 365

Today, people, systems, and operations need to connect in new ways. Regardless of where, or what, work needs to get done, Microsoft can help. With Microsoft 365 on Lenovo hardware, businesses can create a truly modern workplace. This innovative software combines Office 365, Windows 10, and enterprise mobility and security into one powerful and seamless solution.

Blue Connections IT's Managed Services

As well as helping source and deploy new hardware and software, the team at Blue Connections IT can offer all the services that businesses need on an ongoing basis, including user account profile management, data back up and restoration, mobile device management, security and 24/7 support.



Why choose Blue Connections IT?

Blue Connections IT is a provider of best-in-class IT solutions to a range of Australian businesses in both the public and private sectors. We design, supply, implement and manage end-to-end technology solutions and services and are established industry leaders, with over 500 ongoing customers. Blue Connections IT also has a strong partnership with Lenovo and Microsoft. This enables us to create a modern workplace package with fully managed service support and flexible tailored options through the whole lifecycle, all for a transparent monthly fee.

We can alleviate some of the pressure which Australian businesses are under in the current climate, by helping businesses create effective, agile and responsive workplaces. Our **Modern Workplace Solution** includes industry-leading Lenovo hardware, Microsoft 365 licenses, and Blue Connections IT's renowned managed services and support – with the convenience of knowing your monthly cost in advance.

Find out more:

Contact our expert team for a consultation on **1800 659 477**

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