



# 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 organisation simply solving problems as they arise or proactively building a resilient, integrated foundation for what's next?



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## 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 modernised networks as critical for AI, IoT and cloud deployments.<sup>1</sup>

### Security

Risks and threats are more dynamic than ever, with AI-enhanced attacks, unmanaged devices and expanded IoT attack surfaces. 9 out of 10 organisations experienced AI-related security incidents last year.<sup>2</sup>

### 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 organisations globally will face IT skills shortages by 2026.<sup>3</sup>

### People

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



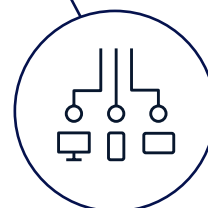
**The network is ready for intensifying demands**



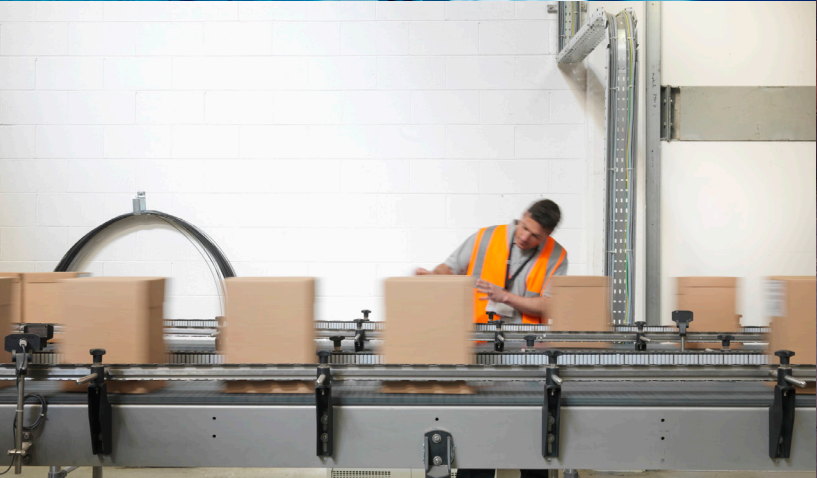
**Amazing experiences become the norm**



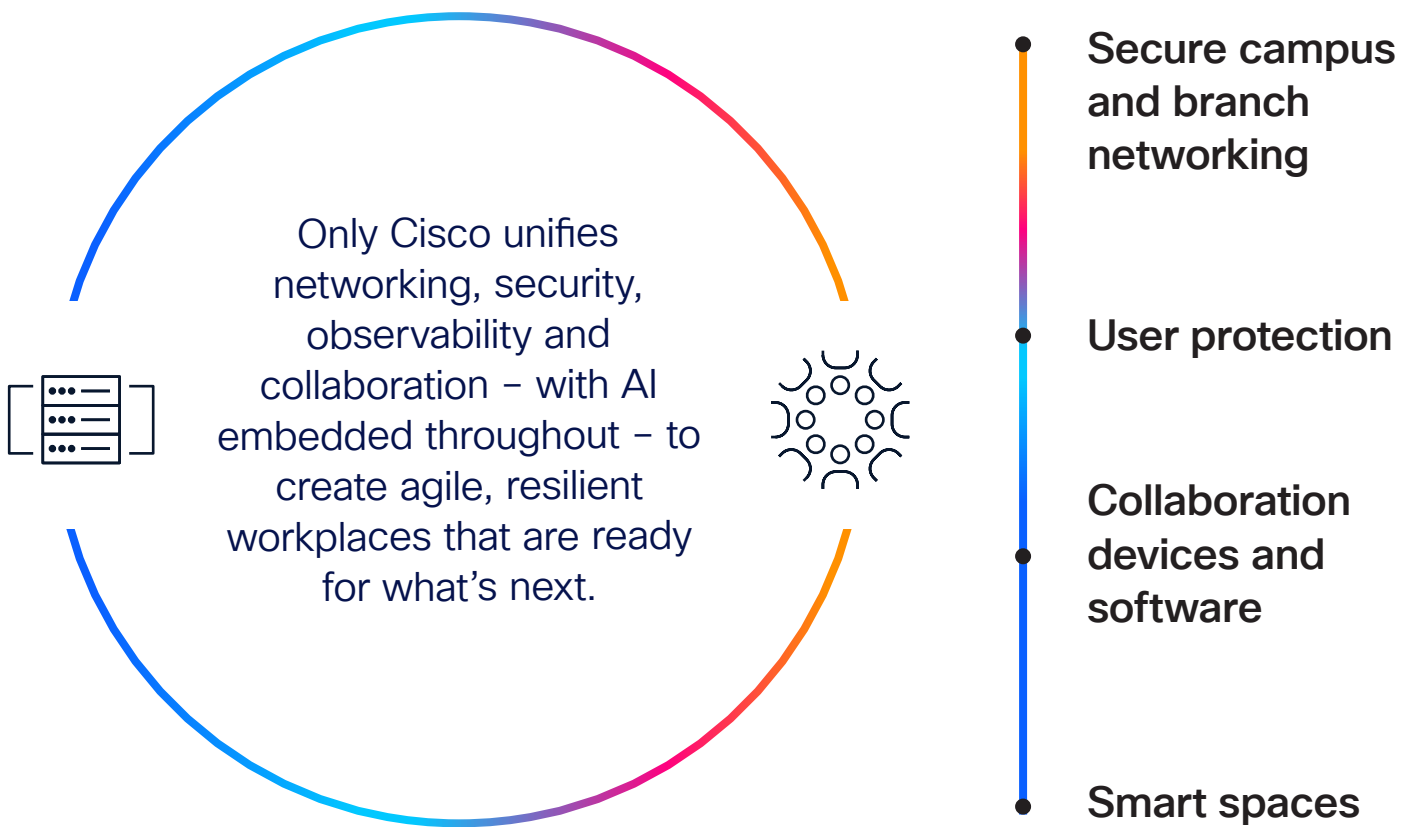
**Security is infused from the start**



**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 organisations 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, offering protection 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 Centre and Webex Connect deliver personalised, 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 optimise 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

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

### BT Group

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.<sup>4</sup>

### Nutrien™

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.<sup>5</sup>



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.<sup>6</sup>

### Tripadvisor

Tripadvisor transformed its global offices into collaborative, efficient and sustainable environments with Cisco, enhancing employee experience and reducing space utilisation by 50% to optimise the property portfolio.<sup>7</sup>

# The Cisco difference



## The platform advantage

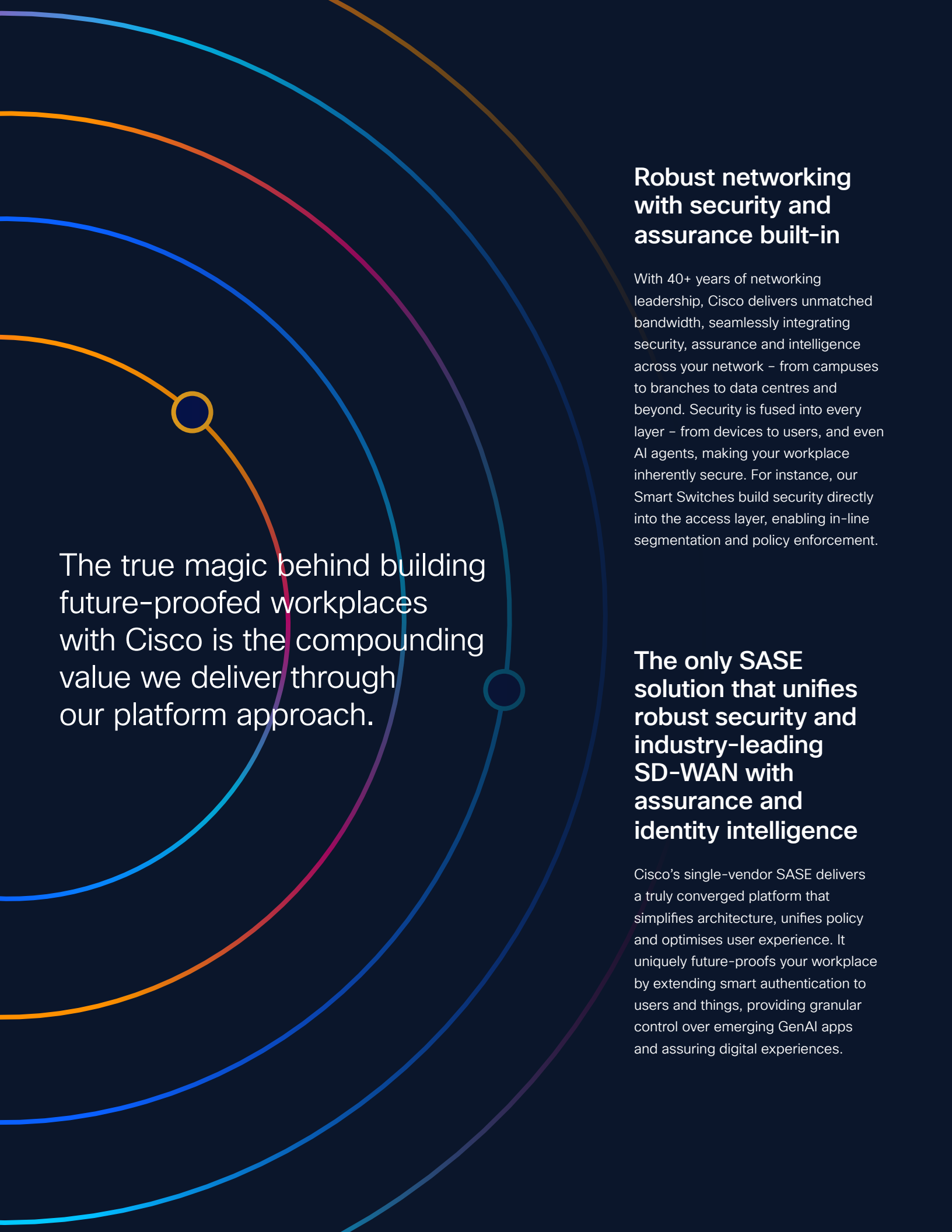
Cisco's platform approach delivers compounding value over time, with shared data across the critical pillars (networking, security, observability and collaboration), ensuring extensibility to integrate with your existing environment and providing a future-ready design that helps you adapt for what's 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 accelerate 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 Defence, which protects the development and use of AI across organisations, 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 centres 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 in-line segmentation and policy enforcement.

## **The 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 optimises 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 organisation. 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.

- Prioritise 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 personalise interactions and optimise 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: [“Moderise your Network for the AI Era”](#)
6. Cisco: [“Modernise 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?

Organisations 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.

