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We all know that the current novel Coronavirus has caused schools to move online for the rest of the semester. Jobs have also closed and are forcing people to work from home. While it does have its benefits of being comfy in your home and safe, have you ever thought about the effect it could have on internet traffic and internet service providers? Companies like IBM have most of their employees already working from home and have different methods of helping keep their people, focused, engaged, and on task. For many of us, it presents a new challenge: simply being on the internet all at the same time could cause problems with the speed of the internet.

According to an article on CNN titled, *“The coronavirus is creating an enormous stress test of America’s internet,*” published on March 17th, 2020,” The United States' internet and wireless networks are coming under immense pressure to deliver reliable connectivity as schools and businesses confronting the novel coronavirus have shifted their day-to-day operations out of the workplace and into homes.” It hasn’t even been a week and Webex which is a digital conferencing platform has seen that its usage has increased dramatically. According to Cisco,” In the last 10 days, the company said, usage of the platform globally has doubled, with 3.2 million meetings conducted on Webex in the last 24 hours alone. More than 300 million people use the Webex platform on a monthly basis.” Seeing this alone which is companies connecting with each other, causes a little more concern because the online class formats haven’t begun yet. Security is also a concern during this time. As it states in the article, “Many VPNs are not built to handle entire companies or organizations logging on at the same time.” A VPN is virtual private network which creates a virtual private network across a public network. It enables users to send and receive data across shared or public networks as if their computing devices were directly connected to the private network. Hackers especially in times of fear and desperation tend to be most active as they are trying to trick people into opening certain emails and phishing for their information while also hacking into company meetings that contain sensitive information.

While working at home, it does have its benefits, it also has its pullbacks. It allows you to be in the comfort of your home and allows you to walk freely to grab a snack which can enhance creativity. While the downside could be that if you’re not used to being at home, it can be distracting and hard to focus on the task at hand. IBM recommends taking a shower and not working in your pajamas but dressed in a professional way so it can enhance your job performance and keep you focused at the task on hand. I think if companies see an increase in job performance, they will take into consideration of having people to work from home. Working from home can help the corporate people save money on office space but it would affect building owners and corporate would have to provide the people working from home all the equipment necessary to be able to do it effectively. Instead on an increase in sale of routers, I saw that people are worried because they might be outdated, and this could be a problem wish could rush the production of newer equipment. This newer and updated media could result faulty if rushed which could then cause an even bigger issue.

In conclusion, I think that internet speed will for sure be affected by the number of users that will be online the next couple of weeks. I do think there are benefits in being able to work from home, but I also think there are also many drawbacks, such as being able to interact with people and social skills. I do think people will be paying more attention to their home networking capabilities as people aren’t really patient nowadays and hate waiting. They will try to optimize their usage even if it means buying more expensive media such as fiber and updated switches and routers. VPNs will for sure be growing as people will need it built into their equipment to provide a level of security for them and their companies.

Source:

https://www.cnn.com/2020/03/17/tech/internet-infrastructure-coronavirus/index.html