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APC

by Schneider Electric

Remote working at the edge

The importance of
infrastructure and
edge computing
in the remote-
working world



a **DCC** business

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Introducing infrastructure edge computing

When people discuss 'edge computing', it can be difficult to place exactly what it is they're referring to. To put it simply, edge is a literal geographic position of computing, located at or near the source. It literally lies at the "edge" of the limits of what cloud services can provide. Everything that can be centralised has been already, which means there is a need for edge computing to work alongside and in-between you and the cloud to support data storage and access. It doesn't mean you aren't using the cloud anymore, it just means that edge has brought computation and data storage closer to the location where it is needed, to improve response times and save bandwidths.

EcoStruxure

EcoStruxure is a vendor-neutral architecture that optimises the monitoring and managing of critical IT infrastructures on-premise, in the cloud, and at the edge. It delivers a new standard for proactive insights on critical assets that impact the health and availability of an IT environment. And it provides the ability to deliver actionable, real-time recommendations to optimise infrastructure performance and mitigate risk.

Micro data centres

Micro data centres are the easy and cost-effective way to add data centre capacity when and wherever it's needed. These solutions are often pre-assembled, pre-tested rack systems with all the components needed to run an edge site. This includes power distribution units, uninterruptable power supplies (UPS), cooling, security, and management software and services. Micro data centres help to create resilience by adding standardisation, physical security, and management to your infrastructure.

The remote-working world

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, we have seen multiple industries move from on-site working, to working remotely. While this has presented many adaptations to the way people work and interact with each other, it has also changed the way we access and use data. Many have begun to rely on cloud and edge computing solutions to access and share important files and data. In turn, this has increased reliance on these solutions and made it more important than ever to keep them running efficiently.



Reliance at edge

The rise in reliance on edge computing has also affected the need for maintenance. Alone, monitoring heavily used edge computing infrastructure is a difficult task, and often requires IT solution providers to maintain systems on the behalf of businesses. With the added obstacle of limited on-site access to systems, maintaining edge computing and infrastructure has become more challenging than ever, right when it is most relied upon.

Prepared for anything

While many businesses are beginning to consider bringing their employees back to on-site working, it remains important to ensure IT systems can be monitored, accessed, and maintained efficiently, whether in the office, or at home. To do this, businesses should prioritise investing in essential IT infrastructure, preparing cloud integration to keep connections secure and protected, and ensuring their data centres can be efficiently and conveniently used, managed, and monitored, both remotely and on-site. Not only does this provide a safety-net for future instances of reverting to remote-working, but it also provides wider efficiency for the business' systems.

Going digital

The answer to creating more adaptive and resilient operations in these times of constant change, is to ensure there is a clear pathway to creating a digital workspace. This ensures that, regardless of location or changes, your business is able to run consistently and without interruption. Creating a digital workspace may include considering

- Hardware and workspace. Providing employees with the correct equipment, devices, and access to be able to work efficiently remotely and on-site
- Collaboration tools. Making sure you find the right tools for your business, and that employees who are most in need of these tools are supplied them first
- Network connectivity. Ensuring all employees have access to a secure and reliable network connection, so they can connect with co-workers and clients without interruption
- Adaptive security. Educate all employees on security risks and online safety. Ensure all devices are protected sufficiently, and that this is up to date
- Business continuity. Plan ahead for any changes to the workplace, from remote working, to mass absence. Avoid disruption where possible
- Manage the change. Give your people support as they adapt to this new way of working, and ensure communication remains a priority

New opportunities

Businesses are now finding themselves in a unique position. While working on-site has been the norm, the recent exposure to remote working has introduced many to the potential of more flexibility at work. Preparing the business IT environment for both on-site and remote work allows greater efficiency all around and offers workers flexibility. The goal for many businesses now is not just to be able to facilitate working from anywhere, but to create a working environment that is more agile, resilient, and effective than ever before. The past year has shown many that change can (and will) come at any moment, and it is now becoming a priority for many to ensure their operations are sustainable and secure and can adapt with the changing world. This applies both to the workers themselves, and to the wider IT environment and systems that are essential to the every day running of business.

Efficient solutions for efficient working

Adapting systems

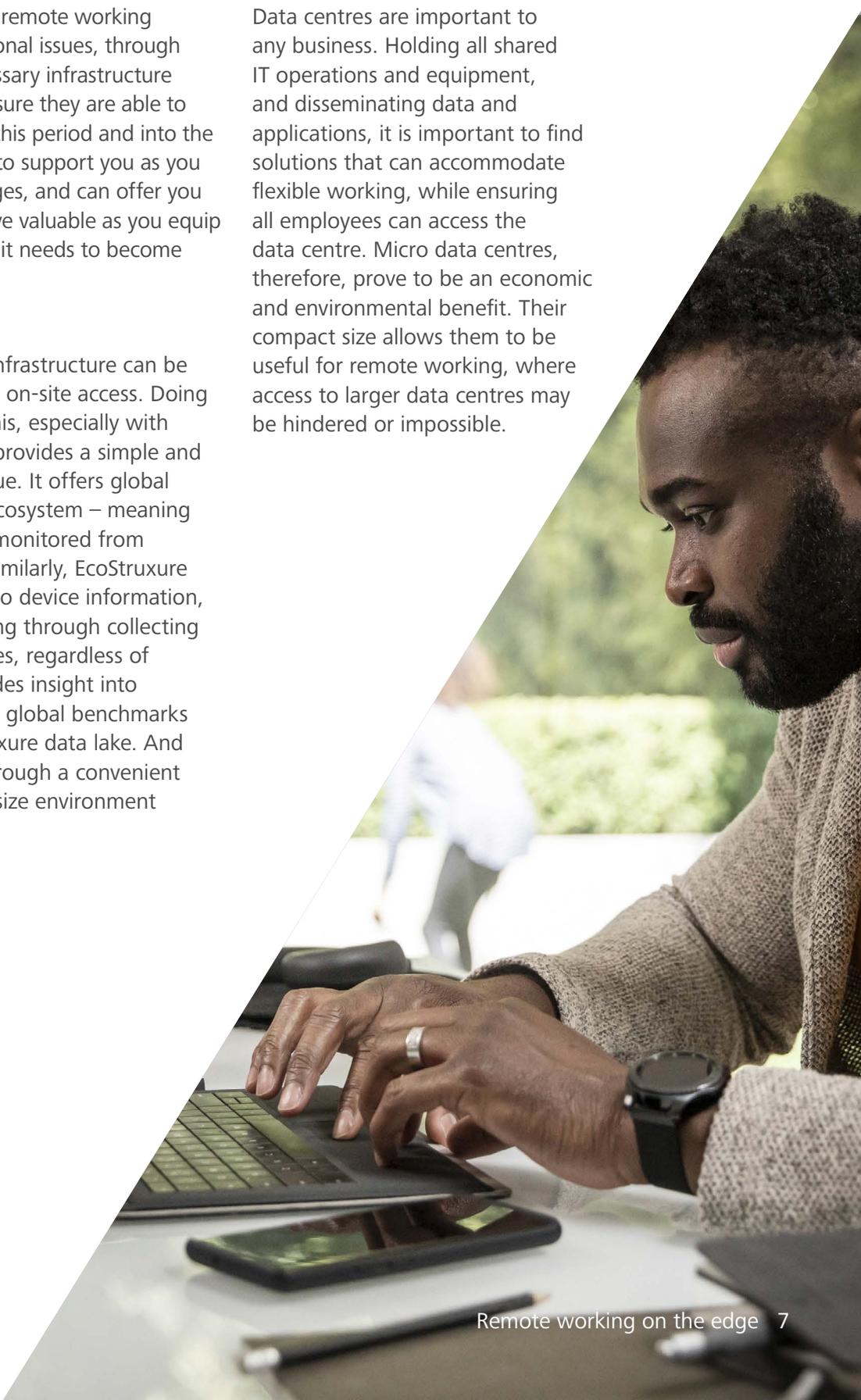
Although the sudden rise of remote working has presented some operational issues, through the implementation of necessary infrastructure solutions, businesses can ensure they are able to manage efficiently through this period and into the future. At APC, we're ready to support you as you make these important changes, and can offer you some solutions that will prove valuable as you equip your business with the tools it needs to become more efficient and resilient.

EcoStruxure

Monitoring complex edge infrastructure can be difficult, even when there is on-site access. Doing this remotely complicates this, especially with increased use. EcoStruxure provides a simple and effective solution to this issue. It offers global visibility across the hybrid ecosystem – meaning the IT environment can be monitored from anywhere with just a tap. Similarly, EcoStruxure offers its users easy access to device information, smart alarms, and monitoring through collecting data from all relevant devices, regardless of vendor. This solution provides insight into potential risks by leveraging global benchmarks and analytics in the EcoStruxure data lake. And it can be easily deployed through a convenient subscription model for any size environment

Micro data centres

Data centres are important to any business. Holding all shared IT operations and equipment, and disseminating data and applications, it is important to find solutions that can accommodate flexible working, while ensuring all employees can access the data centre. Micro data centres, therefore, prove to be an economic and environmental benefit. Their compact size allows them to be useful for remote working, where access to larger data centres may be hindered or impossible.



The future of remote working

The sudden change from office working to remote working caused mass disruption. But by gradually implementing plans that facilitate both remote and on-site work, businesses have a unique opportunity to make operational changes that increase efficiency and improve the working environment. By prioritising and investing in tools that allow an easier and smoother transition to remote working, businesses are also optimising their on-site tools and processes. Making operations overall more efficient, more resilient, and more adaptable to future changes. For business-changing IT solutions, browse the APC range through the Exertis store now.



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