Cisco SASE At a Glance

Networking and Security Convergence

See it all, protect it all, perform everywhere.

Today's workforce operates everywhere, accessing applications across multi-cloud environments. This distributed reality strains legacy networks, creating fragmented security, inconsistent performance, and amplified risk. IT and security leaders face mounting complexity and operational costs managing disparate tools.

Cisco SASE simplifies this challenge. It unifies network architecture and security policy, optimizing user experience and IT efficiency to accelerate your zero-trust journey.

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Key challenges

There are three key challenges that organizations look to SASE to solve:

- **Fragmented Visibility & Poor Performance:** Inconsistent visibility across WANs and clouds leads to poor application performance and availability for remote and mobile workers, directly impacting productivity and user experience.

- **Lack of Shared Identity Context & Access Control:** Disparate identity platforms and insecure IoT/OT devices create fractured access control, forcing IT to manage complex environments while struggling to maintain consistent security for users across remote, campus, and branch locations.

- **Challenges in Maintaining Uptime & Performance:** Legacy network and security infrastructure burdens IT teams, failing to meet modern application demands. This results in coverage gaps for scenarios like BYOD or contractor access, complicating multi-policy management and impacting uptime and availability.

Cisco's approach: Converged SASE Architecture

Cisco SASE converges security and networking, providing deep visibility into issues for rapid resolution. It expands protection across applications, users, and access scenarios, optimizing performance and simplifying IT management to accelerate your zero-trust transformation.

Key features

- **Proactive Performance Optimization:** AI-powered predictive path recommendations forecast network issues before they impact users. The system dynamically selects the optimal path for each application, providing seamless, reliable user experiences and minimizing downtime.

- **Multi-Region Fabric (MRF):** Simplified Global Network Management: Multi-Region Fabric (MRF) simplifies and optimizes large, distributed networks by segmenting them into regional overlays. This streamlines policy and routing, improves traffic performance with flexible transport and end-to-end encryption, and boosts resiliency and scalability across regions and clouds.

- **Accelerated Hybrid Cloud Connectivity:** Cloud OnRamp simplifies and automates secure, optimized connectivity between on-premises sites and multiple cloud providers. It extends SD-WAN to the cloud with automated multi-cloud integration, unified security, and real-time application optimization, simplifying your cloud-first journey.

- **AI-Powered Operational Efficiency:** SD-WAN incorporates AIOps with an LLM-based AI Assistant to proactively optimize network and application performance. It mitigates issues before they impact users through root cause analysis, reduces MTTR, and provides predictive insights for capacity planning and threat detection, enhancing security and reliability.

- **Dynamic User Trust Assessment:** Identity intelligence aggregates and analyzes cross-platform identity data, calculating a dynamic user trust score. This provides a simple, explainable risk assessment for every user, enabling adaptive access control.

- **Unified Management & End-to-End Visibility:** A single client and centralized policy management via Cisco Security Cloud Control (SCC) streamline security operations across your hybrid work environment. Digital experience monitoring (DEM) provides deep, end-to-end visibility, accelerating troubleshooting and ensuring highly performant user experiences.

- **Effortless Zero Trust Adoption:** AI-powered automation simplifies ZTNA deployment and optimizes performance for secure access everywhere. The multi-purpose client automatically provides VPN-as-a-Service for legacy applications, ensuring consistent protection and a seamless user experience.

- **Hyperscale Network Performance:** Built with performant technologies like VPP, QUIC, and MASQUE, Cisco SASE scales flexibly to cloud speeds. It delivers rapid, low-latency, and highly secure access to all application types, even during unpredictable network events.

- **Automated Policy Validation:** AI-driven policy testing uses synthetic traffic to predict outcomes before deployment, significantly reducing misconfigurations, conflicts, and potential downtime.

- **Comprehensive Digital Experience Monitoring:** Gain end-to-end insights across all owned and unowned infrastructure, enabling rapid detection, troubleshooting, and remediation of performance issues.

Cisco shines where security meets the network

Unparalleled protection and performance - delivered directly to your distributed workforce

Key differentiators:

- **Unmatched End-to-End Visibility:** Achieve complete, identity-aware insights across all networks (owned or unowned) and identity providers, powered by ThousandEyes and Identity Intelligence.

- **Intelligent Zero Trust Security:** Benefit from advanced authentication and contextual network segmentation using ISE and Duo, providing comprehensive user and device protection.

- **Optimized Global Application Delivery:** Our global PoP network (MASQUE/QUIC/VPP) combined with SD-WAN predictive path optimization and ThousandEyes policy assurance ensures superior, low-latency application performance worldwide.

Ready to Transform Your Hybrid Workplace?

Cisco's single-vendor SASE solution empowers customers with visibility and insights across the entire digital footprint, enabling seamless connectivity and end-to-end digital experiences across cloud, internet, and enterprise networks. Serving as the foundational architecture for Cisco's Universal ZTNA solution, powered by tight integrations between:

- Cisco Secure Access
- Cisco SD-WAN
- Cisco ISE
- Cisco Secure Firewall
- Cisco Identity Intelligence
- Cisco Duo

Learn More
Explore the full capabilities of Cisco SASE

Connect with an expert today
Discuss your specific needs and discover how Cisco SASE can benefit your organization.