

BYOD New Workplace Trend

See Kay Leong (2 mins)

There is a big shift in workplace trend, apparent with the BYOD trend. Traditionally, enterprise provides and manages the user devices. A new employee will typically be issued a corporate standard workstation, could be a desktop or notebook that may be pre-installed with all the standard applications an employee needs to be productive when on the corporate network. And, as a new student, could buy a tablet or notebook approved by the school. Having said that, it has always been pre-installed with applications required for his or her studies. These devices can access the campus network only when a student is in the campus. The IT operations will have full visibility and control on the user and applications with security management reaching all the way to the end devices.

The proliferation of devices and BYOD has resulted in the new workplace trend. Devices are getting cheaper, wider range, people are getting more IT savvy, and wants to use their choice of device anytime, wherever they go as long as there are connectivity. To the users, they are the owner of their own devices, work has become a function on these devices, and they wants to be able to perform this function wherever they go. More and more applications such as email, chat, file storage do not tied to a particular operating system.

The IT operations must be able to support the diversity of devices owned by employees or students. However, control of these user devices cannot be done at the device level for scalability issues and ease of control. IT operations need to implement control beyond the devices, onto the applications. Security management is done in the network instead of at the device level to support implementation of BYOD.