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# Empower IT team to handle Hybrid Workforce with Cisco Best Practices, Tools and Tips

Vijayanand CD (VCD) | Technical Solutions Architect BRKOPS-1700

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# Speaker Introduction



A student with 20 years of industry experience

16 Years in Cisco & 04 Years with Cisco Partners Held various roles in Cisco

- Network Consulting Engineer
- On-site Engineer
- Focal Engineer
- Technical Leader
- Consulting System Engineer
- Technical Solutions Architect

Dual CCIE # 20769 (Routing & Switching | Datacenter) MSc in Mobile Communication and Internet Technologies MSc in Software and Systems Security\*



\*Final year

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- What is Changing?
- Raising Challenges
- Build an Operational model

#### Best Practices, Tips & Tools

- Not a product deep dive session
- Scope is limited to Workforce



Agenda

## What is Hybrid Work?

Hybrid Work is an **approach** that designs the work experience around and for the worker, wherever they are. It **empowers people** to work onsite, offsite, and moving between locations. [Cisco]

What is Changing?



Server farms are shifting to laaS



Surge in SaaS based Applications





User work off the network (Distributed workforce)



Evolving policies on digital sovereignty

Traffic flow pattern changed



Source: Gartner

# **Raising Challenges**



# Data assets moving outside the corporate network

 Increasing attack surfaces with BYOD and Mobile workers

#### Optimal allocation of IT resources

- Limited Hardware resources (and Internet Bandwidth)
- Shift towards Remote IT / Sec Ops

# Maintain secure access to business-critical applications

- Traffic hair pinning and Impact on user experience



# A Problem? or An Opportunity?

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The greatest **danger** in times of turbulence is not the turbulence; it is to act with **yesterday's logic**.

Peter Drucker

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# Hybrid Workforce

Components of a Secure Remote Worker





# "Remote Transport"

# What is the first thing coming in our mind ?

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# "VPN"

# Do we still need Remote Access VPN ?

# Yes or No?

Not exactly a "Yes" nor a "No" 💮

Are we in a transformation stage?



Server farms are shifting to laaS



Surge in SaaS based Applications

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# Secure Transport

Remote Access Virtual Private Network (RA VPN)

- Manage the traffic throughout to avoid high load on headend CPU
- Dedicate devices to server only as VPN termination points
- Direct only necessary traffic into the tunnel

#### # of RA VPN sessions + Traffic Load = Impact on Performance



Use **split tunnel** feature as a best practices for performance optimization without sacrificing security

Tip



### Only necessary traffic into the tunnel Optimization

AnyConnect by default will send (secure) all traffic over the tunnel Split Tunnelling is a method of *selectively* forward traffic based on;

- Static Split-tunnel IPv4/IPv6 Address
- Dynamic Split-tunnel Domains (FQDNs)
  - Enhanced Dynamic Split-tunnel



**Cisco Defense Orchestrator** (CDO) a cloud-based management solution that allows you to centrally manage security policies and device configurations across multiple Cisco products



# Enhanced Dynamic Split-tunnel Exclude VPN Headend Unamic-split-exclude-domains vork.example.com Vpnmic-split-include-domains vork.example.com Vint.example.com Vpnmic-split-include-domains vork.example.com Vint.example.com Vpnmic-split-include-domains Vint.example.com Vint.example.c

Dynamic Split-tunnel Exclude + Dynamic Split-tunnel Include = Enhanced Dynamic Split Tunnel



Do not create long list of destinations. Endpoint device has to perform route lookup to route the traffic. This may have CPU performance issues

Tip on endpoint.

Recommended Session

BRKCOC-2225 Work from Anywhere: How we scaled for Hybrid & Work from Home

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# How we protect **off VPN** traffic to internet ?





) Automate

Transform

# Secure Transport

Secure Off VPN traffic with Cisco Umbrella



Add extra layer of security to all Internet-bound traffic



Block malware, phishing and command & control call backs over any port



Real-time visibility into all internet activity per hostname





Use AnyConnect Network Visibility Module (NVM) module to enable greater visibility across users, endpoints, and applications, and facilitates analytics

Tip on contextual telemetry data

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Recommended Session BRKCOC-2032 Cisco IT

# Cisco Umbrella DNS Policies

Layer DNS policies for bottom-up approach





Use **Tags** to group roaming computers to enforce policies for a group of roaming computers

Tip

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Note: Tags are only available for roaming computer identity types.

# How do we **Monitor** and **Optimize** the traffic on split-tunnel?





Cisco AnyConnect Network Visibility Module (NVM) Build a holistic view across entire network

- Collect and send data when on premises and/or VPN connected (including split tunneling)
- Very small impact on endpoint due to low level stream level interception
- Get 24-hour rolling cache of flow data when disconnected
- Can exclude selective context variables to meet privacy requirements



Tools

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Recommended Session

BRKSEC-2834 Cisco's Unified Agent: Cisco Secure Client. Brining AMP, AnyConnect, Orbital & Umbrella together

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Automate

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) Utilize

Automate

# Automate AnyConnect Split-Tunnel

Microsoft Office 365 URLs and IP address may get updated each month

Microsoft provides a JSON-formatted feed of their networks and domains for their various cloud services.

Automate the update process

- Fetch the online services information JSON from Microsoft website
- Use script to parse the JSON into ASA commands
- SSH to an Adaptive Security Appliance and execute the commands

Use **SecureX** to automate the workflow to fetch JSON and push the URLs & IP addresses into the split-tunnel list in ASA

Tools





VPN Headend FW

# VPN Capacity Expansion

Dynamically expand ASA headend capacity using Amazon EC2 If an existing ASA has VPN user load say over 70%

## Logical Workflow Example

If = load > 70% then spin up new ASAv instance in EC2

##Optional to update in Webex Teams print = Webex Teams "message xxx " else repeat verification after yy time



Automate



Tip

Use pre-build workflows & atomic actions of SecureX available in GitHub (https://ciscosecurity.github.io/sxo-05-security-workflows)

Recommended Session



ecurity Automation: Developing with SecureX

# Transform existing remote access IT infrastructure



To support the hybrid environment - On-premises, Public Cloud, SaaS



Consistence operational model across the hybrid environment



Gain visibility and provide access to all your apps from home, in the office and anywhere

A **zero-trust** approach allows to manage risk across all locations, connections, and devices

) Utilize

Transform



Establish Trust | Enforce Trust-based Access | Continuously verify Trust

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- Do they have access to the right applications?
- Is their device secure?
- Is their device trusted?





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Workforce

#### Cisco Secure Access by Duo

Establish Trust	Multi Factor Authentication (MFA)
Enforce Trust based Access	Adaptive and role-based access controls
Continues Trust Verification	Duo Device Health App
From	Anywhere
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Transform

# Zero-Trust !!! Where do I start ????





# Zero-Trust - Where do I start?



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Start to implement multi-factor authentication (MFA) in VPN with Cisco Secure Access by Duo



Gain complete visibility into all your devices



Evolve it as a best practice to enforce zero-trust network access (ZTNA) to all employees regardless of their location (office or remote)





Transform

# Self-Enrollment: Easily enroll users in minutes

- Users easily self-enroll in minutes
- Users leverage their own device
- Enroll thousands of users in hours
- Reduce TCO by enabling the user to easily enroll with no help needed







Recommended Session BRKCOC-2620 Cisco Zero Trust: Device-Focused Deep-dive

# A Problem? or An Opportunity?

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# Empower IT team



Start Zero Trust journey with Cisco Secure Access by **Duo** layering additional security for Remote access



# In the middle of Difficulty lies Opportunity

Albert Einstein



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## Learn more with these next steps



Attend / <u>listen</u> to relevant sessions

SD-WAN is going managed: is SASE next? - PSOGEN-1028

How to supercharge your Next-Gen network with AlOps and Managed Services - BRKNWT-2208

Don't Panic!! The New Hybrid Workplace can be Operated and Managed - BRKOPS-2513





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