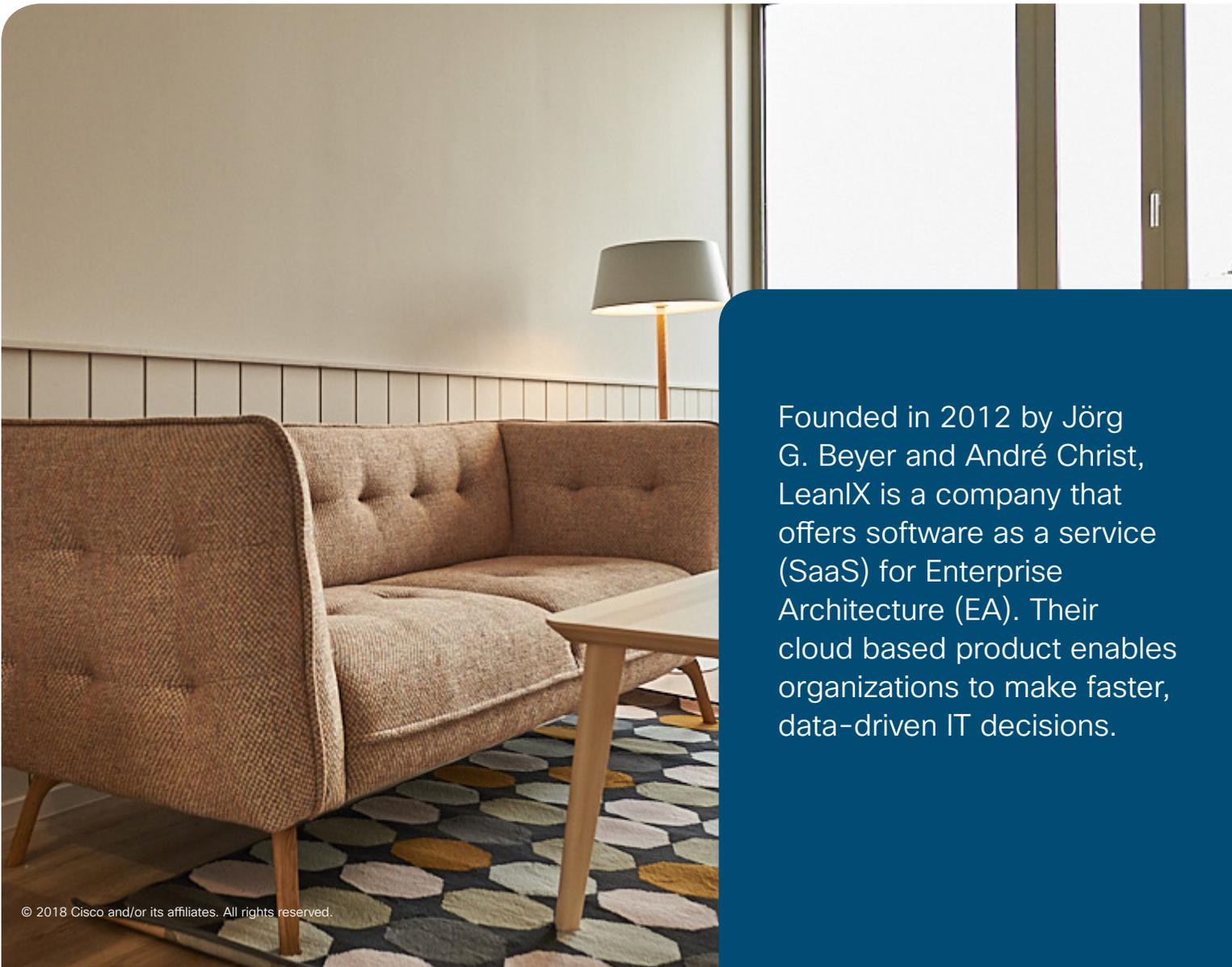# LeanIX – In the fast lane with Cisco Meraki

Secure cloud-based network technology

Founded in 2012 by Jörg G. Beyer and André Christ, LeanIX is a company that offers software as a service (SaaS) for Enterprise Architecture (EA). Their cloud based product enables organizations to make faster, data-driven IT decisions.

How it all began

It all started in 2012 with a handful of employees in a small office in Bonn. The idea for the product was already in place, but the financial means needed to execute the project on a broader basis had yet to be raised. Then, in 2015 LeanIX made its breakthrough by securing its first venture capital investor, and as a result, they were able to recruit more employees and relocated to a larger office.

In the ensuing years the concept was so successful that by 2017 the company had once again experienced significant growth to the extent that by the beginning of 2018, a more sizable office was needed for the second time – this time 16,000 sq. ft. LeanIX is still located in this building today and is currently planning to employ an additional 40 employees.

More than 130 well-known companies from a wide range of industries such as Adidas, DHL, Merck, Vodafone and Zalando place their trust in the innovative LeanIX solution. The company is headquartered in Bonn, Germany with offices in Boston, Massachusetts and Houston, Texas.

> "Reliable and efficient Internet is essential for our company."
>
> André Christ

The challenge

Due to their relatively fast-paced growth over a short period of 5 years, LeanIX has been confronted with the new IT requirements of a changing employee and business structure. These are primarily related to the existing network infrastructure, WLAN, and are divided into three major areas:

1. Office networking

LeanIX's core business is based on a cloud solution. This is, by nature, presented to prospective clients and customers via the web, making the reliability of the Internet within the office space essential. When the company initially relocated and were using a Fritz Box household router, by the time the second new office was opened and the team size was around 10+ people, this was no longer sufficient to provide all employees with reliable Internet access.

"Reliable and efficient Internet is essential for our company. Our software itself is marketed as a cloud solution and our in-house tools are also almost exclusively purchased as services via the Internet. On top of that, we use IP telephony and rely on web demos where we present the LeanIX solution to our prospective customers". André Christ, Founder and Co-CEO of LeanIX GmbH.

2. Separating networks for business-critical areas

To avoid compromising any of the departments' activities, the engineering department has a separate network to the visitors' and employees' areas, which satisfies specific safety requirements and runs independently.

3. Securing the network

The issue of data security is being increasingly raised when it comes to collaboration, especially when dealing with large clients, meaning that LeanIX needs a solution that can guarantee a high level of security while at the same time offering a means of control. Simultaneously, however, system failures must also be resolvable remotely. For example, if a system error occurs, an engineer must be able to communicate with the server easily and securely over a VPN from home.

Cisco Meraki

Products

- Cloud Managed Wireless LAN

- Cloud Managed Security Appliances

- Cloud Managed Switches

- Mobile Device Management

Benefits

- Easy installation

- Intuitive operation

- Flexible expansion

- Efficient security

Any questions about Cisco Meraki? We're here to help.

Contact us

The solution

For LeanIX, introducing an internal IT department or specific IT resources hasn't been an issue. As the company's name suggests, staying lean and flexible is important to them, which is why they have tended to refrain from creating additional operational tasks.

As a result, LeanIX was quick to discover the Cisco Meraki solution following some preliminary talks. Meraki is a cloud based network and WLAN solution that is particularly well-suited to small and medium-sized businesses. The advantages of its system include easy installation and operation, even in the absence of technical expertise, flexible expandability and integrated security components.

"We were looking for a solution that was reliable and easy to use. In Meraki we have found a product that enables us to concentrate on our core strength - software development. The Cisco Meraki solution has been running flawlessly since day one. No outages. Intuitive operability. Competent support. There's not much more you could ask for."

André Burchart, VP Operations of LeanIX GmbH.

Many expanding companies are experiencing similar challenges to LeanIX. As a company develops, the demands on IT can change rapidly, especially in the initial years. Ideally, a solution should be flexibly adapted and expanded by a company's own team, allowing them to continue concentrating on their core business without being confronted with complex IT issues.

"The Cisco Meraki solution has been running flawlessly since day one."

André Burchart