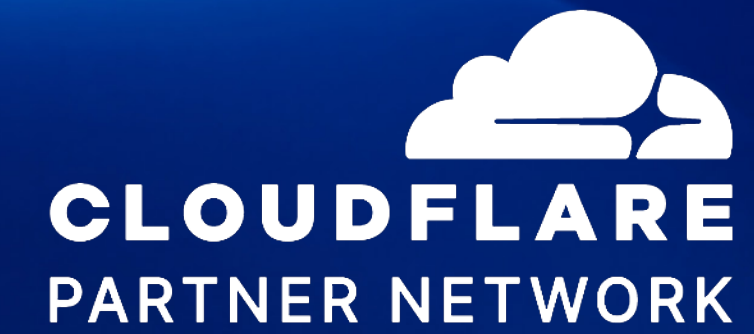




Defining your IT strategy with **SASE**

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1 | A strategy for the new world

SASE exists because traditional security strategies are no longer fit for the age of the internet. In a world of remote access and multi-device working, users need to access all their data and applications from any device or location, without inadvertently introducing risk.

In order for technology transformation to be successful, IT teams need to avoid tying themselves to more point products and assess the effectiveness of the tools they already have.

Doing nothing is not an option

Most businesses don't review their security strategy until they've been breached. And by then it's too late. Cyber-attacks are becoming more sophisticated by the day and, with hybrid working now commonplace, enterprises have become even more vulnerable to cyber-crime.

By 2025, it's predicted that 80% of enterprises will be using a SASE / SSE architecture.



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1 | Challenges with traditional security strategies

With increasingly sophisticated cybercriminals using the latest technologies, it is unlikely that your legacy systems are equipped to provide the security or efficiency required today.

- Unseen vulnerabilities
- Fragmented approach across hosted or SaaS applications
- Security controls do not align with policy
- Hardware is built to cater for peak loads, rather than scaling to match demand
- Resource-intensive configuration
- Inconsistent security based on user location
- Disjointed user experience

To build the best platform for your business moving forward, you need a future-proof platform with end-to-end protection, like SASE...



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2 | Common drivers for IT transformation



Cloud adoption and transformation:

Most companies will be accelerating their use of the cloud due to its potential, but it's in constant evolution and opens up your attack surface. Utilising the cloud requires new methods of managing and securing those environments.

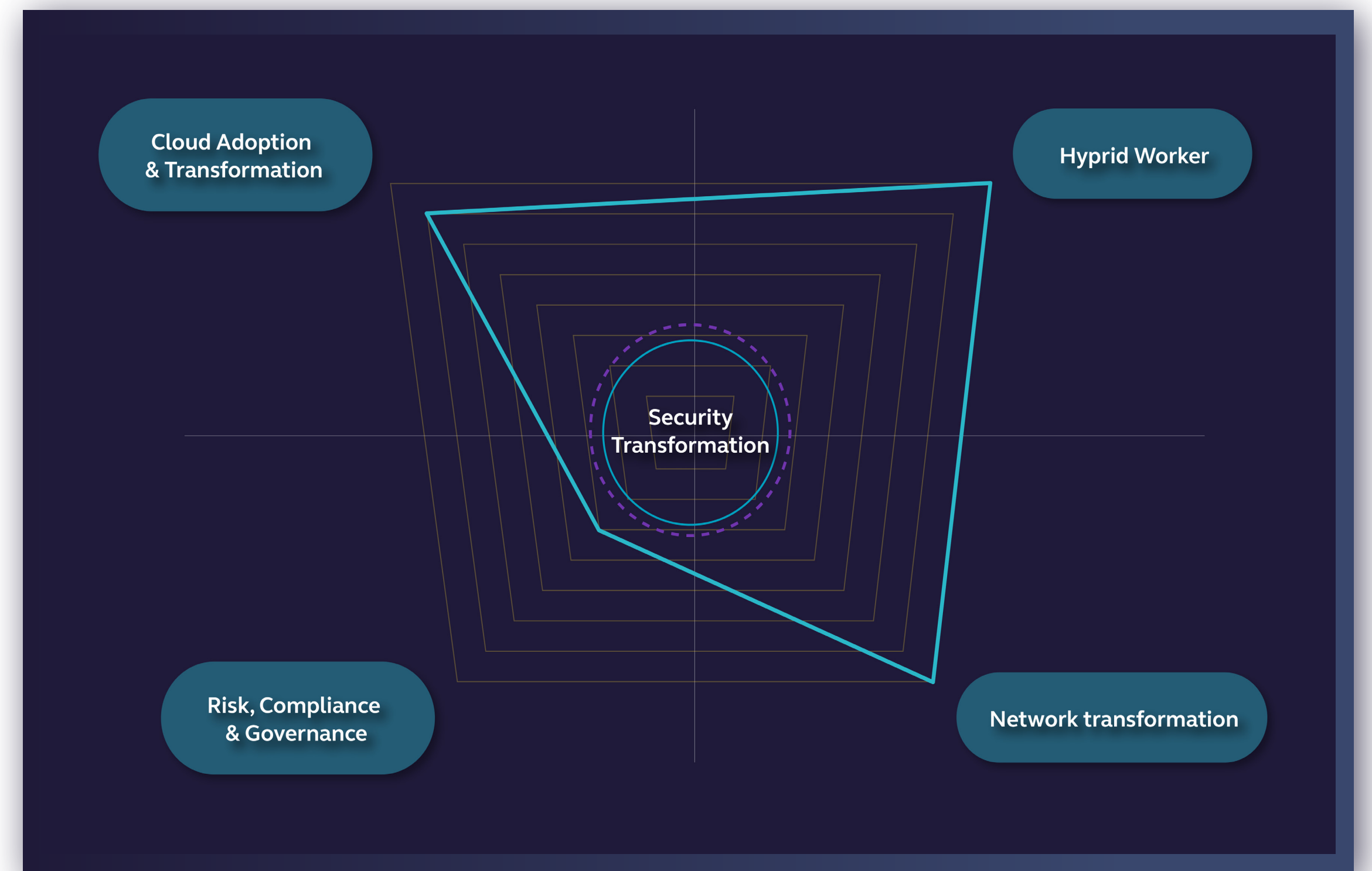
Hybrid working: As well as corporate users, you also need to consider how guests, partners and contractors are given the right access without compromising security.

Governance, compliance and risk:

GDPR, Cyber Essentials, cyber insurance and supplier engagements. Disparate solutions layered to create protection, but increases complexity.

Network and physical infrastructure:

Most companies will have a range of endpoints from remote users, to IoT devices on the network, so your security strategy needs to cover devices with and without an identity and create a consistent experience across office and remote users.



The weighting of each of these drivers will help you select and design the right SASE platform for your organisation.

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3 | What is SASE?

And how it can help

Secure Access Service Edge (SASE) is a cloud architecture model that combines the network and security functions needed to continuously improve services, empower employees wherever they work and protect critical data.

SASE provides end-to-end protection and policy enforcement across your entire infrastructure, with a consistent user experience for enhanced employee productivity.

SASE minimises off-net threats through:

- Network segmentation prevents any breach from spreading
- Multi-factor authentication (MFA) ensures authentic access
- End-to-end visibility makes irregular behaviour easier to spot
- Restricting access to data and applications reduces the spread of an attack



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Benefits of SASE

Keeping your enterprise ahead of the curve, your customised SASE cloud architecture will provide so much more than an enhanced user experience.



Benefits for the IT team

- Reduced physical footprint
- Fewer core vendors
- Freed up in-house IT resource
- Opportunity to use Security-as-a-Service
- Weaknesses in your network can easily be uncovered
- New services delivered quickly and securely
- End-to-end visibility
- Consistent security controls
- Scalable infrastructure
- Ease of management through a single pane of glass



Benefits for Chief Information Officers (CIOs)

Many CIOs put the bottom line close to the top of their list of priorities, so it certainly helps that SASE is an OpEx spending model. The standardisation helps too, providing not only a consistent user experience but also business continuity if key employees leave.

Your employees will benefit from a more consistent hybrid working experience, reducing the risk of user error and alert fatigue. Better still, SASE gives your firm the agility to take the next black swan event in your stride, whatever it may be.



Benefits for the business

- Hybrid workforce properly supported
- Cloud adoption accelerated
- Enhanced risk management, compliance and governance
- Future-proof infrastructure



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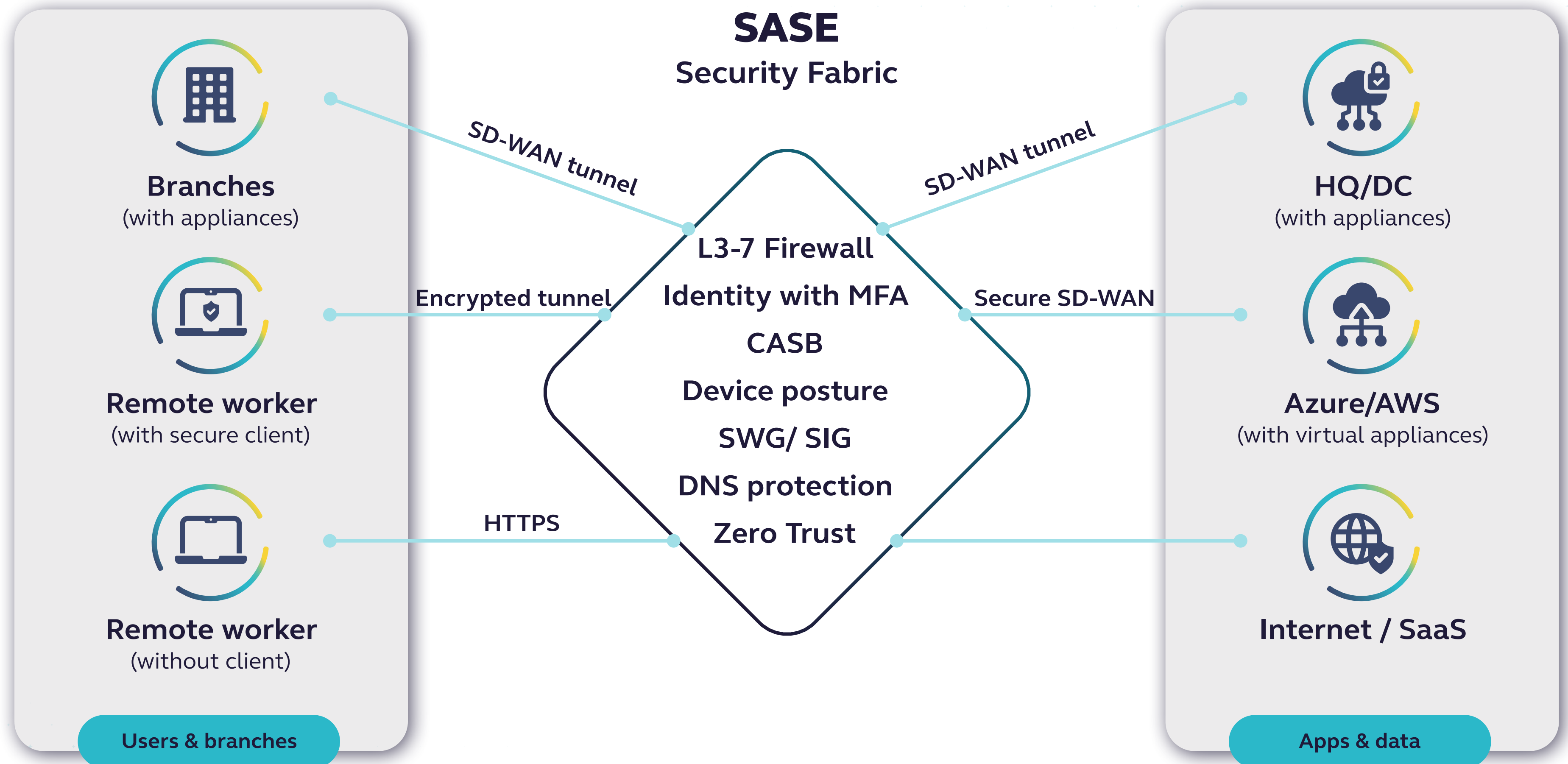
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4 Components of SASE

SASE combines the network and security components of your physical infrastructure (SD-WAN) with your cloud-based security tools (SSE) to provide secure connectivity for every location, device and application.



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5 | The growing importance of Zero Trust



Zero Trust methodologies are now becoming increasingly important requirements for cyber insurance, regulatory compliance and certifications like Cyber Essentials.

This is another element that can be adopted practically and will mature over time. It is also a crucial step in creating an identity-centric security strategy.



Verify explicitly

Always make security decisions using all available data points, including identity, location, device health, resource, data classification, and anomalies.



Least privilege access

Limit access with just-in-time and just-enough-access (JIT/JEA) and risk-based adaptive policies. Zero Trust deployments apply least privilege access to infrastructure, ensuring compartmentalized access to systems which can add or modify permissions or policies



Assume breach

Minimize blast radius with micro-segmentation, end-to-end encryption, continuous monitoring, and automated threat detection and response

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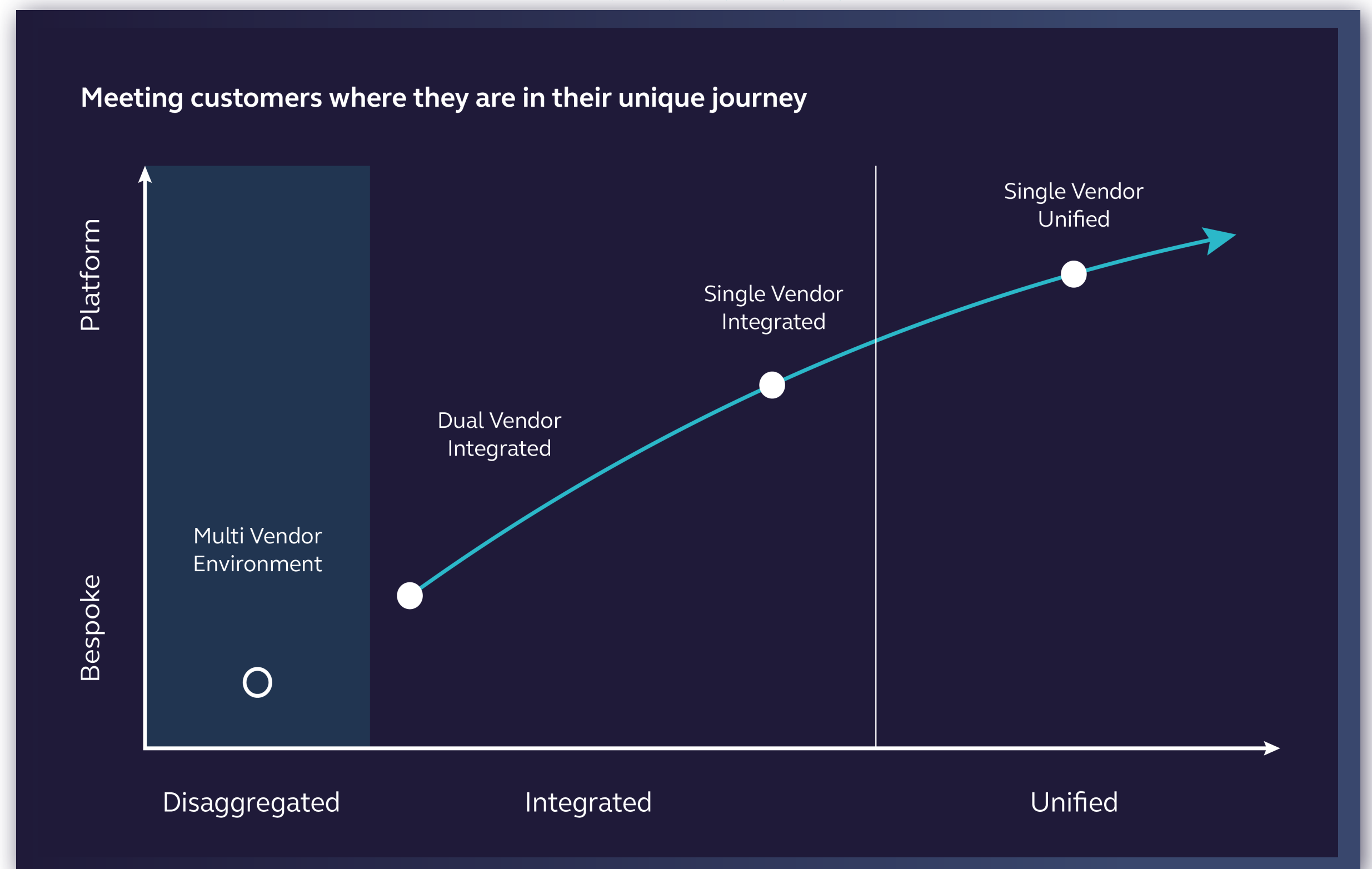
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6 | The journey to SASE

The ultimate goal of a SASE solution is to create a unified platform that delivers secure connectivity, increasing visibility and ease of management.

Your organisation may already be on the journey to SASE, having selected vendors that integrate to create a cohesive solution, but with multiple dashboards and management platforms.

Regardless of what stage you're at, you're likely to have all the necessary components of a SASE solution, but won't be reaping the full benefits until you have a unified platform.



Now that you have identified what stage your business is at in its journey to SASE, what's the next step?

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7 | Three reasons to start your SASE journey now



1 Avoid technical debt

Starting slowly with a pilot user group allows you to gain valuable insights to prevent you increasing technical debt.



2 Boost productivity and efficiency

Identify areas for improvement in productivity, efficiency, and effectiveness through better configuration.



3 Lower Total Cost of Ownership (TCO)

Take advantage of cost-saving benefits, including flexible licensing, quicker resolution times and operational savings.

So, how can you best set about making the transformation?

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8 | Six-step approach to defining your SASE strategy



A successful SASE implementation starts with setting specific and measurable goals, understanding the technical requirements and defining a plan.

Align the capabilities of new technologies with the unique needs of your business, bearing in mind compatibility with existing digital platforms, scalability, security, and user-friendliness.

1 Business operation assessment

Begin with an audit of your current infrastructure, including apps, users, and locations. Identify your “crown jewels” that need special protection.

2 Vendor & partner evaluation

Assess potential SASE vendors and partners based on their offerings, support, and alignment with your needs.

3 Access requirements & identity strategy definition

Identify potential risks for your estate and detail how your business interacts with its various stakeholders. Aim for least privilege and contextual access.

4 Consider the operating model

Decide whether you will manage SASE in-house (assuming you have the capability) or outsource.

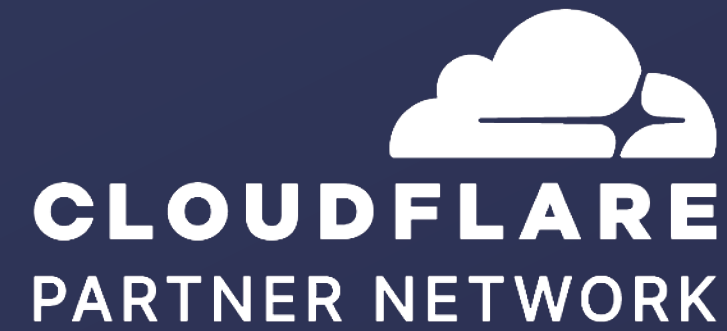
5 Integration and migration planning

Consider integrations for each solution and plan migrations. SASE does not need to be implemented all at once, so you can take one stage at a time.

6 Future needs mapping

Identify your target operating model to create your SASE roadmap. Consider governance and policy requirements, and what existing technology can be replaced.

***SASE is the way forward for enterprises looking for a more secure, efficient and productive future.
All you need now is an expert partner to support you on your journey.***



About Focus Group

Founded in 2003, Focus Group is recognised by Deloitte as one of Europe's fastest-growing and most successful tech companies.

As a Cloudflare Zero Trust Authorised Service Delivery Partner we offer a range of services to keep your infrastructure protected and resilient.



Sophisticated technologies thoughtfully planned, simply deployed and expertly supported.

Focus House, Ham Road,
Shoreham-by-Sea, West Sussex, BN43 6PA

Cloudflare and Focus Group Strengths

Technical Expertise

Combining Cloudflare's renowned leadership with Focus Group's industry-specific knowledge and experience, the partnership offers a blend of technical prowess and actionable insights.

Enviably Reputation

Reputation has critical importance in the legal sector. Both Cloudflare and Focus Group bring strong credibility, with a proven track record for delivering quality services and solutions.

Find out how our uniquely designed SASE solutions can empower your legal enterprise to thrive by visiting our website, and you can judge for yourself.

If you're ready to take the next step on your journey towards digital transformation, contact us today.

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