Distance Learning's Impact on Education IT

The changes taking place in the education technology landscape as a result of the coronavirus school closures are extensive and many will be permanent or evolving. However, the rapid speed of change is creating new challenges for IT teams.

New research by Absolute examines the effects of distance learning on endpoint health, device usage, safety, and security as schools adapt to remote and hybrid learning models in the 2020/21 school year.

COVID-19 caused an acceleration of K-12 education's digital roadmap in three key areas:



Closing the "homework gap" to enable digital learning.

Mobile hotspots are increasingly going home, with students, creating an "always-connected" online learning dynamic1



Enabling remote and hybrid learning models.

75% of schools intend to operate remote or hybrid models²



Protecting students, staff, and schools from cyberattacks. 60% of all malware attacks (particularly ransomware) occur in education³

To better understand what is happening on the ground, Absolute studied:



Millions of Absoluteenabled devices



10,000 Schools and districts



12 analyst reports and peer research

This is what we discovered...

Reliance on devices to drive learning outcomes has increased.



61%



> 28%



8%

increase in the number of older

devices in school

rise in daily active **30**%

of schools have or plan to purchase more devices to enable remote learning4

IT teams are doing more with less.

While federal stimulus packages may help in the short term, long-term budgets are



S750B predicted decrease in state and local government budgets⁵



\$3.7B additional COVID-19 costs⁶



\$500 incremental per student distance-learning costs7

School devices are mainly being used for learning.



YouTube, Edgenuity®, Google Docs™, and Google Classrooms are where most students are spending their time.

- **Education and Online Learning**
- **Entertainment and Videos**
- Cloud-Sharing Services Web Search
- Other

As more devices go home, IT teams are challenged to manage them:



20% of all devices have gone

dark or have not been online so far in the first five months of 2020



41% of school IT teams said

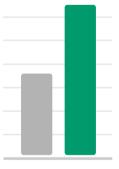
tracking lost or missing devices is a big challenge.8



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30 devices missing on average at each school in the past nine months.

To support and manage remotely, IT teams are rolling out Remote Desktop Protocol (RDP) and collaboration applications.



141% • increase in collaboration software.

Zoom Skype™ Microsoft Teams™ Slack® Blue Jeans GoToMeeting®

increase in remote desktop protocol (RDP)

RemotePC™ Zoho Assist LogMeIn Pro® GoToMyPC® TeamViewer | Splashtop®

But the FBI warned schools of the increased risk of RDP as a vector for ransomware!11

Remote learning is creating tech support challenges that are taking away valuable time from teachers to "teach".



9 out of 10 teachers reported spending more time troubleshooting technology



problems9

7 out of 10 teachers reported spending less time on student instruction during COVID-19 than when they were they were in their physical classroom10

With increasing complexity, device security is more challenging than ever.

of devices have out-of-date OS versions (two or more versions old)

454

unique patch versions across Windows 10 devices alone

81%

spike in outdated Chrome OS versions, due to new

versions released in early

183

days average patch age for Windows 10 devices

days average patch age for MacOS devices

Download the full report for deeper insight into the challenges facing K-12 in the 2020/21 school year, and what schools are doing to face these challenges head on.

Download the Report

References:

2020.

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- ^{4.} Distance Learning Study. *Hanover Research*, 2020.
- ^{5.} <u>Projected State Shortfalls Grow as Economic Forecasts Worsen.</u> *Center on Budget and* Policy Priorities, 2020. ^{6.} What Will It Take to Stabilize Schools in the Time of COVID-19? Learning Policy Institute,
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