

Mid-sized businesses want security embedded in the network

Network security study reveals key challenges for IT decision makers

MONROE, La., Oct. 18, 2018 /PRNewswire/ -- In the fight to secure their operations with limited IT budgets and resources, mid-sized business leaders want their networks to provide embedded security solutions. More than 70 percent of IT decision makers from businesses ranging in size from 11-500 employees found network-based security solutions improve businesses' overall security, according to a new network security study of 250 IT professionals conducted by Spiceworks and sponsored by [CenturyLink, Inc.](#) (NYSE: CTL).

Read the study: <http://www.centurylink.com/asset/business/enterprise/white-paper/what-it-decision-makers-really-think-gems-network-security-white-paper.pdf>.

"As cyber threats evolve and proliferate, mid-sized businesses face the particular challenge of protecting themselves from the same sophisticated operators as large enterprises, but with far fewer staff and resources," said [Vernon Irvin](#), president of CenturyLink's government, education, medium and small business group. "For today's digital businesses, it's essential for security to be seamless with the network, rather than a series of add-on solutions."

Key Findings

- Nearly 80 percent of IT decision makers in the survey manage network security in-house.
- Survey respondents oversee an average of three wide-area networks (WAN), most commonly fiber/carrier ethernet, broadband and wireless local-area networks (LAN).
- The IT professionals surveyed identified the primary network connectivity issues they are responsible for addressing as network failovers, reliability, availability, cost and security.
- IT decision makers are comfortable leveraging network-based security capabilities. Survey respondents deploy an average of seven network-based security capabilities, led by anti-virus, anti-malware, anti-spam, and URL filtering/blocking.
- Despite having multiple layers of security protections in place, 82 percent of respondents reported experiencing at least one type of security threat in the past year: 73 percent cited phishing, 48 percent cited ransom/spyware and 36 percent cited other malware.

Additional Resources

- Learn more about CenturyLink's Connected Security solutions: <https://www.centurylink.com/business/security.html>
- Discover how to choose the right network-based security solution for your business: <http://www.centurylink.com/asset/business/enterprise/guide/gems-ensuring-info-security-in-a-digital-world-guide.pdf>
- Read the CenturyLink 2018 Threat Report: <https://www.multivu.com/players/English/8085056-centurylink-2018-threat-report/>.

About CenturyLink

[CenturyLink](#) (NYSE: CTL) is the second largest U.S. communications provider to global enterprise customers. With customers in more than 60 countries and an intense focus on the customer experience, CenturyLink strives to be the world's best networking company by solving customers' increased demand for reliable and secure connections. The company also serves as its customers' trusted partner, helping them manage increased network and IT complexity and providing managed network and cyber security solutions that help protect their business.

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