

E-book

 Meraki

# Unifying Experiences With Unified SASE

Unlock the power of SASE to deliver the most secure, seamless experiences for customers and employees alike.



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- 3 The experience matters
  - 4 Overcoming complexity
  - 5 Creating consistency
  - 6 Converging networking and security
  - 7 Unifying experiences
  - 8 Unifying SASE
  - 9 Conclusion
-

# The experience matters

As an IT leader, you're aware that the success of your business hinges on the kind of experiences you deliver to your customers as well as your employees. Are you creating enriching, enjoyable experiences or frustrating ones?

**78% of global CIOs and IT decision makers** agree that in an app-driven world, experience is the measure of businesses' success.<sup>1</sup>

The IT admin experience is equally as important as your end-user experience, yet the management of multiple tools and disparate dashboards only complicates rather than simplifies—which can leave your team feeling frustrated, overwhelmed, and overstretched.

Your end users, customers, and employees deserve and expect seamless online experiences, so failing to meet those expectations can diminish that digital journey and impact productivity.

In this hybrid work era, less-than-exceptional digital experiences are not scalable or sustainable for your business. What if there was a way to create a unified experience for IT and your end users? Thanks to networking and security convergence, that way is possible, and it can radically simplify how you think of IT and secure connectivity.



<sup>1</sup>Future of Technology, Cisco

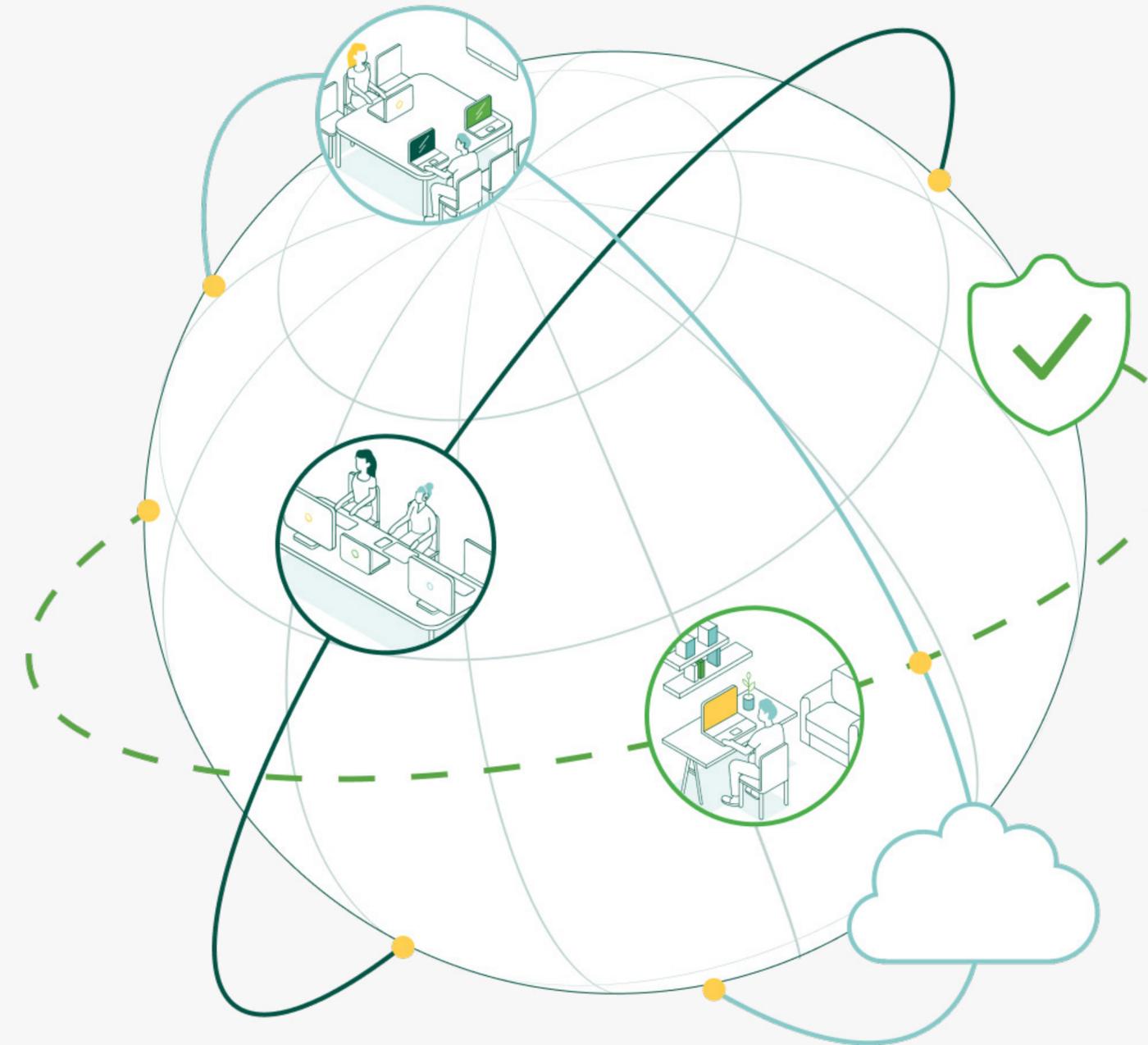
# Overcoming complexity

Over the years, countless organizations have invested in new technology to transform IT in hopes of improving the digital experience and scaling for growth, but endless waves of innovation have given way to an unintended problem—greater complexity.

**53% of senior decision makers** say their IT environment is more complex than it was just two years ago.<sup>2</sup>

IT organizations are dealing with limited resources and trying to find ways to do more with less. A dispersed IT landscape coupled with hybrid work creates connectivity issues amid growing cybersecurity threats that can lurk in every part of your network.

The need to simplify IT has never been greater in this ever-growing hybrid world. Organizations must find a better way to connect users securely and seamlessly to what they need—from anywhere. Removing complexity requires having a simplified, consistent operational model that streamlines resources and optimizes the time IT teams spend on connecting—and protecting—your business.



<sup>2</sup>Enterprise Strategy Group Research Report, 2023 Technology Spending Intentions Survey, November 2023

# Creating consistency

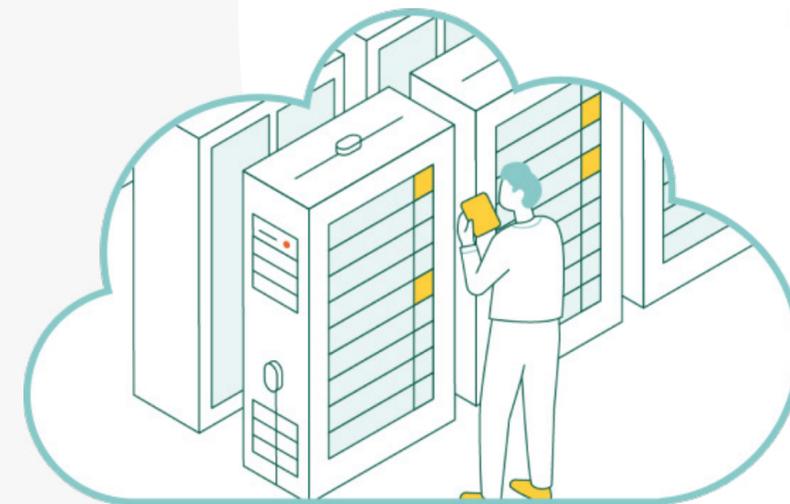
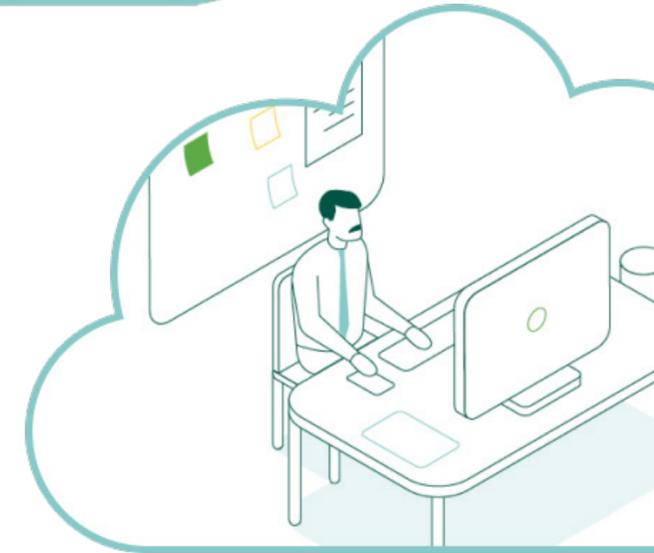
The key to reducing complexity is creating operational consistency that extends across premises to the cloud, bridging distributed resources.

**86% of global CIOs and IT decision makers** recognize the importance of having a consistent operational model across on-premises, private cloud, public cloud, and SaaS.<sup>3</sup>

The challenge with securely connecting users to the valuable resources they need, from anywhere, is the widening distribution of applications hosted from on-premises to the cloud. This dispersed IT landscape creates greater complexity and contributes to an inherently less secure environment.

Many IT teams are faced with juggling a variety of tools across networking and security, resulting in multiple dashboards and consoles that require their valuable time and attention. The lack of adequate resources in both staff and skills only exacerbates the problem and puts additional strain on the team.

Not only does managing multiple tools create security gaps that put your business at risk, it also has a detrimental impact on the end-user experience. When employees cannot access the critical applications they need, it leaves them frustrated and unable to be efficient and productive. For this reason, consistency through a streamlined operational model is critical to simplifying IT and preserving a great user experience.



<sup>3</sup>Accelerating Digital Agility 2021, Cisco

# Converging networking and security

How can IT get ahead of problems with secure connectivity and user experiences due to inconsistent operational models? The answer can be found in the convergence of networking and security, otherwise known as Secure Access Service Edge (SASE).

Working in perfect unison, SASE converges the two domains, enabling your IT team to simplify how it operates, improve security, and better connect hybrid workforces so users can enjoy the seamless experiences they deserve, anywhere.

The next question then becomes, which SASE solution is the best solution? There are generally two different SASE approaches: one is a modular or “best-of-breed” solution comprised of separate networking (SD-WAN) and security service edge (SSE) products, typically

from multiple vendors, which can lead to a more fragmented experience given the increased integration required to produce a complete SASE solution. As a result, this may also lead to a solution that is less secure.

The second approach is a single-vendor unified SASE solution that delivers networking and security components as a turnkey cloud service featuring centralized management from a single dashboard.



# Unifying experiences

The clearest path to simplifying IT and unifying experiences can be found in a single-vendor unified SASE solution.

A well-designed unified SASE solution provides intelligent and consistent distributed enforcement, along with controls and visibility across endpoints, enterprise edge, and cloud edge, to deliver a more secure end-to-end solution, further enhancing the end-user experience and making management easy for IT.

A unified IT experience makes management easy and provides greater visibility and control, improving your security posture and better protecting your business. Unified experiences also empower hybrid

workforces. Hybrid workers can enjoy a seamless end-user experience by accessing the applications and resources they need from a branch office, home office, or coffee shop.

As easy as turning a key, unified SASE delivers a simple, consistent operational model across premises to the cloud that removes IT complexity and creates greater network resiliency, security, and scalability.



# Unifying SASE

Understanding that customers want to simplify IT and better support their hybrid workforce, Cisco offers a unified SASE solution designed to make secure connectivity simple with **Cisco Secure Connect**.

Cisco Secure Connect is your blueprint for SASE made easy that delivers more than just peace of mind.



## UNIFIED AND SEAMLESS EXPERIENCE

Deploy a streamlined experience that is simple to operate—removing complexity and increasing visibility across your environment.



## SECURE HYBRID WORK

Empower IT teams to connect users easily and safely across any point of service and enable work from anywhere.



## RESILIENT NETWORK SECURITY

Build resiliency and improve your organization's security posture while enabling your team to better respond to unpredictable events and changes.



## EASY PATH TO SASE

Navigate your SASE journey with a single, turnkey solution built on the Cisco Meraki platform that converges networking with security to create a simple, unified, and powerful experience.

# It's time to rethink SASE. It's time to think *unified SASE*.

We can help you navigate your SASE journey so you can focus on delivering exceptional experiences and delighting your users while protecting your business.

[Visit Cisco Secure Connect to learn more](#)

[Speak with a SASE expert](#)

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