



The Future-Proofed Workplace

A Strategic Guide for IT
and Business Leaders

The workplace redefined

Navigating the future of work

The way we work is changing fast. With hybrid teams, new board-level imperatives for AI, and more complexity to manage than ever, workplaces need to evolve to support how business happens today, with the ability to adapt for tomorrow's needs. Workplaces can be anywhere – it's not just about where work happens, but also how it happens, and the experiences created for both employees and customers.

Creating productive workplaces for employees, partners, and customers can't be done in silos – it leads to security risks, visibility gaps, and inconsistent experiences. Is your organization simply solving problems as they arise or proactively building a resilient, integrated foundation for what's next?



The challenge:

New demands on your workplace

Technology

Massive increases in network traffic and bandwidth needs put pressure on legacy systems. 97% of IT leaders identify modernized networks as critical for AI, IoT, and cloud deployments.¹

Security

Risks and threats are more dynamic than ever, with AI-enhanced attacks, unmanaged devices, and expanded IoT attack surfaces. 9 in 10 organizations experienced AI-related security incidents last year.²

Operations

Greater complexity in managing more traffic and devices increases operational demands, plus the challenge of dealing with an industry-wide skills shortage. Over 90% of organizations globally will face IT skills shortages by 2026.³

People

Shifts in how employees communicate, get work done, and engage with customers require new planning from a process, technology, and real estate perspective.



The future-proofed workplace

Wherever work happens – factories, stadiums, homes, cars, hospitals, or offices – workplaces need to be agile to support today’s evolving needs and resilient to adapt to an unknown future. It’s about creating environments that evolve with employees’ needs and deliver incredible customer experiences.



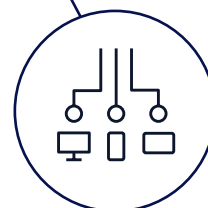
The network is ready for intensifying demands



Amazing experiences become the norm



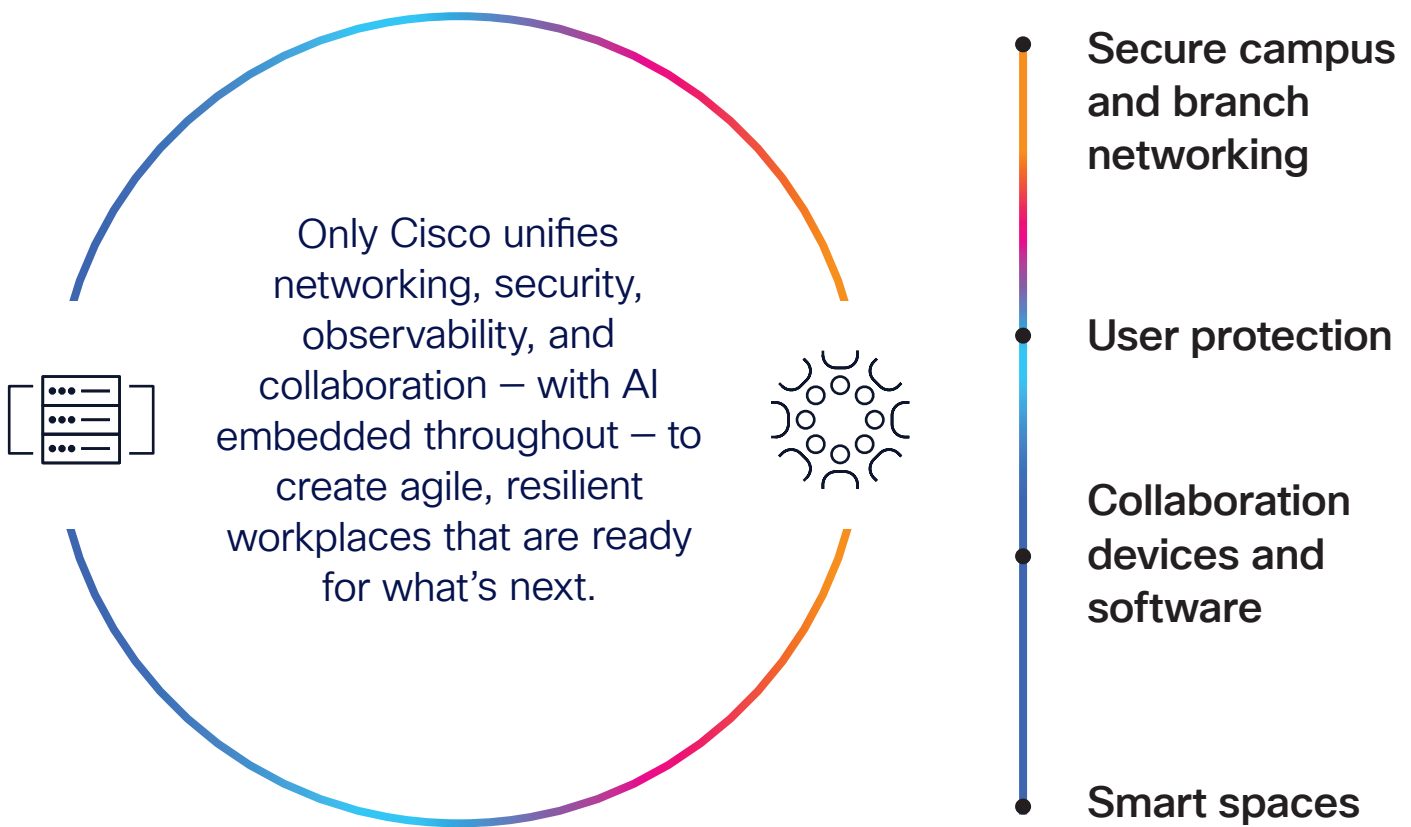
Security is infused from the start



IT has the tools to manage whatever happens



How Cisco helps with a unified approach





Secure campus and branch networking

Cisco delivers a comprehensive portfolio of wireless, switching, routing, Software Defined-Wide Area Network (SD-WAN), and Secure Access Services Edge (SASE) solutions to provide the secure connectivity that powers workplaces. With devices built on a foundation of security, assurance, and intelligence, we help organizations build reliable, secure networks – anywhere their business operates – with simple, scalable operations. Our secure network infrastructure is purpose-built for AI, delivering operational simplicity through unified management, security fused into the network, and networking devices designed for AI workloads – helping your network scale now and into the future.

User protection

To protect users and devices connecting from anywhere, Cisco offers a layered security approach, protecting from endpoints to email to applications – all anchored on frictionless zero trust access. We take an identity-first approach, continuously assessing security posture and dynamically adapting access policies. This provides a consistent, simple user experience that aims to frustrate attackers, not users.

Collaboration devices and software

Cisco helps you create exceptional experiences, whether you're facilitating meetings among employees or connecting with customers and partners. Our comprehensive, AI-powered collaboration portfolio includes Cisco Devices, which are designed to support varying needs from home offices to large conference rooms and also act as intelligent sensors to provide valuable insights for smarter spaces. With Webex Suite, employees can connect, collaborate, and engage effortlessly, accessing a comprehensive suite of tools needed for work. Webex Contact Center and Webex Connect deliver personalized, proactive customer experiences with purpose-built AI.

Smart spaces

Cisco Spaces brings together data from devices across your entire network – including collaboration endpoints, Wi-Fi, and sensors to optimize resources, spaces, energy costs, sustainability, and safety. Our Power over Ethernet (PoE) technology also helps simplify deployment and reduce costs by powering systems over a single Ethernet cable.



Cisco helps you build workplaces that work for everyone

Frictionless experiences

Deliver seamless experiences for employees and customers, boosting satisfaction and retention.

Productivity and agility

Empower teams to work smarter, making collaboration easier and simplifying IT management.

Safety and security

Deliver comprehensive safety and security across all your workplaces, securing devices and users while contributing to employee well-being.

Efficiency and cost savings

Optimize spaces and resources for more sustainable, energy-efficient workplaces, leading to better real estate investments, lower operational costs, and reduced environmental impact.



BT Group deployed Cisco's networking, security, and smart building solutions to provide uninterrupted connectivity for their distributed workforce, enabling effective collaboration and consistent customer service from any location.⁴



Nutrien implemented Cisco's secure network and IoT solutions to gain real-time insights, significantly enhancing operational efficiency and enabling quicker, data-driven decision-making across their facilities.⁵



Mercy Ships, brings care to underserved regions of Africa, with help from Cisco's networking and collaboration technologies, keeping remote healthcare teams connected, secure, and mission-ready.⁶



Tripadvisor, transformed its global offices into collaborative, efficient, and sustainable environments with Cisco, enhancing employee experience and reducing space utilization by 50% to optimize the real estate portfolio.⁷

The Cisco difference



The platform advantage

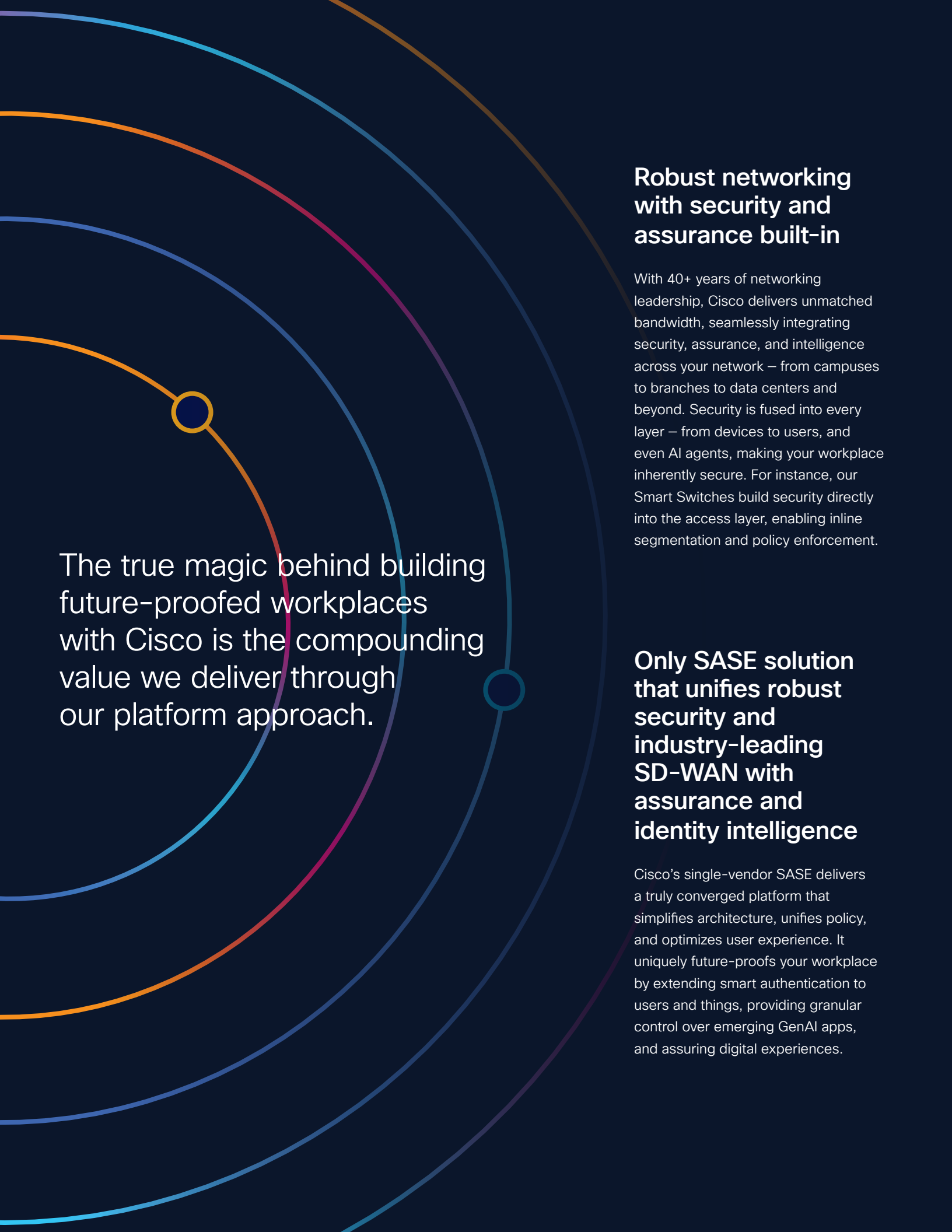
Cisco's platform approach delivers compounding value over time, with shared data across the critical pillars (networking, security, observability, and collaboration), ensuring extensibility to integrate with your existing environment, and providing a future-ready design that helps you adapt for what's next.

Foundation of digital resilience

Cisco helps you build a strong foundation of digital resilience for your workplace. We provide unparalleled visibility and insights across your entire digital footprint, including third-party and operational systems, by combining the power of the network with security, observability, and assurance. With Cisco, you can proactively spot issues, reduce risk, and ensure continuous operation, even during unexpected disruptions.

AgenticOps and other AI-first innovations

AgenticOps is a new paradigm for modern IT operations powered by AI agents that execute cross-domain workflows and accelerates resolution. Built for AgenticOps, AI Canvas is a generative UI delivering a shared, intelligent workspace for ITOps, NetOps, SecOps, and application teams that brings real-time telemetry, AI insights, and team collaboration into one view. In addition, Cisco has delivered many innovations such as AI Defense, which protects the development and use of AI across organizations, and industry-first uses of AI to create exceptional collaboration experiences with Webex.



The true magic behind building future-proofed workplaces with Cisco is the compounding value we deliver through our platform approach.

Robust networking with security and assurance built-in

With 40+ years of networking leadership, Cisco delivers unmatched bandwidth, seamlessly integrating security, assurance, and intelligence across your network – from campuses to branches to data centers and beyond. Security is fused into every layer – from devices to users, and even AI agents, making your workplace inherently secure. For instance, our Smart Switches build security directly into the access layer, enabling inline segmentation and policy enforcement.

Only SASE solution that unifies robust security and industry-leading SD-WAN with assurance and identity intelligence

Cisco's single-vendor SASE delivers a truly converged platform that simplifies architecture, unifies policy, and optimizes user experience. It uniquely future-proofs your workplace by extending smart authentication to users and things, providing granular control over emerging GenAI apps, and assuring digital experiences.

Kick-starting your journey to building a future-proofed workplace with Cisco





1

Define your vision & desired business outcomes

Start by clearly articulating what success looks like for your organization. Pinpoint specific business outcomes like boosting productivity, elevating employee and customer experiences, strengthening security, or improving operational efficiency. Consider the evolving needs of your employees and how emerging technologies like AI can help achieve these goals.

2

Develop a unified technology strategy

Move beyond siloed planning across IT, Facilities, and Security and create an integrated technology roadmap.

- Prioritize secure networking as your foundational enabler: Ensure your network is ready for today's demands and into the future, with the capacity to power your AI initiatives. Consider how security can be embedded directly into the network for better protection and ease of management.
- Cultivate exceptional experiences for employees & customers: Leverage integrated technology to create frictionless, secure experiences. Explore how AI-powered intelligent capabilities within collaboration tools and smart spaces can personalize interactions and optimize spaces.

3

Measure your success

Establish KPIs to track how your workplace transformation impacts key business outcomes defined in Step 1. These metrics will not only prove your ROI but also help refine your ongoing strategy.

Resources

1. Cisco: [“Enjoying new harmony.”](#)
2. Cisco: [“Nutrien goes deep to future-proof its workplaces.”](#)
3. Cisco: [“Cisco: Floating hospitals that merge technology, purpose, and partnerships”](#)
4. Cisco: [“Cisco: Tripadvisor’s Strategy for Future-proofed Workplaces”](#)
5. Cisco: [“Moderize your Network for the AI Era”](#)
6. Cisco: [“Modernize and secure your network for the demands of AI”](#)
7. Cisco: [“The AI-ready Blueprint: Future-proofing Networks for the Agentic Era”](#)

References

1. [Cisco IT Networking Leader Survey 2025](#)
2. [Cisco Cybersecurity Readiness Index 2025](#)
3. [IDC report - Enterprise Resilience: IT Skilling Strategies, 2024](#)

Are you ready to take the next step towards a future-proofed workplace?

Organizations are under pressure to evolve workplaces to support today's business needs, while also creating adaptable, future-proofed environments.

[Learn more](#) about how you can evolve for today and be ready for tomorrow.

