Remote Working in the Age of COVID-19: Connect and Protect

William J. Kapes, Chief Technology Officer
The Invisible Enemy
We are in a “wartime” environment against an invisible enemy, COVID-19, that is affecting nearly every aspect of business and personal lives. Our motto of “Prepare. Protect. Prosper.” has taken on even more importance at Chameleon Integrated Services as we have already adapted our way of doing business to keep our staff safe and healthy and continue to function without interruption as a business with secure information and a widely distributed workforce. We would like to share with you how using readily available and cost-effective technology tools can be help your organization Prepare, Protect, and Prosper during these uncertain times.

Collaboration Technologies
Organizations rely on secure and effective communication to move ahead. Being spread out makes this difficult and can erode team dynamics. The first challenge to overcome is face-to-face meetings with co-workers, partners and customers at home or in remote locations. Video conferencing tools allow for easy sharing of documents and virtual face-to-face communications. There are many tools available to do this, and some work better than others. For organizations that rely on classified data, there are no short-term fixes to remedy access issues yet. However, for most organizations dealing with sensitive but unclassified data, this can be handled by using readily available software tools such as VPNs and data encryption on laptops.

Access to Applications
Government and private sector businesses depend on data, applications, and communications to keep the organization running. Making data and applications accessible to a geographically dispersed workforce from anywhere and from any device can be best accomplished through migration to the cloud. Chameleon recently unleashed the business potential of a growing construction contractor, Western Specialty Contractors, by migrating underperforming technology into an easy-to-use cloud-based system that streamlined processes, enabled mobile construction site computing, provided a cohesive strategic dashboard view for company executives, and improved fiscal performance. This system allows them to continue office operations across the country from home, which has improved their efficiency during the coronavirus and enabled work to continue on business planning for when their contractors can get back to construction.

As data speeds continue to increase and more secure government-oriented cloud environments are available, access to the cloud is something organizations can no longer afford to be without. More information and detailed data can be added to applications running in the cloud, while greater security and cost efficiencies can be achieved. Security can also be enhanced through a role-based security framework and identity management tools that ensures end users have access only to the information they are approved for and that an audit trail of their activity exists.
Infrastructure and Tech Refreshes
When applications and data are cloud-based, infrastructure becomes both more manageable and cost effective. Defective systems can be handled via shipping to a repair center, and if you carry adequate spare inventory, you can minimize downtime. Requiring employees to store all their work files in the cloud using tools such as Microsoft OneDrive means that changing laptops is a minor inconvenience, rather than a major disruptor. Refined process yields better results. A formalized process to help migrate business applications to the cloud has enabled us to help our clients while keeping our costs exceptionally competitive. We are in an ideal position to help you overcome these difficult times and help your organization as we have done for other organizations.

Virtual Help Desks
The next consideration for a remote workforce is how to take care of the infrastructure in a remote environment. When you don’t have to worry about a server center (because you have moved to the cloud), support becomes more manageable and cost-effective. End users can be supported via phone, email, Skype, and remote desktop control to solve the majority of IT issues that arise. Our strategic partner, IBM, has dealt with the issue of managing a remote workforce for several years. We have partnered with IBM to provide our customers with off-site service desks utilizing Watson technology to create automated and cost effective solutions to tiered help desk challenges.

During the lockdown, we have supported our entire staff remotely to solve the majority of IT issues. When looking for help in dealing with making remote working a reality for your organization, we are still here to help and can arrange for a virtual meeting to discuss your options.

About Chameleon Integrated Services
Procuring IT services with Chameleon Integrated Services is easy. As a prime GSA 8(a) STARS II and GSA Schedule 70 contract holder, Chameleon provides best in class contract vehicle options to the federal government for competitive procurements. Our 8(a) STARS II and 8(a) Native American Joint Venture – Miami Chameleon – provides federal agencies direct award capability that is not protestable. Our Other Transaction Authority provides a contractual option where IT services work can be procured in as little as 30 days.

Chameleon is a small business prime contractor to the United States Department of Defense and other federal agencies, that provides a wide range of information technology consulting, support, and services worldwide. The company focuses on helping clients successfully capture and deploy critical opportunities in IT modernization, cloud computing, and building the workforce of the 21st century while enhancing information assurance by mitigating cybersecurity risks. Founded in 2003 and based in St. Louis, Chameleon is a minority and SBA-certified Small Disadvantaged Business (SDB).

Contact us
Chameleon Integrated Services
https://www.chameleonis.com
314-773-7200
inquiries@chameleonis.com