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ENTER THE ERA OF

ZERO TRUST SECURITY
WITH CISCO AND ZONES

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A new approach for a new security climate.

It's important to understand that the ways we do business have fundamentally changed in just the last couple of years. As organizations worldwide have adapted during the pandemic, we've witnessed the rapid rise of remote and hybrid work, which means IT looks dramatically different today than it did before 2020.

This has brought all sorts of challenges where security is concerned. Companies are dealing with an increase in complexity, clearly – how do you secure your IT environment when the very nature of that environment has transformed? IT is dealing with more remote locations, more devices, and more endpoints than ever before. Additionally, they're looking at an increased attack surface compared to pre-pandemic, and more gaps in visibility because of all the remote users and devices.

Through it all, security is still paramount.

This eBook will discuss how organizations today can adapt and keep up – as well as how Cisco and Zones can lend a helping hand.

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The trouble with the old security paradigm

For a long time, businesses have largely been content with a traditional approach to data security.

In short, corporate networks and other IT assets have traditionally trusted users based on the locations that their access requests come from. In other words, if someone is in your office location, or on your network, it's simply assumed that they can access whatever they please.

There are glaring flaws in this approach – most importantly, it's too easy for hackers to crack. Once an attacker gains access to your network, they can fairly easily move laterally to get to the crown jewels.

A better approach to security is one that relies not merely on location data, but on specific identities of specific users. It's not about where people are – it's about who they are, what access they need, and how to grant them that access without any unnecessary gaps in security.

It's time for a "zero trust" approach

The old approach companies used for security was too porous – too easy for outside intruders to crack into. What works better is a "zero trust" approach.

Here's the difference: When you have a zero trust philosophy, trust must be established for every access request, regardless of where the request is coming from. No one is trusted automatically.

The impact of this paradigm shift should be significant. When organizations move to a zero trust strategy, they should be able to secure all access, across both their network and their applications. They can ensure that only the right users and devices have access to their corporate IT assets. And they can more fully support a modern enterprise including bring your own device (BYOD), cloud apps, hybrid environments, and more.

Behold the power of Cisco Secure Zero Trust

Cisco and Zones have a solution to help your business move to a zero trust strategy more effectively – it's Cisco Secure Zero Trust.

This solution represents a comprehensive approach to securing all access across your networks, applications, and environment. Let's break down all the key components:

- **Zero Trust for Workforce:** Ensure only the right users and secure devices can access applications.
- **Zero Trust for Workloads:** Secure all connections within your apps, even across a multi-cloud environment.
- **Zero Trust for Workplace:** Secure all user and device connections across your network, including IoT.

When you have all three of these solutions working in concert – plus support from Zones with overseeing and managing your environment – you can sleep easy, knowing your IT will be secure and that only those who need access will have it.

Cisco Secure Zero Trust has made a real-life impact

For proof that adopting Cisco security solutions has made a tangible difference in the business world, you don't have to look far.

There are many real-world examples out there of the impact of Cisco's work. Let's explore a few...

AT&T: *The Fortune 500 telecom giant turned to Cisco for assistance with ensuring secure network access, enabling mobility and Internet of Things (IoT) capabilities, and ensuring cybersecurity, especially with respect to malware. Cisco was able to deliver in all of these areas. Their security solutions not only gave users reliable and secure access to their network, but also gave their IT resources clear visibility into their environment, making it easier to contain potential threats and also ensure endpoint security and compliance.*

University of Louisville Hospital: *This large healthcare facility needed to adopt a zero trust security framework in order to reduce their attack surface and protect their employees' Office 365 infrastructure, as well as other apps that were critical to their success. Working with Cisco helped the organization to more easily secure their protected health information (PHI), while also not impeding their clinicians' productivity. They were also able to better meet regulatory compliance requirements such as HIPAA and PCI.*

Cisco Secure Zero Trust has made a real-life impact (cont'd)

First National Bank: *The oldest bank in South Africa turned to Cisco for support with increasing data center visibility, improving problem identification and troubleshooting, and defending against persistent and multi-faceted cyberattacks. Cisco was able to step in and help, and their solutions gave FNB's technology team a detailed picture of their application connectivity, dependencies, and data flows. They also accelerated problem resolution from tens of hours to minutes, and they reduced the company's malware infection rate from 9% to a mere 0.1%.*

Balancing employee productivity with security has always been a challenge, and it's becoming even more so as IT environments grow more complex and cyberthreats become more threatening. But Cisco has proven time and time again that their solutions have what it takes to bolster organizations' security and make everyone's lives easier. The only question now is whether your organization will be next.
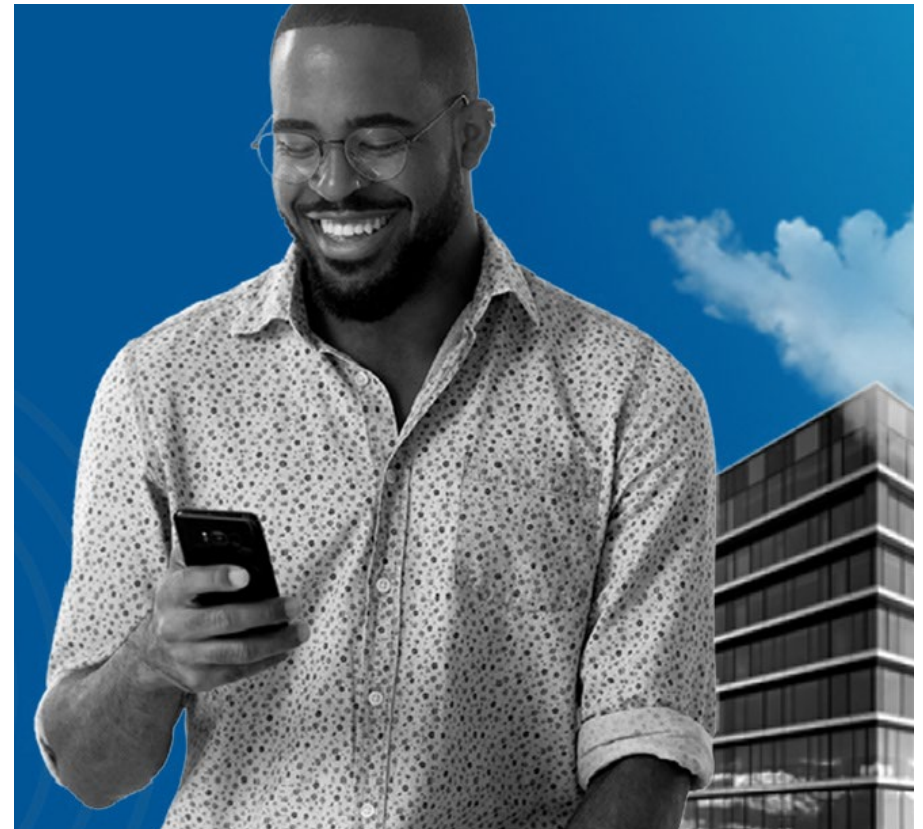
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About Cisco and Zones

Cisco has always had a commitment to delivering innovative IT solutions that increase efficiency and free up your resources so your business can achieve more. This is the idea behind their collaboration, data center, and enterprise networking solutions – and it's absolutely the case with their zero trust security suite as well.

With Cisco Secure Zero Trust, the goal is to extend state-of-the-art security capabilities across your entire organization, from end to end. These days, that's more challenging than ever – but Cisco has what it takes to get the job done.

And at Zones, we're proud to say that we're a Cisco Gold Certified Partner. That means we have a level of expertise on Cisco's offerings that's second to none, and our team of experts can get you up and running with Cisco's solutions in no time. If you'd like to learn more, just reach out. A Zones Account Manager would love to hear from you.

Visit our website below to learn more ways Zones,
and Cisco can benefit your business.

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