

The Telework Network

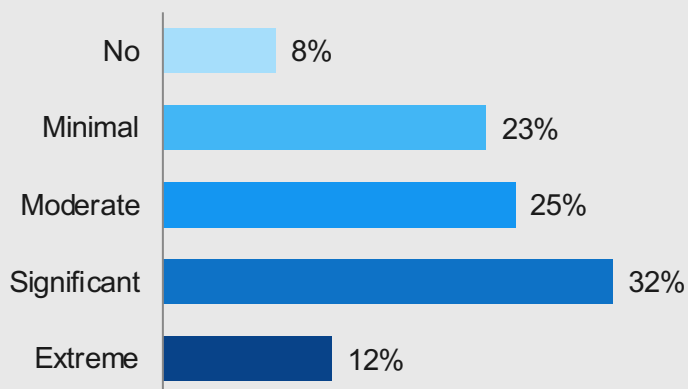
Exploring Network Confidence & Concerns in the Era of Federal Telework

Introduction

COVID-19 has caused a great migration of government work from the office to the living room. A new poll by Government Business Council (GBC) suggests that employees anticipate lasting changes to teleworking policies in response to this crisis. While network infrastructure is critical to support telework, many employees do not have strong confidence in their network's ability to meet current and future IT needs.

COVID-19 will cause agencies to greatly adapt their telework policies

“Because of COVID-19, my agency will need to make _____ change(s) to my agency’s telework policies and practices.”



Percentage of respondents, n=259
Note: Percentages may not add up to 100% due to rounding

- **44%** of respondents say their agency will need to make significant or extreme changes to their telework policy.
- **Over 9 in 10** respondents believe their agency will need to revise their telework practices in the coming months.

“Maximize telework across the nation for the Federal workforce (including mandatory telework, if necessary), while maintaining mission-critical workforce needs.”

Memorandum for the Heads of Departments and Agencies, March 17, 2020¹

Cisco’s Perspective

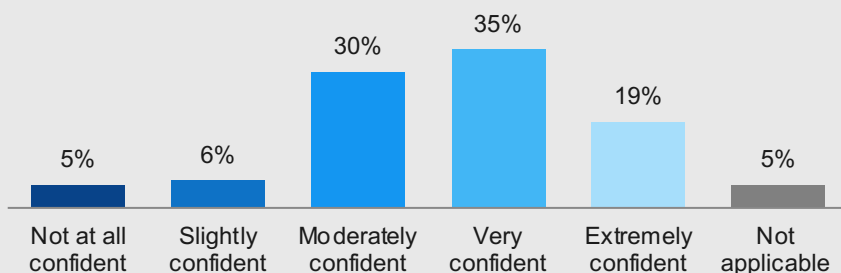
As GBC’s poll of federal decision-makers shows, COVID-19 is rewriting the nature of government work. In order to serve the public effectively, federal employees will need a resilient network infrastructure that can adapt dynamically in the telework era. Cisco infrastructure solutions provide reliable, automated, and secure networking for your mission-critical data across your access, edge, core, data center and Internet connections.

With Cisco critical network infrastructure solutions you can:

- Modernize your network with converged IP and optical architectures to connect your data centers and transport your data
- Scale your network performance with modular, high density, power efficient, and secure routing platforms
- Simplify and accelerate network provisioning, management and operations with automation solutions

More than half are confident in existing cybersecurity infrastructure

Given the recent government-wide shift to telework, how confident are you in the cybersecurity of your existing network infrastructure?



Percentage of respondents, n=258
Note: Percentages may not add up to 100% due to rounding

- **54%** of employees are very or extremely confident in the cybersecurity of their network infrastructure.
- **Only 11%** say they are not at all or slightly confident in the cybersecurity of their network.

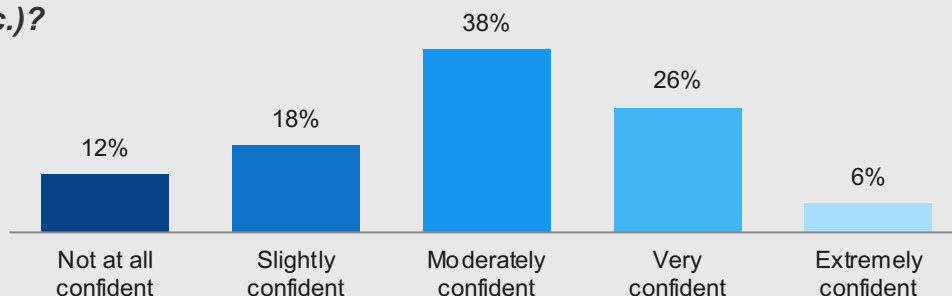
“They’re already taking advantage of the situation and the environment that we have on hand.”

Department of Defense Deputy CIO Essye Miller on the rise of cybersecurity attacks during the pandemic

However, 68% are *not* very confident their network will meet future IT needs

- **30%** of all respondents say they are slightly or not at all confident in their network’s ability to support current and future needs.
- **Only 6%** are extremely confident that their network infrastructure can support current and future needs.

How confident are you that your agency’s network infrastructure can support its current and future IT needs (i.e. telework, telehealth, cloud, 5G, edge computing, artificial intelligence, machine learning, etc.)?



Percentage of respondents, n=257
Note: Percentages may not add up to 100% due to rounding

Methodology

GBC fielded a 3-question poll on network infrastructure concerns to a random sample of 259 federal civilian employees in April 2020.

Sources

1. Office of Management and Budget: “Federal Agency Operational Alignment to Slow the Spread of Coronavirus COVID-19.” March 2020. <https://www.whitehouse.gov/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/M-20-16.pdf>
2. Defense One: “Attacks on DOD Networks Soar as Telework Inflicts ‘Unprecedented’ Loads.” March 2020. <https://www.defenseone.com/threats/2020/03/attacks-dod-networks-spike-telework-brings-unprecedented-loads/163812/>

About Government Business Council

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