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Achieving Secure, Scalable, and Sustainable Networks With Intelligent Connectivity From Logicalis, Powered by Cisco

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Abstract: The existence of a dynamic business environment demands organizations respond to constantly evolving business needs. In turn, organizations need a network environment that can scale easily while not sacrificing security, degrading the end-user experience, or negatively impacting the environment, as these can all affect the bottom line. Instead of struggling with skills gaps and shrinking budgets, organizations can accelerate time to value using a managed service provider that leverages technologies from Cisco, a company with the breadth and depth of expertise in networking and security.

Modernizing Networks Under Evolving Business Conditions

Today's IT environments place more pressure on the network to provide secure connectivity to all applications, corporate locations, and remote workers. Yet, ensuring connectivity can easily result in increased complexity that negatively impacts the end-user experiences and network security. In fact, 73% of survey respondents to research from TechTarget's Enterprise Strategy Group said they consider their end-to-end network environments equally, if not more, complex than they were two years ago.¹

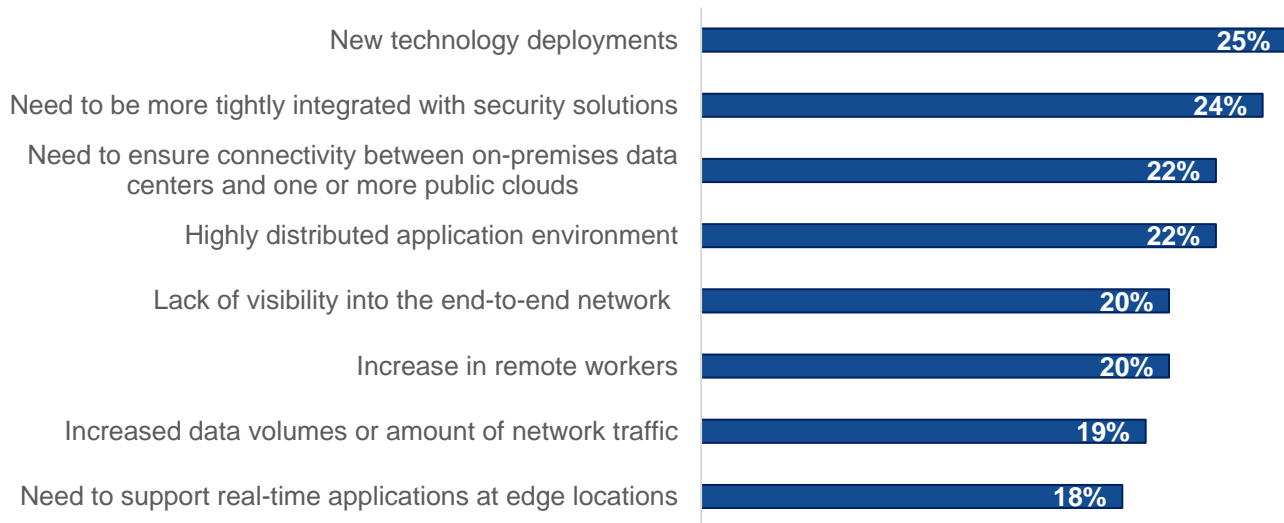
A number of reasons exist for this complexity, including but not limited to the need for the network infrastructure to be more tightly integrated with security solutions, highly distributed application environments, an increase in remote workers, and the need to support real-time applications at edge locations (see Figure 1).² Unfortunately, organizations that want to modernize their networks in light of this complexity are hampered by a lack of skills internally, especially for new technology.

¹ Source: Enterprise Strategy Group Research Report, [End-to-end Networking Visibility and Management](#), April 2023.

² Ibid.

Figure 1. Biggest Reasons for Complexity Within End-to-end Network Environments

What do you believe are the biggest reasons your organization’s end-to-end network environment has become more complex? (Percent of respondents, N=127, three responses accepted)



Source: Enterprise Strategy Group, a division of TechTarget, Inc.

The highly distributed nature of both the workforce and the applications they use requires networks to be easily scalable to accommodate changing business requirements. However, since the network perimeter is now fluid, securing network traffic must also be addressed since the attack surface becomes larger as the network scales, creating an ever-changing threat landscape.

In recent years, sustainability has also become top of mind for numerous organizations, especially when it comes to IT networks. Enterprise Strategy Group found that 64% of survey respondents believe IT infrastructure and operations have been most impacted by their organization’s environmental, social, and governance goals.³

But above all else, organizations need to provide a consistent user experience that enables employees to respond to changing business requirements and complete their work.

The Right Approach

Organizations must modernize their networks to have greater agility and responsiveness to ever-changing business requirements, without sacrificing security, sustainability, and the end-user experience. Yet, IT teams continue to face budgetary constraints and limited staff. Adding to the difficulty is the persistent lack of critical skills for modernizing networks. In fact, 45% of respondents said they are currently experiencing skills gaps related to cybersecurity, while 40% reported a problematic shortage in IT architecture and planning skills.⁴

In light of these critical skills shortages and the difficulty of deploying new network technologies—including planning, purchasing, testing, and implementation—organizations are increasingly leveraging a managed service provider to accelerate their network modernization journey. By offering Opex (subscription-based) solutions, organizations can

³ Source: Enterprise Strategy Group Research Report, [The Role of ESG Programs in IT Decision Making](#), September 2022.

⁴ Source: Enterprise Strategy Group Research Report, [2023 Technology Spending Intentions Survey](#), November 2022.

consistently and more easily deliver on changing business needs and provide consistently positive end-user experiences for meeting goals and objectives in today's dynamic business environment.

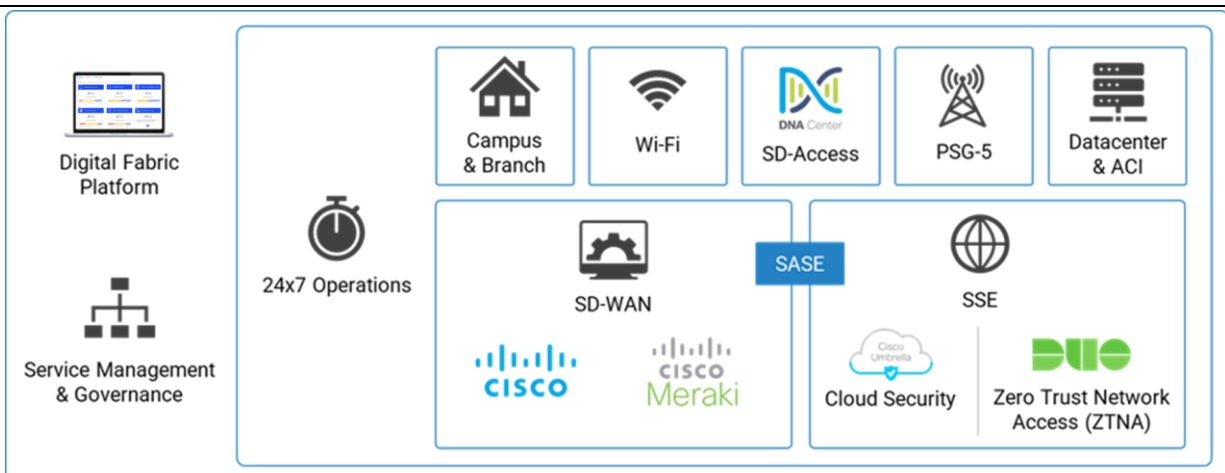
Intelligent Connectivity From Logicalis, Powered by Cisco

Logicalis has created its Intelligent Connectivity managed services, powered by Cisco, to provide next-generation connectivity and deliver secure, scalable, and sustainable network connections. By leveraging Cisco technologies and products, Logicalis' Intelligent Connectivity solutions are built to deliver, operate, and manage the network infrastructure customers require to meet evolving business needs. Time to value is highly accelerated, as these managed services remove the burden of planning and building out the infrastructure, evaluating technologies, and operating and managing the network in-house.

With Intelligent Connectivity from Logicalis, organizations benefit from secure, scalable, and sustainable connectivity delivered by Cisco-powered technologies (see Figure 2):

- **Secure access service edge (SASE), including security services edge (SSE), software-defined wide area networking (SD-WAN), and zero-trust network access.** Scalable and secure connectivity between on-premises data centers, remote locations, and public cloud environments while implementing least privilege access.
- **Private 5G.** Scale higher-speed, low-latency connectivity, and facilitate communications to remote locations with limited real estate for supporting IT (e.g., IoT sensors in manufacturing sites).
- **Wi-Fi.** Connect users both on premises and in remote and branch offices.
- **Data center switches and application-centric infrastructure (ACI).** Facilitate centralized policy configuration and deployment across any end-to-end network connection.
- **Campus and branch networking.** Connect all locations within an organization's network, regardless of location.
- **Software-defined access (SD-Access).** Automate how any user or device is established with the right policies to access any application across the network. This includes coverage of campus and branch wired and Wi-Fi environments.

Figure 2. Intelligent Connectivity by Logicalis, Powered by Cisco

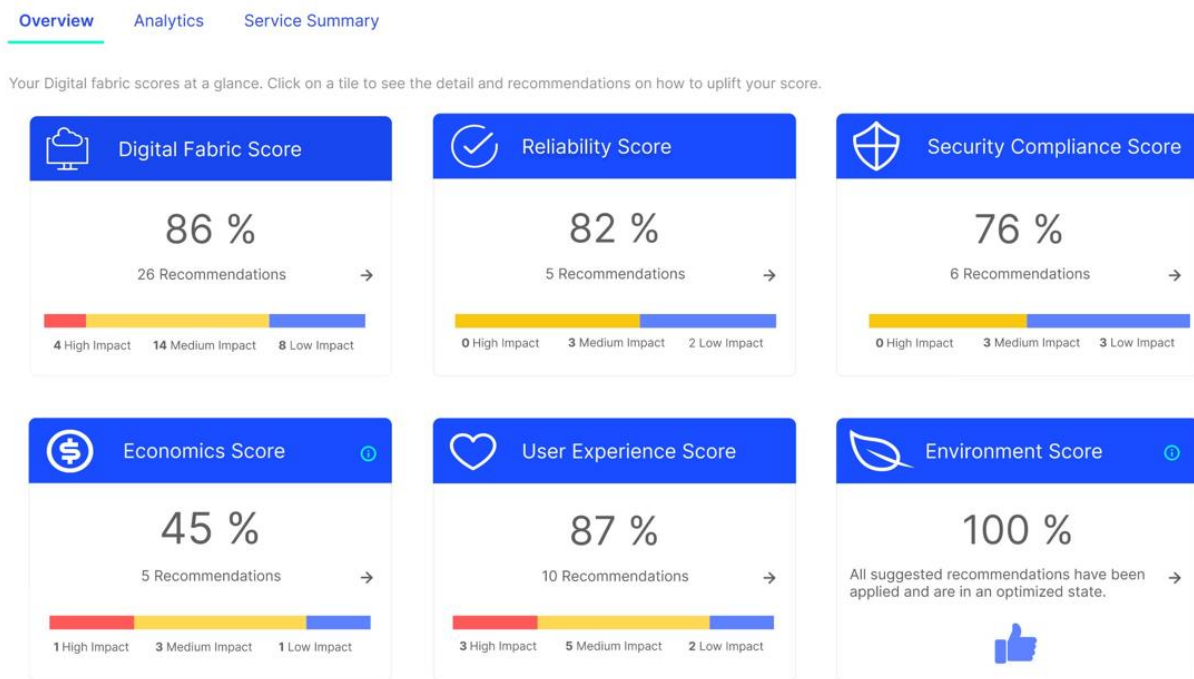


Source: Logicalis and Enterprise Strategy Group, a division of TechTarget, Inc.

While Logicalis Intelligent Connectivity assumes all daily operations and management, organizations can still easily monitor how well their managed network environment is delivering value on multiple vectors in near-real time. Logicalis supports its Intelligent Connectivity managed services through its [Managed Digital Fabric Platform](#), delivering a real-time, centralized view of an organization’s digital ecosystem across five key metrics (see Figure 3). This is accomplished by leveraging artificial intelligence and machine learning.

The Logicalis Managed Digital Fabric platform gives organizations access to anonymized industry benchmarks, showing them exactly how well their network infrastructure is performing against other like-sized environments, gauging the economic, network reliability, security compliance, user experience, and environmental impacts. By leveraging the analytics provided, organizations can shift from being reactive to proactive and even predict what actions to take going forward. The platform provides recommendations on how to improve the network environment, focusing on the top-three recommendations that have the most impact on the overall score.

Figure 3. Logicalis Managed Digital Fabric Platform



Source: Logicalis

Conclusion

Modernizing network environments to respond to constantly changing business needs as quickly as possible is hard. Organizations lack the budget, staff, and time to accomplish this in-house. The ability to accelerate the time to value for innovative solutions is critical.

Using a managed service can dramatically shorten that time to value, while addressing top-of-mind concerns—namely, being easily scalable, as applications and workforces are highly distributed, ensuring secure connectivity in light of an ever-increasing attack surface and achieving higher levels of sustainability to reduce environmental impact. Logicalis Intelligent Connectivity managed services, powered by Cisco, supported by the Logicalis Managed Digital Fabric Platform, enable organizations to have a fully modernized network that can be proactively, and even predictively, managed across five key dimensions to help optimize the environment and ensure that value is continually delivered to the business.

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