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Why Device Management is Critical for Successful IoT Deployments

Introduction

Enterprise mobility enabled by the mobile device revolution changed the way in which many companies do business because it empowered employees to do their jobs from anywhere, using a variety of devices and applications. It was such a new way of doing business that companies found they also needed new ways of managing all of the mobile devices -- necessitating strategic planning that accounted for all of the necessary provisioning, deployment, and management of all of the new mobile devices.

And just as the explosion of mobile devices transformed the ways in which companies operated, the IoT revolution in which we now find ourselves is likewise transformative. The use cases for IoT deployments are nearly unlimited, as are the types of IoT devices being deployed into the field. Furthermore, depending on the particular need, a single IoT solution might have tens of thousands of connected sensors and other devices. And just as with the mobile device revolution, any company hoping to realize the gains of an IoT implementation is going to have to account for the management of all those IoT devices, from provisioning to deployment to ongoing management. Indeed, without a solid plan, a business might quickly find itself unable to manage its IoT devices, and thus unable to realize promised gains from its IoT implementation as a whole.

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Device Management Gives You Flexibility and Security

IoT devices are constantly accessing information from anywhere, at any time, and feed it across the network to either a localized data processing app or into the cloud. But precisely because IoT devices are all on the network, they represent a potential for unauthorized access – making it paramount for the safety of your business and its data that your IoT devices are properly managed.

A solid IoT device management service should


allow for both security and flexibility. For example, over-the-air enrollment for devices makes it easy to add new devices to your IoT solution – an important consideration in particular for large-scale IoT deployments with hundreds or thousands of devices.

A typical IoT solution may include different types of devices, performing different functions and requiring different access levels to the network and data. In such cases, a robust IoT device management solution will allow for the creation of multiple profiles. This allows managers to set per-device policies that keep sensitive, proprietary company data secure by authorizing the right amount of access to the right devices at the right time. By taking advantage of these kind of IoT device management features, the workload on IT departments can be drastically reduced and security dramatically increased over IoT solutions where devices need to be set up and managed one-by-one.

Security breaches are dangerous not only because your business data can get into the wrong hands, but because breach recovery can cut into your bottom line and cause serious financial repercussions. As already mentioned, the kind of IoT device management we're talking about here lends itself to practical security efforts. In addition to device provisioning and individual policy configurations, for example, a centralized IoT management service should also have the

capability to push out updates over-the-air to devices. The ability to update IoT devices in bulk should not be overlooked, nor its importance underestimated. Software and firmware are frequently updated by manufacturers as potential exploits are discovered and threats identified, and large-scale IoT deployments need these updates installed en masse in a timely fashion in order to mitigate network threats that could be vectored through IoT devices.

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Manage IoT Solution Expenses to Reduce Costs

The goals of integrating IoT devices into your business is to collect important information and improve productivity for your business as a whole. When used to their full capability, IoT devices can give you a competitive edge that help you increase profits and reduce costs. But those gains can only be realized if your IoT solution is deployed and

managed with an eye to optimizing your expenses.

There are many ways in which an IoT deployment can actually become a cost center instead of a cost-saver. For example, all IoT devices will need connectivity of some sort – so before you commit to a service provider or even particular models of IoT devices, it is wise to compare cellular data and other types of connectivity plans for your proposed implementation. How much bandwidth will you need? At what ranges will the devices need to communicate? Will your devices be always on and always connected, or will they only connect intermittently for short periods of time?

Sound complicated? It can be. An effective strategy to help manage the expense of an IoT implementation is to partner with a third-party

connectivity manager that can obtain information and make recommendations. The benefits of building these kinds of partner relationships are many: Aside from the expert advice that such partnerships can provide, your own internal resources are freed up to work on other tasks to which they may be better suited or on which they may be more knowledgeable – and freeing up your own resources to do what they're best at obviously will have positive impacts on structure and costs.

Putting together an effective IoT device management strategy is key to successful IoT deployments. By focusing on using IoT managed services to increase both efficiency and security, you can deliver a successful IoT deployment for your teams.

Ready to learn more about the benefits of managed IoT services?


Please contact us for more information about how Wireless Watchdogs can help make your deployment less costly and more secure.



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