



PoV

Empowering Enterprises with SASE-Led Digital Transformation



Organizations must keep up with technology as the world becomes more digitally integrated to remain competitive. Digital transformation has become a key factor for success and survival in business, especially as the security environment continues to evolve. To help companies empower their enterprise networks and support digital transformation initiatives, Secure Access Service Edge (SASE) has emerged as an effective solution.

SASE is a cloud-based network security architecture that provides secure access to applications and data from any device or location. SASE is gaining popularity, and the predictions are so overwhelming. According to Gartner, by 2025, at least 80% of enterprises will have explicit strategies and timelines for SASE adoption encompassing user, branch, and edge access, up from 20% in 2021.

What is driving the SASE adoption?



The key driving factors responsible for the adoption of SASE include increasingly distributed workforces, continuous security capabilities, compliance, and faster deployment.

Increasingly distributed workforces: With the rise of remote work and cloud-based applications, traditional network security models that rely on securing the perimeter of a corporate network are becoming less effective. SASE offers a more flexible and scalable approach to securing access to resources located anywhere in the cloud, on-premises, or hybrid.

Continuous and uniform security: SASE combines security and networking functions into a single cloud-based platform, providing continuous security capabilities. By incorporating Zero Trust principles, SASE offers comprehensive security measures that protect data and resources from unauthorized access.

Compliance: SASE solutions can help organizations comply with data privacy regulations and industry standards by enforcing policies across all networks and providing continuous monitoring and reporting. With the continued growth of remote workforces and cloud-based applications, the need for comprehensive security solutions like SASE will only continue to increase in importance.

Faster deployment: SASE solutions can be deployed and managed quickly, without extensive hardware or software installations, as it's installed on the cloud, making it easier for organizations to adapt to changing business needs and protect against ever-evolving security threats. This means that businesses can deploy new applications and services more quickly without worrying about security concerns.

Challenges with legacy networks



Legacy networks have been a staple in the world of digital transformation for many years, but they are beginning to show their limitations. As apps and resources move to the cloud, backhauling traffic to data centers causes latency. Legacy networks can be difficult to maintain and require manual updates and complex configurations that can be time-consuming and costly. Additionally, they may not offer the scalability or agility necessary in today's fast-paced digital world that SASE offers, where changing business demands need immediate solutions.

SASE provides an easy-to-use interface that allows IT teams to provide a single pane of glass for user activities and network utilization, as cloud-based no need to manage, upgrade or patch the SASE hosting platform and provides direct user/device-to-app connectivity.

Why do security leaders need SASE extensively in their roadmap?



The digital transformation of the enterprise is now a critical component of success in any industry. With the introduction of Software-Defined Wide Area Networks (SD-WAN) and cloud security solutions, organizations can create a secure, seamless network connection for their users. However, one piece is still missing from this puzzle - SASE.

Security leaders need SASE extensively in their roadmap as it provides an end-to-end platform for delivering secure remote access, cloud security services, secure web access, application performance optimization, and user experience.

SASE is designed to protect businesses from threats using identity management, zero trust principles, and enforced segmentation. It also allows organizations to simplify their networking architecture while providing uniformity in terms of both user experience and cost efficiency. In addition, it enables enterprises to be more agile when dealing with changing business conditions or customer needs.

Keys to successful SASE deployment



With its holistic approach to security and agility for digital transformation initiatives, SASE offers organizations the ability to respond quickly to cyber threats. To ensure the successful deployment of SASE in an enterprise environment, however, there are certain steps that need to be taken.

Understanding your organization's requirements- Before deploying a SASE solution, it's essential to identify your organization's needs, such as the types of applications and services used, user locations, and security and compliance requirements.

Choosing the right SASE solution: There are various SASE solutions available in the market, and it's crucial to select one that meets your organization's needs. Look for a solution that provides integrated security features, network connectivity, and cloud-based management.

Planning the deployment: Planning is critical for a successful SASE deployment. Consider factors such as network architecture, bandwidth requirements, security policies and controls, and deployment timelines.

Ensuring compatibility: Ensure that your SASE solution is compatible with your existing infrastructure, applications, and devices. This can help prevent any compatibility issues that may arise during deployment.

Implementing security policies: Establishing and implementing security policies is vital to ensure the safety of your organization's data and systems. Ensure that your SASE solution provides robust security subsidiary features such as advanced threat prevention, sandboxing, and intrusion detection.

Testing and monitoring: Once the SASE solution is deployed, it's essential to test and monitor its performance continually. This can help identify any issues and ensure the solution functions correctly.

Benefits of starting your SASE security journey



Starting a SASE security journey is something that more enterprises are taking advantage of to bolster their cyber-security measures. One of the biggest advantages of SASE over legacy systems is its cloud-native architecture. With SASE, network and security functions are delivered through the cloud rather than relying on hardware appliances. This makes it easier for organizations to scale their networks as needed and quickly adapt to changing business requirements.

Another key advantage of SASE is speed. Unlike legacy systems that require multiple devices to be deployed at distinct locations, SASE provides a unified platform that can be centrally managed from a single console. This reduces management complexity and eliminates the need for manual configuration changes across different devices.

In addition, because SASE is delivered through the cloud, it enables faster deployment times and more efficient use of resources than legacy systems. This means organizations can quickly provision new services or update existing ones without worrying about hardware limitations or costly downtime.

What's next for SASE?



As enterprises look to the future of digital transformation, SASE-led solutions are quickly becoming the go-to choice. With a single framework consolidating multiple services and technologies, businesses can enjoy advanced functionality without sacrificing operational efficiency or security.

The question now is: what is next for SASE? The answer lies in its ability to provide a comprehensive solution that meets the needs of modern organizations across all industries. This includes enhanced scalability and support for hybrid-cloud environments and robust analytics capabilities to uncover potential threats before they become serious issues.

Conclusion



The emergence of SASE has given enterprises the opportunity to revolutionize their operations and drive digital transformation. It is a powerful solution enabling organizations to secure access and reduce risk while improving user experience across cloud, mobile, and on-premises environments. Combining SASE's security capabilities with its automation features allows enterprises to gain greater control over their data and processes.

Organizations can now take advantage of SASE's agility and scalability to streamline IT operations and meet changing business demands. The ability to easily onboard users on different networks, enforce compliance regulations, maintain consistent network security protocols, and protect against malicious threats makes SASE an ideal choice for enterprises looking for an all-in-one cybersecurity solution. With SASE's innovative approach to digital transformation, businesses can build stronger defenses against cyber threats while reducing complexity in IT operations.

About the Author



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Recipient of various industry awards and accolades, Dilip Panjwani is a technologist, strategist, industry thought leader, and sought-after speaker. He has over two decades experience in the IT & Information Security domains. Dilip is leading a large team of security experts in building state-of-the-art and innovative cybersecurity solutions to help LTIMindtree customers in their cybersecurity transformation journeys.

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