Remote work, including work-from-home (WFH), simply means an employee can work from their house, apartment, or even the coffee shop down the street or halfway around the world, rather than working at the traditional primary office location. Remote work may also include work from within distributed facilities, such as branch offices, subsidiaries, or stores.

Although the advantages of work-from-home have become increasingly clear in recent years and have been offered by more and more companies, many companies remained hesitant to start moving some of their people from their work offices to their homes. Occasionally business disruptions like environmental disasters such as floods, hurricanes or even fire damage forced companies to send parts of their staff from affected location(s) to their homes to continue with their daily business.

With the COVID-19 pandemic, however, the way we work and how we react to business interruptions has changed forever. Within days of discovering the true severity of the pathogen, employees from all over the world had to switch from offices to their homes. As a result, WFH has become the current day “normal”. Even organizations that were critical of mobile work have learned that offering flexibility in where and how people can work makes them happier and more productive. Many companies have now announced work-from-home as an alternative for their staff. WFH has proven to save time and money, while improving employee health and helping to protect the environment.
Why is IGEL the best endpoint OS partner for companies embracing work-from-home?

Enabling work-from-home with IGEL is quick and easy. Any compatible x86-64 remote device can be set up in minutes. IGEL’s UD Pocket, a highly portable micro USB stick solution, just has to be sent via express post, where users simply plug it into their device and then connect to the IGEL Cloud Gateway via the Internet and they are up and running! *A video showing the process can be viewed on igel.com.*

To enable your people to collaborate while working remotely, IGEL OS supports the **most unified communications software solutions** over VDI and cloud workspaces. These include Cisco WebEx Meeting & Teams, Jabra, Avaya, and Zoom. IGEL is also the first to deliver support for Microsoft Teams! Video conferencing tools and collaborative technology make it easy for coworkers to communicate and stay in touch, so regardless of their geographical location, they’re able to focus, interactively exchange ideas, and be productive.

Additionally, a **broad technology partner ecosystem** of more than 90 leading partners ensures integration of the latest technologies: VDI client, authentication, dictation, e-signature, printing, USB management, and many more.

Based on Linux and structured as a modular, read-only firmware base, IGEL OS has an **extremely small attack surface** and a **broad array of security-focused features** designed to minimize exposure and prevent attackers from infiltrating your organization through the most popular entry point: the network edge.

IGEL enables secure access to cloud workspaces from end to end. IGEL’s complete “chain of trust”, which verifies all boot-up processes from the user hardware/UEFI to the destination VDI host or cloud, applies even to remote users and offers added confidence for IT endpoint administrators.
IGEL offers the essential components needed to enable people to work from home.

**IGEL OS**
A platform-independent Linux-based next-gen endpoint operating system designed for simple, smart, and secure endpoint control and optimization. It allows access to cloud services, server-based computing applications or virtual desktops, and provides outstanding audio, video, interactive graphics, and unified communications.

**Universal Management Suite (UMS)**
A single management and control solution for just a few to up to 300,000 distributed IGEL OS powered endpoint devices. Purpose-built to simplify complex enterprise environments, UMS supports diverse operating systems, databases and directories. The UMS server can be located on the corporate network or in the cloud.

**IGEL UD Pocket**
A portable and powerful USB pluggable endpoint solution. About the size of a thumbnail, the UD Pocket is essentially “IGEL OS on a stick” and offers secure high performance for remote and mobile workers. IGEL OS boots from a PC, laptop or any compatible x86-64 CPU based endpoint device.

**IGEL Cloud Gateway (ICG)**
Enables full UMS management and control of IGEL OS-powered endpoints located “off-network” in remote locations including home offices, remote campuses, or for mobile “road warrior” workers. It extends the reach of UMS without requiring a separate VPN connection to ensure strong management and control of all your IGEL OS-powered endpoints, regardless of their location.
As the dynamics of work, home, and remote productivity continue to change, IGEL has emerged as an ideal endpoint OS partner in these times of evolving “new work”. IGEL customers can benefit from a unified, coordinated end user computing solution that enables secure and productive work-from-home that is quick and easy. With an emphasis on secure and powerful unified communications and collaboration, IGEL delivers a great user experience for end-users while giving both IT administrators and the CFO peace of mind!

Experience more about how IGEL supports work-from-home and working from remote locations at igel.com/resources