## How SASE Can Enhance Your SD-WAN to Secure Your Edge

Secure access service edge (SASE) is a promising solution to the security risks of SD-WAN, offering controls layered atop network access.

The last three years have transformed work as we know it. Employees are increasingly going remote while organizations are tasked with adapting to evolving network and security needs.

SD-WANs, touted for their agility and speed, are now being used more frequently than ever to support remote work. However, they can come with unique security challenges.

"Organizations are now required to implement and manage security for multiple network edges compared to the traditional castle and moat approach with a centrally controlled internet edge," says Thomas Seibold, Cybersecurity Leader at Kyndryl. "Every cloud service has its own edge, in addition to the end user device that directly connects to the internet."

As more traffic moves through these network edges, visibility becomes a concern. And in a hybrid environment where cloud access is permitted, one device can give attackers visibility into traffic flow across the network.

## Offers Greater Visibility and Control

Secure access service edge (SASE) is a promising solution to the security risks of SD-WAN, offering visibility and controls that layer on top of network access.

"What SASE brings is a zero-trust network architecture," explains Jeremy Reese, WAN leader at Kyndryl. "And that addresses these security challenges by bringing visibility into all user access, and then provides the controls to enforce consistent policies in that hybrid environment."

With SASE, there's a single pane of glass that both network and security teams can use to see everything going on in the network. Even better, these two teams can work together to manage and support the network.

In most organizations, network and security teams are siloed. By allowing these teams to bring their expertise together, SASE delivers a truly integrated system.

## Cutting-Edge Industries Are Already Adapting

Many industries are already embracing SD-WAN and SASE, including the financial services sector.

Banks have traditionally been hesitant to move to more cloud-based systems. One reason is that banking is a highly regulated industry where compliance and security are critical. When the pandemic hit, banks ran into a problem. They needed to reduce branch offices while increasing their scope and functionality. Yet they were stuck running cost-prohibitive, heavily burdened traditional MPLS networks that connected multiple branch locations.

As SD-WAN evolved, some banks started to become more open to moving applications to the cloud. Yet security was still a major concern. With SASE providing increased network visibility and control, banks are finally able to get the security and compliance functionality they need, allowing them to embrace a hybrid environment.

IoT in manufacturing is another industry where SASE is emerging and may soon replace traditional perimeter security architecture.

"As manufacturing companies really look for solutions that offer higher visibility, control and insights over their various processes with IoT functionality, SASE is the perfect underlay that offers low latency, intelligent connectivity," Reese says.

## SASE Enables Digital Transformation

Ultimately, SASE is designed to make digital transformation possible. SD-WAN delivers increased speed and performance at the network edge, while SASE enables quick and easy access to cloud applications – all while using zero-trust network architecture.

SASE also enables security functionality like Secure Web Gateway (SWG) or Cloud Access Security Broker (CASB).

By layering all these capabilities, a business can digitally transform their network while reducing costs and producing better visibility and security functionality across the organization.

"It is my view that SASE will become a substitute for the traditional perimeter security architecture," shares Seibold. "The integration of SASE solutions into a holistic zero-trust enterprise architecture will achieve the level of cyber resiliency that organizations are looking for."

Visit Kyndryl to learn more about their SD-WAN and SASE services.

