

5 questions to help you choose between cloud and on-premises networking

A guide to deciding what's best for your organization

1

Where will your applications live?

If you're not comfortable with moving applications to the cloud for the next 3 to 5 years or are restricted due to security and privacy guidelines, an on-premises solution may be the way to go.

On the other hand, if you want to simplify and centralize overall network management, if you're ready to move applications to the cloud, or if you have already set up some cloud services, [Cisco® Meraki®](#) cloud-based solution might be best.



Just so you know

A hybrid approach can offer the best of both.



2

Do you have local IT support in most locations or are you struggling to scale your staff?

On-premises – If your IT staff consists of technical experts who want a highly customizable network, consider an on-premises solution.

Cloud-managed – If your IT staff is small or stretched thin and is looking for ways to simplify deployments, consider a cloud-managed approach.

Hybrid approach – If you have expert IT staff members who need to support branches remotely, you might prefer a hybrid model so you can run headquarters with detailed control while keeping visibility and control over cloud-based branches.

Little-known fact

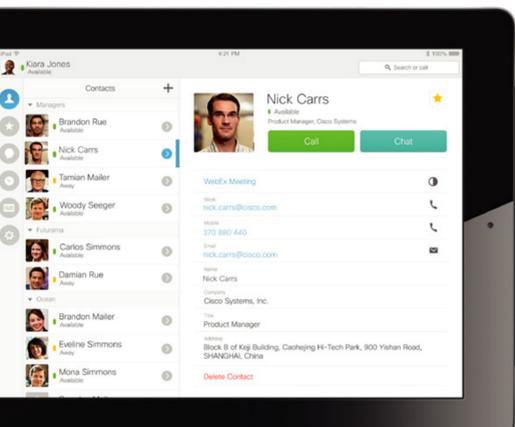
Penn Mutual deploys the on-premises Cisco architecture in their corporate headquarters and Cisco Meraki cloud-managed networking at their branches, effectively reducing operating costs by 40%.¹

3

How do you buy IT solutions?

If you prefer to budget each project independently in a CapEx model, go with an on-premises deployment.

If you'd rather pay for licenses and services over time in a renewable model through a subscription or OpEx-based approach, cloud management is best.



4

How are you supporting mobile devices?

On-premises networks can be great when you need advanced features, whereas cloud-managed networks offer quick setup and visibility.

On-premises

- Intelligent caching
- Optimization techniques
- Customized deployments

Cloud-managed

- Turnkey installation
- Networkwide visibility
- Management simplicity



“Cisco Meraki is so easy to handle that you don't need in-depth technical training. A two-hour briefing was enough. Configuring the device is almost as easy as building with LEGO bricks.”

– Uwe Fabian, IT director, SternPartner GmbH & Co. KG.

5

What matters to you most?



On-premises

- Advanced features
- Dynamic service rollouts
- Deep visibility with real-time analytics



Cloud-managed

- Ease of use
- Security and reliability
- Out-of-the-box full network visibility

Are you ready to network the next?

Whether you go with cloud-managed, on-premises, or hybrid, with Cisco you can build a network solution that is ideal for your application strategy, your IT staff's capabilities, and your business requirements.

[Learn More](#)

Additional resources

[5 ways to simplify operations and save your budget](#)

[See how your network can be a source of innovation.](#)

1. Prashanth Shenoy, "Cloud-Managed IT: The Demystification of Cisco Meraki," Cisco Blogs, Feb. 9, 2015.