

# Future-Proof Your Business:

## The C-Suite's Guide to AI-Powered SASE



kyndryl.

 paloalto<sup>®</sup>  
NETWORKS

# Strategic Modernization Sets the Stage for Continuous Innovation

Imagine this: your CEO just approved a major technology project for your enterprise, one that's going to transform customer service by making it faster, more engaging, and less expensive. A new GenAI solution will deliver instant, context-aware responses to inquiries, slashing wait times, improving experiences, and boosting loyalty and repeat orders.

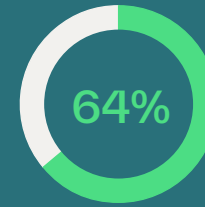
But the project quickly runs into a snag. Your legacy network can't handle the data traffic, your security team is overwhelmed with alerts, and maintaining outdated technologies is eating up too much of your IT budget.

This isn't a hypothetical situation. It's the reality for a growing number of businesses burdened by mounting technical debt.

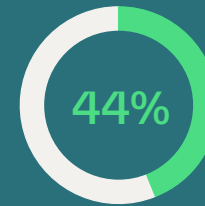
Rapidly-emerging technologies like generative and agentic AI are being integrated into core business processes at breakneck speed, but they demand more from networks — more bandwidth, better performance, and more robust security. If your business is to be agile and innovative, it must build a network foundation that makes this possible.

## Kyndryl and Palo Alto Networks deliver an AI-driven, Zero Trust SASE solution to accelerate growth and reduce risk

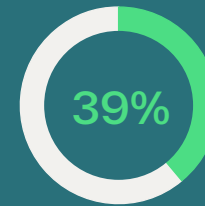
Prisma SASE (Secure Access Service Edge) integrates networking and security into a unified, cloud-delivered service that enables secure access to business applications as well as edge resources. Kyndryl supports this technology with a comprehensive array of end-to-end services including planning, implementation, management, and maintenance. Together, they're putting cutting-edge innovation within reach.



64% of global CEOs fear that their IT tools and processes are outdated.<sup>1</sup>



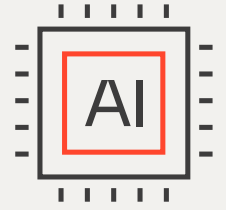
44% of mission-critical IT infrastructure is at or approaching end-of-life.<sup>1</sup>



Only 39% of business leaders see their IT as future-ready.<sup>1</sup>



# Unlock Growth, Not Just Performance: The Business Case for AI-Driven SASE



Your enterprise's future success and present-day competitive advantage depend upon your ability to integrate new technologies quickly and securely. With a modern, AI-driven SASE solution, you can:

## Become innovation-ready

Harnessing the power of generative and agentic AI will mean building AI computing clusters, especially at the edge. To support these, your network will need to be able to handle growing volumes of traffic. Capturing the full business value of emerging technologies demands seamless network performance.

## Stop threats faster

AI-driven SASE gives you a proactive defense against the next generation of cyber threats. Powered by AI, next-generation SASE learns your network's behavior so that it can spot and stop zero-day attacks before they can disrupt your business or compromise your data. Combining networking and security in a single platform allows for granular policy enforcement and robust identity-based access controls for all users, on any device, anywhere.

## Cut costs while improving experiences

Reduce management overhead, hardware costs, and vendor sprawl. With AI-driven SASE, administrators gain deep visibility into traffic movements for faster troubleshooting, while AI optimizes connectivity. The end result is better employee and customer experiences.

## Free up capital and operational resources

With fewer tools to manage, less administrative burden, and lower direct costs, the organization can invest more in bringing new products and services to market, adopting new digital business models, boosting customer experiences, and other types of high-value innovation.

# Best-in-Class Technology, Seamlessly Delivered: The Kyndryl and Palo Alto Networks Partnership

Kyndryl and Palo Alto Networks have joined forces to deliver the secure, agile network foundation global enterprises need to compete in an AI-driven market. This partnership brings best-of-breed technology together with best-in-class deployment, management, and integration expertise.

Let's take a closer look at what each partner brings to the table:

## Prisma SASE by Palo Alto Networks

The industry's most complete SASE solution, Prisma SASE protects all users, apps, data, and devices, delivers exceptional end user experiences, and supports resilient operations. By combining network security, software-defined wide-area networking (SD-WAN), and Autonomous Digital Experience Management (ADEM) into a unified, cloud-delivered solution, Prisma SASE improves network performance while reducing real-world business risk.

A Zero Trust-by-design architecture makes it possible to authenticate every user, device, and access request, preventing lateral movement and allowing for secure work on any device. Prisma SASE has built-in AI to improve threat detection, optimize network performance, automate dynamic bandwidth allocation, and contextually enforce policies.

## Kyndryl

As the world's largest IT integrator, Kyndryl brings expertise in seamlessly managing global deployments and leveraging automation to streamline operations. Kyndryl has decades of experience delivering advisory and managed services, helping enterprises find the best path to Zero Trust.

Kyndryl offers end-to-end network maturity and security health assessments, as well as 24/7 management of customers' Prisma SASE deployments. With Kyndryl at the helm, your SASE solution will always have the latest software version, be perfectly tuned, and be integrated with state-of-the-art security operations center (SOC) and/or network operations center (NOC) capabilities.

Integrate Prisma SASE with **Kyndryl Bridge**, a proprietary, AI-powered, entire-business digital platform that supports full-scale visibility and orchestration across hybrid and multi-cloud technology ecosystems.

# Drawing on Firsthand Experience

By replacing its legacy on-premises network with Prisma SASE, Kyndryl cut maintenance costs, reduced downtime, and improved user experience for thousands of customers and employees – all while boosting security.

When it became an independent company in 2021, Kyndryl inherited a legacy on-premises network infrastructure anchored by traditional data centers and secured primarily at the perimeter. This technology architecture was incompatible with Kyndryl's vision – to enable a distributed, digital-native workforce, operate with industry-leading agility, and achieve cyber resilience.

To build an operating environment that's **lean, modern** and **secure**, Kyndryl made a bold move. The company orchestrated a sweeping transformation of its internal network at the same time that it set forth on a large-scale cloud migration. Central to this evolution was the adoption of **Zero Trust** principles.

With **Palo Alto Networks Prisma SASE**, Kyndryl integrated networking and security into a single, cloud-driven delivery model. This dramatically simplified the company's technology infrastructure while enabling a continuously updated security posture.

Kyndryl learned by doing over the course of its strategic modernization journey. Now, the company is incorporating this knowledge into the design of its services, so that customers can also benefit from what Kyndryl's teams have learned.



# The Network Modernization Journey

Kyndryl's deep expertise and firsthand experience underpin the processes it has built for its customers. This comprehensive phased approach is proven to smooth the path to SASE implementation.

Here's what the road to AI-driven SASE looks like:

**01**

## Assessment

### Identify Risk Exposure

- Review the current state of your networking and security environment, including NOC/SOC capabilities, existing architecture, business requirements, and end user needs.
- Build a phased SASE adoption roadmap that's tailored to your enterprise's future growth plans.

**02**

## Design and Planning

### Align Capabilities with Business Objectives

- Work with stakeholders to establish priorities, set goals for the project, and select technology components.
- Ensure that the new solution will be fully integrated with cloud-hosted and on-premises resources, end user devices and SaaS apps.
- Design new processes and workflows.

**03**

## Build and Integrate

### Minimize Disruption, Maximize Value

- Deploy the new platform, ensuring minimal disruption to ongoing operations.
- Gradually migrate applications and users.
- Provide training, documentation, and skills enablement to ensure IT teams are equipped to manage the new solution.

**04**

## Operationalize

### Continuously Improve Your Deployment

- If needed, leverage Kyndryl's services for 24/7 platform management, including proactive monitoring, upgrades, health checks, and continuous optimization.
- Apply advanced analytics and AI to tune policies and keep improving security and performance.

# Securing the Digital-First Enterprise

Enterprises that streamline and secure their networks gain the ability to seize opportunities faster. They also become better able to withstand disruptions.

Kyndryl's own technology modernization journey has gotten the company to a key destination: simplicity. By streamlining applications and systems, Kyndryl created an agile and responsive IT environment that supports growth and business innovation.

Inherited environment	Two years into business transformation
1800+ business applications	<360 business applications
435 HR, finance, procurement, and quote-to-cash apps	1 Workday platform and 1 SAP platform
54 on-premises data centers	4 hyperscaler locations
68 data solutions/information warehouses	1 data platform

SASE applies this approach to networking and security, consolidating functionalities on a single platform while supporting secure-by-design and Zero Trust principles. Adopting SASE creates an agile and responsive technology environment that's simpler but also more resilient.

## How Prisma SASE Supports and Enhances Cyber Resilience

Cyber resilience is the ability of an organization to anticipate, protect against, withstand, and rapidly recover from cyber incidents, disruptions, and attacks. It's a broad, integrated strategy that focuses on ensuring business continuity and the integrity of digital operations.

By converging networking and security onto a platform that's adaptable and robust, SASE is a key enabler of cyber resilience. Prisma SASE delivers:

- **Unified security controls:** SASE enforces consistent policies for all users, devices, and cloud resources, regardless of location.
- **Zero Trust architecture:** SASE was engineered to continuously verify identity and device posture before granting access, a core capability needed for Zero Trust. This minimizes lateral movement across the environment and enables rapid response to incidents.
- **Real-time threat prevention:** AI-driven threat detection identifies anomalies in real time, instantly quarantining suspicious traffic and enabling rapid response to attacker reduce dwell time and incident blast radius.
- **Scalability and rapid recovery:** Prisma SASE's cloud-native architecture ensures high availability and elastic scalability, supporting disaster recovery and business continuity.

# Conclusion: Setting the Foundation for Your Business's Future

The future of your business depends upon building a network that does more than keep the lights on. Instead, you need a technology engine that powers innovation. When you draw on the combined expertise of Palo Alto Networks and Kyndryl, you can stop wasting time and money on legacy infrastructure and start building a foundation for future success.

SASE gives your enterprise an agile base. Its adaptable architecture ensures that your enterprise will always be ready to pivot and integrate the latest technologies. No matter what the future may hold, you'll be prepared to face the unknown—whether that's a wave of technological disruption or sophisticated new cyber threats.

Stop funding outdated systems and start building a platform for innovation, growth, and resilience.

**Ready to transform your network into a strategic asset?**

[Connect with our experts](#) to discuss your specific network modernization goals and map out your own SASE transformation plan.





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**Source:**

1. [Kyndryl, The Kyndryl Readiness Report 2024](#)