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# Microsoft DirectAccess – The New Choice of Enterprises Over Traditional VPN

Whitepaper
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## Microsoft DirectAccess

### The New Choice of Enterprises Over Traditional VPN

Microsoft DirectAccess is a unique solution designed specifically for managed Windows clients. It is aimed squarely at organizations that need to provide a highly secure remote access alternative to client-based VPN, while simultaneously reducing management and support costs for their field-based assets.

You might think "Why not just use VPN exclusively for my remote access needs?" If strengthening security and cutting down on support costs are your goals, then you are looking at the right solution.

DirectAccess has many compelling benefits over client-based VPN, which can be vital to the objectives of IT organizations across all industry verticals. It has become even more lucrative for enterprises using compatible versions of Windows 7, 8 and 10 to deploy DirectAccess with Windows 10, due to the advanced feature set it offers. So then, how is DirectAccess better than VPN?

**VPN is the traditional choice, but it has various drawbacks**

- Complex process of connecting to the corporate network reduces employee productivity, and efficiency
- Disproportionate amount of IT support work, due to lost security tokens, and it's a cumbersome login process
- Users need to learn how to use the VPN software
- VPN establishes connection on expensive corporate WAN connection

**Microsoft DirectAccess more than overcomes those drawbacks**

- Remote users experience full network access as though they are sitting in a corporate office, resulting in greater productivity and reduced helpdesk calls/tickets
- DirectAccess enables domain joined devices to connect automatically and securely to the corporate network, using an internet connection
- With DirectAccess, the remote device automatically connects to the network and is identified and authenticated before the user has even logged on
- DirectAccess provides seamless, transparent, always-on, and bi-directional secure remote access

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## Advantages of DirectAccess

### Increased Security

A DirectAccess client must be joined to the corporate domain, as its Active Directory computer account is used as a part of the authentication process. In addition, the client must also have a computer certificate issued by the organization's internal private Public Key Infrastructure (PKI). For additional protection, organizations can choose to also integrate existing smart cards (physical or virtual) or a dynamic one-time password (OTP) solution. Thereby providing a high level of assurance that only authorized devices can establish secure remote corporate network connectivity.

### Enhanced Compliance

DirectAccess is always on, allowing administrators to exercise a greater degree of control and management of their remote devices. It ensures that remote computers receive regular security updates, thereby decreasing vulnerability to malware attacks and avoiding regulatory compliance problems.

### Ease of Use & Reduced Support Costs

DirectAccess provides an unrivaled user experience over VPN. The remote access connection is established securely at the machine level, freeing the end user from the cumbersome process of having to establish a VPN connection when they realize they need it, to access on-premises corporate resources. This makes users more productive, while also reducing potential help desk calls/tickets.

### Simplified Provisioning and De-provisioning

Onboarding DirectAccess clients is a simple as adding a computer's account to a security group in Active Directory. All client configuration settings are applied to the client through Group Policy Objects (GPOs). There is no software to install and maintain on the DirectAccess client.

### Reduced Cost on Network Bandwidth

Conserve expensive network bandwidth by using DirectAccess. Unlike VPN that uses corporate WAN, DA routes these connections directly to the internet without using up WAN.

While VPN has been the traditional choice for many years, DirectAccess has now become the preferred solution of many enterprises, spanning the healthcare, government, education, IT, financial and other sectors.

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## Celestix SecureAccess – the most deployed DirectAccess platform

Celestix SecureAccess is a comprehensive remote access solution designed not only to simplify the deployment of Windows-based remote access technologies, but also enhance the manageability and features that not found in standard Microsoft DirectAcess. Organizations that deploy Celestix SecureAccess for their remote access needs will find a solution that provides the best and most secure remote access experience by taking advantage of the unique capabilities of each supported client platform.

**Hardware Appliance**

The Celestix SecureAccess E Series is delivered on our advanced hardware appliance platform and ensures the best security and performance for remote access deployments. The E Series is a dedicated, purpose-built hardware platform that features a certified configuration with predictable performance. It is available in a variety of models to meet the needs of organizations large and small. The E Series greatly simplifies the deployment and ongoing management for corporate remote access. It also includes features that ease the configuration and monitoring for remote access such as a proprietary web-based management console, interactive drill-down reporting, streamlined client troubleshooting, and proactive session management.

**Virtual Appliance**

Many organizations today are moving away from hardware-based devices and instead are deploying only virtualized solutions. To address these needs, Celestix has introduced a virtual edition of their popular E Series appliance platform. The V Series is available as a software download that will automatically configure an existing virtual machine as a Celestix E Series appliance. The V Series includes all of the same features provided by the hardware appliance versions including. In addition, the V Series is fully supported by Celestix global support.

While the V series doesn't provide the same predictable performance of our dedicated, purpose-built hardware appliances, it can be an effective alternative to deploying hardware for many small to mid-sized organizations.

Celestix is the only company that offers a performance-tuned, turn-key Microsoft DirectAccess solution – Celestix SecureAccess. Call us on +1 510.668.0700 or email sales@celestix.com to find out how Celestix SecureAccess can benefit your organization. Schedule your free live demo/trial of Celestix SecureAccess now.

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**About Celestix Networks:** For over a decade, Celestix has developed innovative security solutions enabling organizations to leverage leading and emerging technologies. Founded in 1999, Celestix Networks has delivered solutions to thousands of corporate and government organizations worldwide. Celestix is headquartered in Fremont, California with offices in Singapore; Reading, UK and Tokyo, Japan.

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