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# Optimizing Secure Connectivity for IoT With Logicalis Managed Services, Powered by Cisco

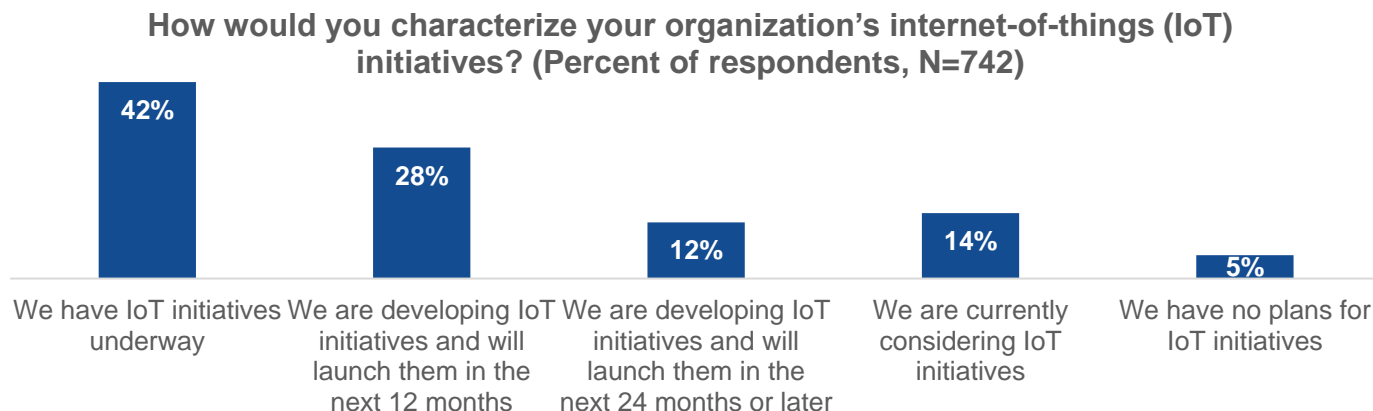
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**Abstract:** It is more important than ever that networking and security go hand in hand. This is especially true as next-generation connectivity facilitates edge computing and enables a broader set of IoT use cases. Intelligent Security from Logicalis provides Secure Connectivity built into the next-generation networking use cases that are propelling productivity. Powered by Cisco, Secure Connectivity supports a wide range of use cases, including 5G and IoT, through its Private Wireless Services solution to help organizations improve productivity, scalability, and security.

## As Private 5G Takes Hold, Ensuring Consistent Security Becomes More Difficult

Many organizations are taking advantage of next-generation connectivity to increase productivity and deliver cost savings while improving the employee experience. Cloud adoption, application proliferation, and hybrid work have become the norm and provide a number of efficiency, productivity, and cost benefits. Yet, these trends can increase complexity and drastically change the risk profile for organizations. Enterprise environments today are predicated on connecting a disparate assortment of users and resources across a variety of locations. Networking teams must ensure stable connectivity across this increasingly distributed environment. At the same time, security teams need to protect against an increasingly varied and sophisticated threat landscape and make sure policies are consistently enforced across the organization. These issues become even more pressing when new connectivity mechanisms and use cases, such as 5G and IoT, come into play. In fact, IoT projects have become mainstream, with 42% of organizations indicating they already have an initiative underway (see Figure 1).<sup>1</sup>

Figure 1. Status of IoT Initiatives



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

<sup>1</sup> Source: Enterprise Strategy Group Complete Survey Results, [2023 Technology Spending Intentions Survey](#), November 2022.

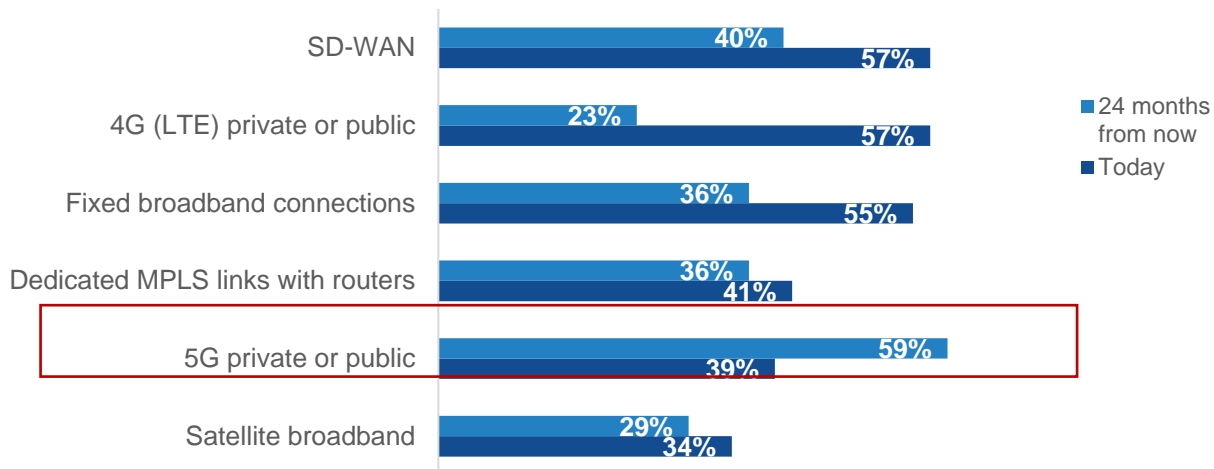
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Connecting these devices can be challenging. Research from TechTarget’s Enterprise Strategy Group has found that 42% of respondents say increasing wireless connectivity to support new devices is one of their organization’s most important IoT priorities over the next 12-18 months.<sup>2</sup> There has been tremendous interest shown to 5G technology as a way for organizations to modernize and expand by taking advantage of clean-spectrum, high-bandwidth, low-latency, high-availability connectivity. This is further evidenced in the *Logicalis Global CIO Report 2024*, which found that 93% of the 1,000 global CIOs surveyed indicated their organization was investing in private 5G in the next 12 months.<sup>3</sup> 5G can offer benefits to many types of industries and use cases where Wi-Fi coverage is inconsistent or unavailable. Its ultra-low latency and high data transfer rates make it well suited for real-time applications and a catalyst for digital transformation. It also offers flexibility with regard to increasing global connectivity for remote locations, as well as energy efficiency to support sustainability initiatives. This can help solve the connectivity challenge for IoT devices.

In particular, many organizations are looking at 5G for its ability to support edge use cases, which is directly applicable to supporting IoT initiatives. Specifically, 59% of organizations expect to implement 5G technology over the next 24 months to connect their edge computing locations (see Figure 2).<sup>4</sup> Yet, as the number of connected devices has increased, ensuring security and connectivity has proven difficult in some cases.

**Figure 2.** Current and Expected Network Connectivity for Edge Locations

**What type of network connectivity does your organization use to connect to its edge computing locations today? How do you expect that to change, if at all, 24 months from now? (Percent of respondents, N=374, multiple responses accepted)**



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

## Security and Next-generation Connectivity Must Go Hand in Hand, Especially for IoT

While historically considered separately, these two issues—connectivity and security—are growing increasingly intertwined, especially when it comes to 5G and IoT. Nearly one-third of organizations (31%) say securely

<sup>2</sup> Source: Enterprise Strategy Group Complete Survey Results, [2023 Technology Spending Intentions Survey](#), November 2022.

<sup>3</sup> Source: [Logicalis Global CIO Report 2024: The Future Face of Tech Leadership](#).

<sup>4</sup> Source: Enterprise Strategy Group Research Report, [The State of Digital Ecosystems at the Edge](#), September 2022.

connecting IoT devices in their environment is a top security challenge.<sup>5</sup> To combat these issues, it is more important than ever that networking and security go hand in hand.

There has been a noticeable trend toward this type of convergence across the industry, with architectures such as secure access service edge (SASE) growing in prominence. However, SASE only addresses certain aspects of the environment—often, users and branches. Even within cloud networking, there has been a similar trend toward convergence. The intersection of security and networking must address not only users, applications, and clouds, but IoT devices, data centers, and private cellular connectivity as well.

At the same time, organizations cannot sacrifice security efficacy for efficiency. Security cannot be an afterthought and must support a variety of enterprise-grade capabilities with regard to threat prevention, support for zero-trust tenets, data security, and more. Even with convergence serving as a driver of efficiency, it can be difficult for an enterprise to implement and operate this new model at scale. Managed services can help organizations accelerate their adoption and generate value for the business faster.

## Intelligent Security From Logicalis, Powered by Cisco

Logicalis has built a simplified services blueprint called Intelligent Security to help address these challenges. Powered by Cisco, Intelligent Security builds on Logicalis' Intelligent Connectivity vision of a blueprint for success. The portfolio of interconnected services provides integrated secure connectivity solutions to help organizations improve productivity, scalability, and security. By leveraging Cisco technologies and products, Logicalis' security solutions take advantage of the enterprise-grade capabilities Cisco offers across both security and networking.

**Logicalis' portfolio of interconnected services provides integrated secure connectivity solutions to help organizations improve productivity, scalability, and security.**

Logicalis' P5G (Private Wireless Service) combines the company's Cisco networking expertise and managed services with an industry-leading ecosystem of carrier services to deliver a full-stack, subscription-based Private Wireless Services solution for 4G/5G. Logicalis is the first Cisco partner authorized to deliver private 5G as a service, integrating 5G with Cisco networking and security technologies at the core and delivering it as a service.

Logicalis has also teamed with industry-leading, Cisco-certified radio access network, Evolved Packet Core, and user equipment providers, as well as numerous U.S. providers that can deploy macro-cell (towers) both indoors and outdoors, providing a growing ecosystem to support deployment flexibility. The solution enhances overall connectivity, easing reliability, security, bandwidth, and availability concerns and making it ideal for distributed operations or IoT-heavy environments.

With an intuitive interface, existing IT/OT teams can provision, modify, view, scale, upgrade, and roll back their services. The Logicalis bundled service rolls software and services into a monthly pay-as-you-go-and-grow financial model that includes 24/7 service and automatic upgrades/updates. The service provides improved reliability, greater simplicity and control, and strong data security. More reliable 4G and 5G connections drive faster business outcomes with cloud-based configuration and monitoring services across all cellular assets. Complete SIM management provides greater operational simplicity with service and device visibility by integrating with Cisco infrastructure. Finally, local connectivity helps secure data and prevent data leakage or loss.

Other components of the Logicalis Intelligent Security portfolio include:

<sup>5</sup> Source: Enterprise Strategy Group Research Report, [Security Services Edge \(SSE\) Leads the Way to SASE](#), November 2023.

- **SASE (SD-WAN and SSE).** Many organizations take a staged approach to SASE by focusing on software-defined WAN (SD-WAN) or security service edge (SSE) first. Logicalis supports choice in SASE journey through its SD-WAN, SSE, and SASE offerings, ensuring people and data are protected wherever they're connected. Managed SSE and SASE enables organizations to establish secure connectivity for the hybrid workforce, effectively safeguarding corporate resources against cyberattacks and data breaches.
- **Managed Secure Access.** Logicalis SD-Access offers a managed service that ensures zero-trust security within the workplace. This comprehensive solution guarantees secure access for all users, devices, and locations across entire applications and digital environments.
- **Data Center Security – ACI.** Application Centric Infrastructure helps organizations improve efficiency, scalability, and security within their network operations. The Logicalis managed networking solution empowers organizations to construct scalable, agile, and secure data center networks and achieve simplified network management, enhanced security, stronger hybrid/multi-cloud integration, improved scalability and performance, and greater agility and flexibility.

Logicalis Intelligent Security services can be offered standalone or as a digital managed service powered by the company's award-winning digital fabric platform (DFP). Security managed services such as Managed Firewall delivered via the DFP platform provides a real-time, centralized view of an organization's digital ecosystem so IT organizations can keep tabs on performance, security, reliability, and user-experience metrics. The platform also provides anonymized industry benchmarks to offer comparisons against other like-sized environments.

## Conclusion

Siloed security approaches no longer meet the needs of today's enterprise. As organizations embrace transformative technologies, security must be tightly coupled with connectivity to reduce risk, improve efficiency, and ensure strong user experiences. As IoT and 5G continue to proliferate, this type of approach will become even more important. Logicalis and Cisco were early to recognize this fact and have created a broad portfolio of interconnected networking and security services to help customers navigate the transition. Any organization prioritizing next-generation connectivity and IoT would be well suited to consider Intelligent Security from Logicalis, powered by Cisco.

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