Keeping pace with change

How to optimise the user-to-application journey

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CISCO
Partner

The ever-evolving workplace

The way we work has forever changed and continues to evolve. Remote employee numbers have increased, and hybrid work seems set to stay.

In addition, a shift in customer and employee expectations demands more speed, availability, and consistency, accompanied by zero tolerance for downtime. This has had a huge impact on the digital journey from user to application, demanding the need for IT leaders to provide secure, reliable access to the systems and resources employees need from anywhere, at any time. Ever-changing regulations are also demanding the need to protect data with improved resilience, security, and compliance.

Despite this, many organisations still only worry about resilience when things go wrong, and dealing with it becomes a necessity. Today's highly distributed workplace demands the need to move away from this reactive approach and instead take a resilience-first focus on building a reliable network with disaster recovery baked in. As we become more digitally dependent, the network is the critical backbone for the way we work and operate our businesses. Without this, it's impossible to get the control and insight needed to change and transform how your business operates.

24%

24% of Infrastructure and Operations teams are currently struggling with insufficient resiliency[1]

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Innovate or stagnate: IT leadership in the face of constant change

This ever-evolving workplace presents today's IT Leaders with unprecedented challenges from managing multiple locations to poor visibility and control, to making their business digital. All whilst delivering an optimum user to application experience under immense skills and budget constraints, and constant pressure to do more with less.

30%

30% of Infrastructure and Operations teams expect to be challenged by insufficient skills challenges in the next 12 months[2]

When it comes to managing the network, IT leaders must also consider:

✓ **Business expansion** – growing companies will need a future-proof network capable of handling increased numbers of users, services, and applications

✓ **Industry changes and obsolete technology** – the PSTN switch-off may require a review of data and voice connectivity services

✓ **Cloud migration** - data and applications that users and devices must connect to, are moving to the cloud

Overcoming these challenges requires the right skills, development teams, and investment in applications, data, cloud, security. Budget must be offset in one area to innovate in another. Those who achieve this can not only achieve more sustainable ways of working, they also have a better chance at attracting talent with a flexible hybrid model supported by the right tools.

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The digital opportunity

The way we work has forever changed and continues to evolve. Remote employee numbers have increased, and hybrid work seems set to stay.

Imagine being able to align staff breaks to minimise customer waiting times. Or see in a split second which office desks are occupied or vacant. From a cost perspective, think how much you could save knowing which access points can be turned off when not in use, or when no one is present. This also has huge potential to improve your brand awareness around sustainability and energy.

For example, with the use of Cisco Meraki products, Wrexham County Borough Council (WCBC) now has the control to power up or down access points across the 70 schools it manages. By setting recurring time-based activations that start the schools' network at 7:30 am and switch off at 8:30 pm, an estimated 52% reduction has been achieved in overnight Wi-Fi electricity use. Annual carbon emissions are expected to decrease by ten metric tons of CO_2e and result in savings of up to £22,000 for fiscal year 2023/2024[3].

From intelligent tools that determine how many people visit your retail store on a daily basis and at what time, to cameras that ensure construction workers are wearing the correct safety gear; the right technology has the power to improve your operations, transform the way you work, and save lives.

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Cisco Meraki sensors enabled the world's largest marketing and communications services company WPP to cut cooling energy by **44% and total energy consumption by 27% in its London data centre.**

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IT dept. transformation:
from cost center to strategic leader

With greater insights into your organisation, you can enable and empower holistic, lasting transformation and meet the demands of tomorrow.

Ensuring you have a solid, modern, and secure network and connectivity backbone is the first step towards creating the foundation needed to achieve this.

Claranet brings together remote working, modern network, and connectivity services, centrally managed in a single platform. We provide full visibility across your networks with a fully managed service that allows you to focus on your core business, instead of worrying about infrastructure and connectivity issues. Our team of experts can help design, implement, and manage your cloud connectivity solutions, ensuring that they run smoothly and efficiently.

With a full Client-to-cloud network solution you can be empowered to enhance the user experience, improve productivity, and streamline costs – all through a proactively managed service that specialises in:

WAN

Powered by leading vendors our solutions deliver intelligent network management, driving performance optimisation and business efficiencies.

Making the switch from MPLS only to SD-WAN using Cisco Meraki solutions has reduced costs by 50% for White Architects, one of Scandinavia's leading architecture firms[4].

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LAN & WiFi

We deliver local, wired, and wireless networks at your sites. We simplify site management and enable productivity and collaboration while providing a high-quality user experience.

Remote Access

Remote workers can reliably and securely connect to your corporate environment from any location and any device and enjoy a fully optimised remote working experience. Zero trust access and SASE technologies will underpin the future of remote working to keep your network protected.

Security

We ensure remote employees have secure and appropriate access with solutions that reduce the risk of cyber-attack and ransomware. Your data is protected against security risks, ensuring your business brand and reputation are also protected.

Cloud Connectivity

We provide fast, high-performing, secure and reliable access to the applications and data you need, wherever they are hosted. Solutions for broadband, ethernet, mobile and cloud connectivity ensure the right service at each of the customer locations to meet the required capacity and budget.
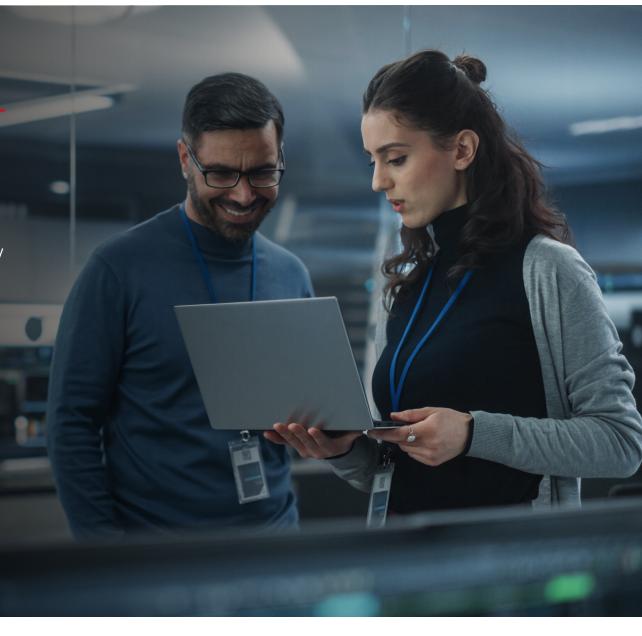
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Our Managed Network Solutions

With experts across our portfolio, we have a deep understanding of the interdependencies between technologies, which we draw upon when designing customer solutions.

We have highly accredited security experts and work with industry frameworks, which is why our customers put their trust in us.

Our Managed Network Solutions provides a smart, consistent, highly available experience that connects all people, places, devices, and clouds, enabling people to work securely from anywhere. We help drive productivity and ensure access even with the continued increase in connected devices used across your network.

We take a holistic approach to designing and delivering a solution that's right for your specific needs. By delivering ongoing proactive management and secure access to applications wherever they are located, such as on a corporate network or in the cloud, we help you deliver an optimum application experience at the center of everything.

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Meeting your unique security requirements

Our Managed Network solutions include security in its design to protect data and improve compliance.

By leveraging our services and expertise we provide an honest assessment of what your business requires and deliver the right security solutions based on your unique needs. We will ensure the right level of network access for your users without compromising user experience or productivity at all times.

We get that there is no one-size-fits-all. That's why our team of experts will propose a solution that is right for you and then you only pay for what you need, and it's why we don't pre-prescribe the security that's included as part of Managed Network solutions.

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Managed service experts
to support your digital journey

Whether you have a small IT team, are faced with a skills shortage, or have resource limitations, being supported by and outsourcing activities to a managed service provider offers a multitude of benefits.

This is where Claranet can help. We understand the challenges you face and can help you maintain and manage a secure modern network, allowing you to reinvest your money elsewhere within your IT function.

We enable you to focus on developing strategy, innovate faster to grow the business, and better serve your customers. In doing so you can build a reputation and meet shareholder expectations, thanks to a service that's completely managed by our team of experts.

Managed service

At Claranet, our managed services put you in control. Free up skills where you need them most, without compromising on service availability, performance, or cost.

Expert team

Claranet is uniquely positioned to support the evolution of your workplace end to end, with experts across SD-WAN, LAN, WAN, WiFi, remote working, zero trust networking, and SASE.

Trusted hands

We're an extension of your team, here to provide continued guidance throughout your workplace transformation journey. We're committed to supporting you to achieve your business outcomes.

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The digital journey from user-to-application will continue to evolve as remote employee numbers increase, and customers and employees expect more speed, availability, and consistency.

As a result, IT leaders must find ways to provide secure, reliable access to the systems and resources their people need anywhere, at any time. They must also invest in the right technology to meet shifting demand, and use insights to drive efficiencies and cost savings across the organisation.

With the help of a proactive managed service, IT leaders can achieve real transformation and deliver an optimal user-to-application journey that not only enhances the user experience but also drives productivity when and wherever your people work.

Ready to optimise the remote working experience with better scalability, security, and access?

Get in touch with us today to discuss how we can help you gain insight into your strategy, business objectives, and how you operate.

Get in touch ▶

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About Claranet

Claranet is a global technology services provider with capabilities across cloud, cybersecurity, data, applications, and workplace productivity solutions. We enable organisations to make modern happen by being big enough to deliver and small enough to care, by offering adaptive, scalable technology solutions, and by being right where our customers need us to be, moving.

About Cisco

Cisco (NASDAQ: CSCO) is the worldwide technology leader that securely connects everything to make anything possible. Our purpose is to power an inclusive future for all by helping our customers reimagine their applications, power hybrid work, secure their enterprise, transform their infrastructure, and meet their sustainability goals.

Get in touch today for a secure network review:
www.claranet.com/uk/contact-us

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1. The Gartner Leadership Vision for 2023 –Infrastructure & Operations 2. Gartner 3. Cisco Miraki 4. Cisco Miraki