

The way we work has changed beyond recognition and the traditional 9-5 office job, chained to the desk, for most has become a thing of the past. More and more people are able to work remotely, from a variety of locations, and often at a time of day that suits them best.

Flexible working can bring many benefits to your business, including happier employees, a boost in productivity, improved staff retention and a smaller carbon footprint.

Three quarters of UK employees say that the option of working flexibly would make a job more attractive to them while nearly a third would prefer flexible working to a pay rise¹.

Just 6% of people in the UK now work 9am-5pm².

89% of UK workers consider flexible working to be a key motivator to their productivity levels³.

It's expected that half of the UK workforce will work remotely by 2020⁴.

UK workers are demanding flexibility more than ever. A survey found that 77% of respondents – and 84% of millennials – agreed that companies need to provide more remote options to attract talent.

One in 10 UK workers now prefer to work outside the traditional office altogether, thanks to modern technological developments⁵.



In order to enable employees to work this flexibly, businesses need to provide reliable and secure connectivity so that staff can work just as productively as if they were in the office.



Superfast connectivity over multi-site and global businesses

Our MPLS solutions allow multi-site businesses to share IP services and data via our high bandwidth core network. Remote workers can benefit from using a VPN to gain access to a shared MPLS network of sites.

53% of UK employees feel their companies aren't doing enough to meet the needs of modern day and remote flexible working.⁶

You need:

- > A fully managed network.
- > Visibility and monitoring 24/7/365.
- > Seamless integration of all sites globally, regardless of access mechanism.
- > Fast delivery.
- > Fully scalable both nationally and internationally.

Providing **secure access** to vital business resources

- > A third of organisations claim to have experienced a data loss or breach as a direct result of mobile working.
- > Over half said that the biggest concern with mobile workers is the complexity of the technologies and software they used and the inability to secure them effectively.

95% of UK employees are struggling with remote working and security.⁷



You need:

- > A resilient VPN (Virtual Private Network) solution to allow secure access to business resources, including emails and intranet.
- > Highly available FortiGate firewalls offering SSL VPNs to encrypt the traffic between your endpoint devices and your office network.
- > A client application for all operating systems and mobiles. This can integrate with existing Active Directory infrastructure and can be set up to allow different users access to different resources based on their login details.
- > Two factor authentication (2FA) for remote workers. This adds an additional layer of security to the VPN authentication process, making it harder for attackers to gain access to your employees devices and corporate network.

Providing employees with the **right devices**

84% of British companies now offer technologies to allow people to work remotely. Web conferencing, instant messaging and collaborative documents are de rigeur for many of today's home workers.⁹

68% of 16-25 year olds prioritised remote working, compared to just 54% of over 55s.⁸



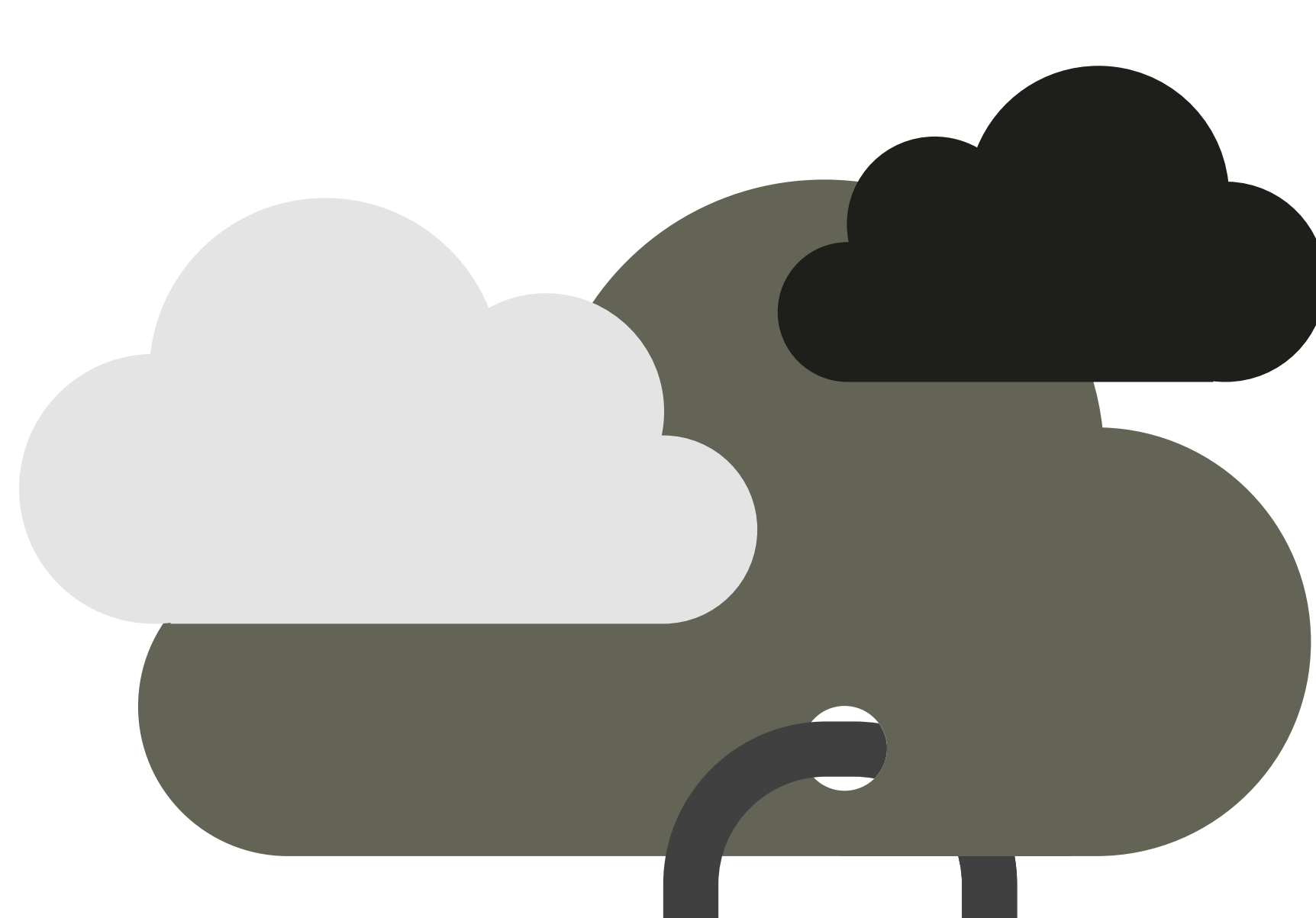
You need:

A hosted telephony solution that can work over the internet securely. This does not need a traditional office LAN to function and users can choose whether they would like a desk phone or soft phone client, offering flexibility of service. Each of these can function without any fancy network set-up, just using your home router.

Enabling **flexible** and **secure access** to the cloud

Moving your IT estate into the cloud can make a real difference to your business future without compromising your security, telephony, call recording and contacts centres.

Ubiquitous high-speed mobile internet, artificial intelligence, widespread adoption of big data analytics and cloud technology are set to dominate 2018–2022 as drivers positively affecting business growth.¹⁰



You need:

- > Instant access to your data and tools, wherever you choose to work.
- > Secure and resilient data centre hosting, ensuring service uptime is maximised.
- > Disaster recovery, guaranteeing service continuity in the event of an outage.

¹ Powownow <https://www.powownow.co.uk/smarter-working/flexible-working-statistics-2017>

² YouGov <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/business-45253060>

³ HSBC <https://workplacesight.net/nine-ten-employees-believe-flexible-working-key-boosting-productivity>

⁴ OddsMonkey <https://smallbusiness.co.uk/half-uk-workforce-remotely-2020-2540827/>

⁵ Owl Labs <http://hrnews.co.uk/remotely-working-is-on-the-rise-but-is-the-uk-workplace-keeping-up/>

⁶ Apricorn <https://www.apricorn.com/press/ninety-five-percent-of-uk-businesses-still-struggling-with-mobile-working-and-security-of-data-continues-to-cause-concern>

⁷ Vikings <https://www.consultancy.uk/news/18651/uk-workers-favour-four-day-week-and-increased-remote-working>

⁸ IDC <https://www.telegraph.co.uk/business/ready-and-enabled/work-from-home/>

⁹ IDC <https://www.telegraph.co.uk/business/ready-and-enabled/work-from-home/>

¹⁰ World Economic Forum http://www3.weforum.org/docs/WEF_Future_of_Jobs_2018.pdf