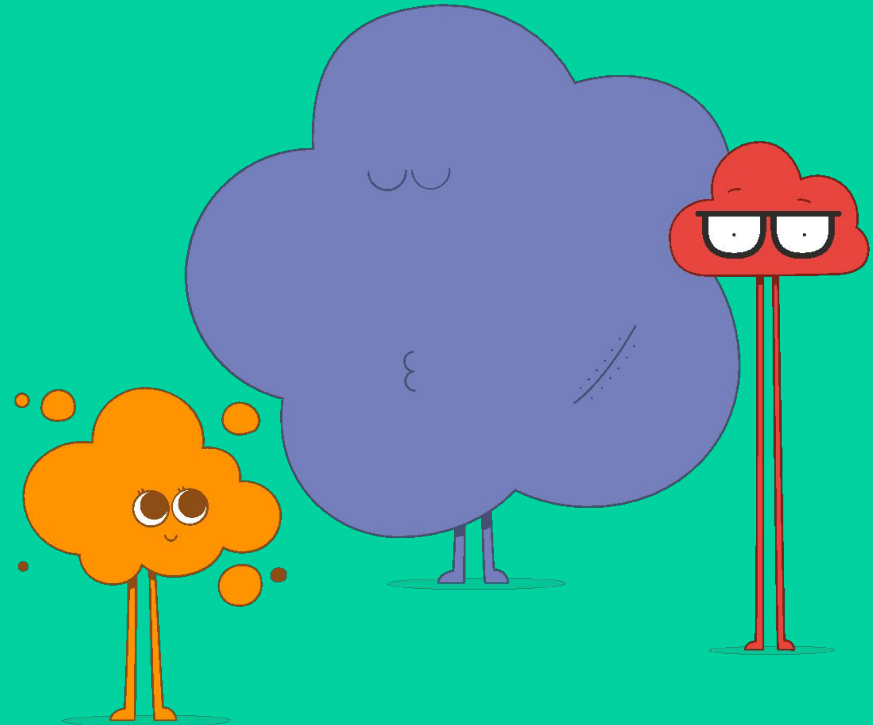


12 Benefits of SASE

By Cloud Gateway



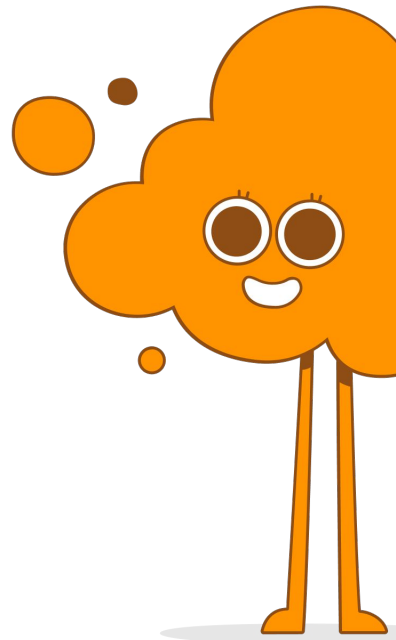
Let's talk **SASE**

SASE stands for 'Secure Access Service Edge'.

The 12 Benefits of SASE series showcase the different component parts of the SASE framework and provides an explanation of **the value and benefit they can deliver** for your organisation.

The SASE framework consolidates multiple network and security solutions into a unified, cloud native service. It allows IT teams to easily connect and secure all of the organisation's resources, data and users **in an agile, cost effective and scalable manner**.

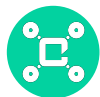
This ebook will provide a short overview of the technologies and services that underpin the SASE framework.



The 3 pillars of SASE

Providing the tools and support to **future proof the performance, reliability and security of your network**

Connect



The Connect pillar provides your organisation with a full suite of network connectivity capabilities to **bring your entire ecosystem together**, saving you time, budget and resource.

Protect



The Protect pillar provides you with a comprehensive set of security tools. Choose how you want to **protect your network** with granular control over policies and governance.

Inspect



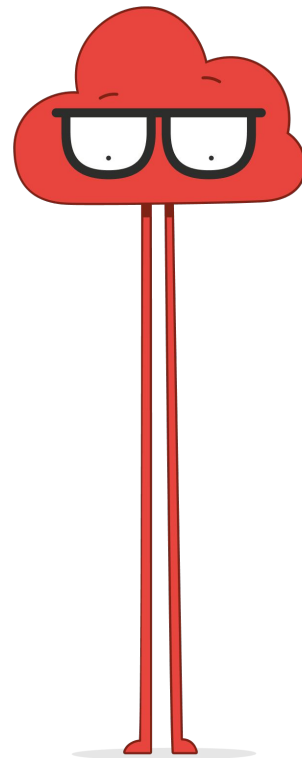
The Inspect pillar gives you **full visibility of your network** performance, utilisation and traffic flow in real time. It also allows you to track and amend security configurations with ease.

#1 Optimised Network Performance

Organisations require **full control and visibility of their network**. SASE platforms allow them to leverage any technology or carrier medium to seamlessly connect all endpoints on their network together, including cloud, enterprise sites, remote users and the data centre.

Software based, intelligent routing delivers better network performance and improved reliability. It **reduces the administrative burden on IT teams and facilitates cost savings** compared to traditional networking infrastructure.

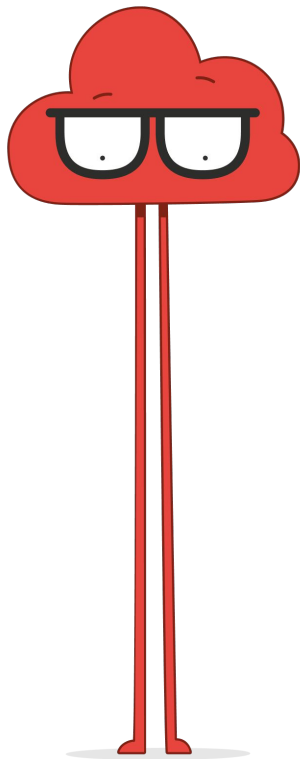
SASE can also help **minimise latency** by routing network traffic across a global edge network where it can be processed closer to the user.



#1 Optimised Network Performance

Routing optimisations [can help determine the fastest network path](#) based on network congestion and other factors. This automation helps deliver the best user experience for customers and staff.

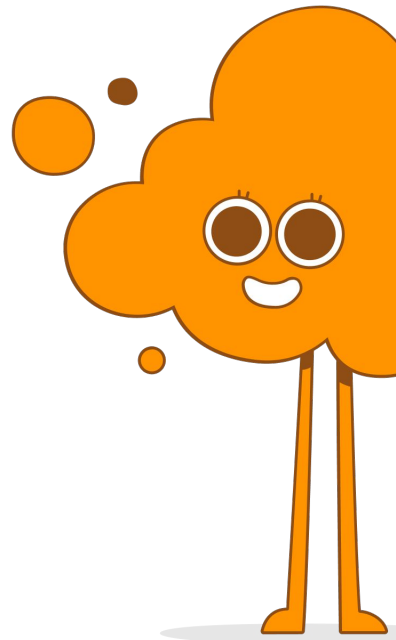
[Additional security features](#) and controls can be built in to protect applications, data and users. We'll be covering these later in the series so continue reading for more information.



#2 Cost reduction

The biggest driver for investment in cloud is typically the opportunity it creates to reduce operating costs. For many organisations, their digital estate has expanded into multiple Cloud Service Providers in order to consume new technologies and services as and when they emerge. However, in nearly all instances there is still a reliance on legacy and on-premise infrastructure too. Connecting these physical and digital worlds without incurring extortionate costs, long lead times or disruption to users is often a problem.

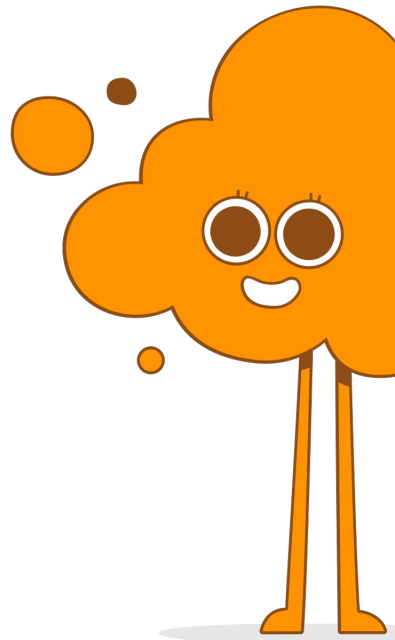
With SASE, organisations are able to **implement hybrid and multicloud strategies** that allow them to select the application, technology or provider that best fits their requirements, all through a single, cloud native managed service. **This eliminates the costs and time** associated with unnecessary network complexity and the management of multiple vendor contracts.



#2 Cost reduction

The acquisition and management of physical assets can be costly and admin intensive for IT teams already burdened with day-to-day, operation critical responsibilities. It often requires a significant amount of time and expertise to procure, install and maintain the necessary infrastructure and security devices to begin reaping the benefits of cloud. Furthermore, the business is also responsible for ensuring the infrastructure is resilient and that all necessary upgrades are performed at the appropriate time.

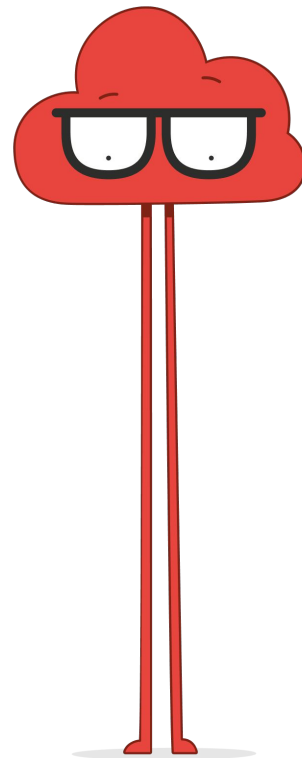
Minimising network complexity means reducing the workload for internal IT teams. SASE provides you with the opportunity to save on time, money and resource when all are in short supply.



#3 Scalability

The COVID-19 pandemic has accelerated the rate at which applications, data, devices and users are moving off premise. Legacy network and network security solutions designed for traditional, on-premise architectures are **struggling to support the evolving demands of the business**.

Organisations need the ability to provision **scalable, secure connectivity** between their physical sites, on premise and cloud environments, partner ecosystems and remote workers. As and when new services and technologies emerge, they require the agility to begin consuming them immediately so that the benefit can be passed on to their customers and staff. **This facilitates a faster time to market and creates a competitive edge.**

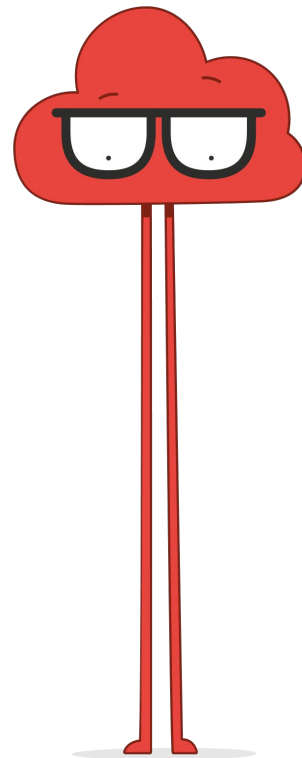


#3 Scalability

Long lead times and unfavourable vendor contracts have often caused unnecessary delays or expense. SASE delivers network and connectivity solutions that behave and act like the cloud, carrying the same benefits you would expect from your instance in Amazon Web Services, Google Cloud, Microsoft Azure or Oracle Cloud, but with similar security features, reliability and SLA's as you'd demand from traditional private connectivity providers.

SASE enables hyper-scalability and elasticity within the WAN infrastructure. IT teams can get a site online within minutes rather than weeks or months, as is typically the case with traditional WAN providers.

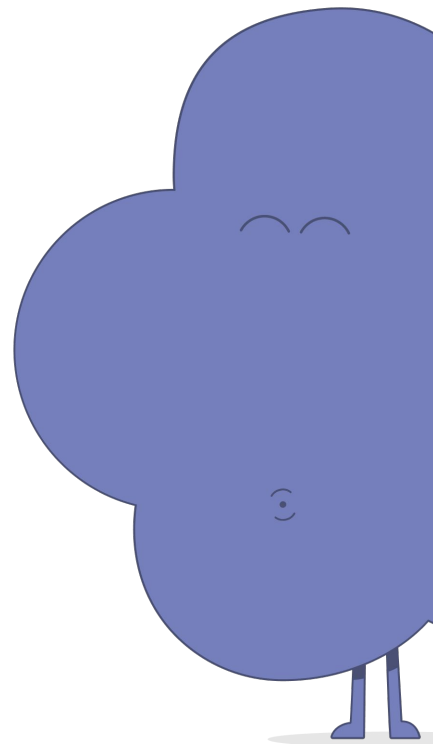
Most organisations require a modern networking solution that can support increased traffic volumes, improve real time communications, secure cloud connectivity, reduce operational costs and facilitate digital growth, all of which are addressed by SASE.



#4 Simplified Security Model

Legacy network infrastructures often require multiple security devices deployed across the estate to keep pace with the latest guidelines and standards. This legacy hardware is often unable to deliver **the latest security functionality, such as IPS, NGFW, and SWG, which are all fundamental components of the SASE framework**. Organisations find themselves deploying more and more security solutions to plug gaps as and when they appear, often creating additional complexity and requiring more resource to manage and maintain.

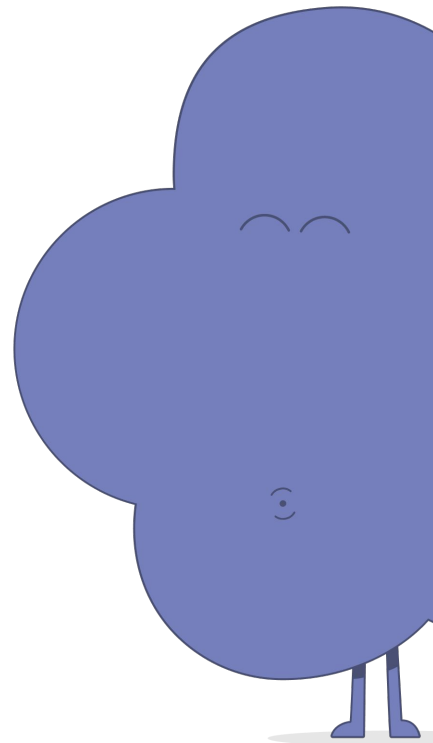
SASE eliminates this issue by employing FWaaS, a cloud-based suite of security functions. Features like URL filtering, IPS, anti-malware, and fire-walling are knitted into the infrastructure, delivered alongside the SASE connectivity solution.



#4 Simplified Security Model

This makes it easier for organisations to manage their network security, set and enforce consistent policies, spot irregularities and risks, and respond decisively to threats. All edges, including physical sites, users and cloud environments, receive the same uniform protection.

IT teams need the ability to consume new network and security technologies as and when they become available, without the administrative headache that this often creates. They need a solution that protects the business from data breaches and cyber security threats, while also providing complete visibility of their network, users and data. As organisations continue to explore the benefits of hybrid and multicloud, there will be additional network security requirements to consider, including how to provision secure connectivity between all physical sites, on premise and cloud environments, partner ecosystems and remote workers.



Let's talk SASE

Secure and optimised network

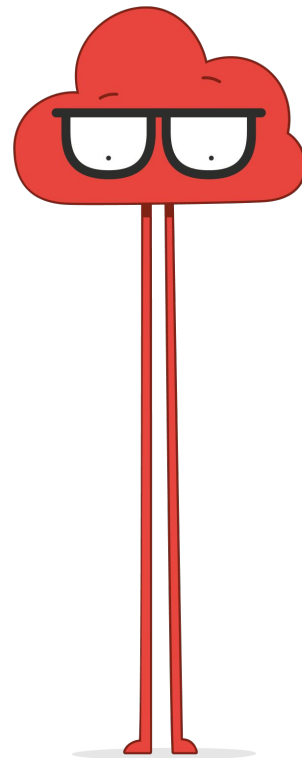
By design, SASE secures and connects the enterprise WAN in a simple, holistic way that optimises performance by removing the unnecessary delays, cost and disruption associated with traditional providers. It delivers greater operational agility for organisations to effectively respond to the evolving threat landscape. SASE future-proofs the security of your network in a way that traditional approaches are no longer able to do.



#5 Increased Network Visibility

Networks can grow very quickly despite strict controls and governance. Different vendors, services providers and connectivity methods **may, at times, need to be hastily incorporated** in order to fulfil immediate demands on a service, often at the expense of any meaningful due diligence regarding maintenance and management going forward.

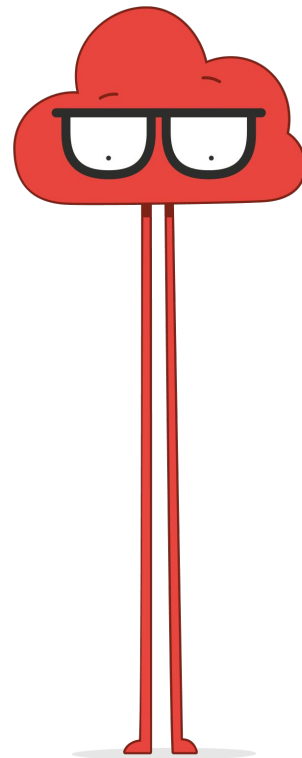
This means they can **quickly become clunky, inefficient and an obstacle to change**. IT sprawl is particularly common within legacy estates, especially those of larger organisations and institutions with multiple physical and cloud environments to manage.



#5 Increased Network Visibility

SASE allows for all traffic, regardless of where it originates, to be tracked, sanitised and recorded. This level of granularity **provides the business with full control over which cloud, technology and connectivity providers to utilise**. This means the right tool or solution for the requirements can be selected, while ineffective or expensive services and infrastructure can be phased out more easily.

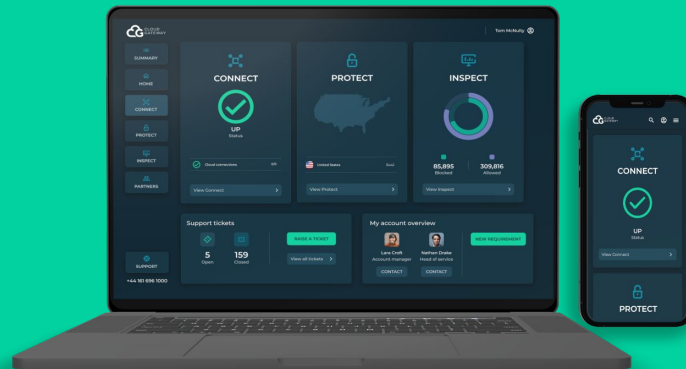
Importantly, **organisations are no longer tied to a particular provider or service because connectivity or security concerns** prevent them switching to a more economical alternative. Furthermore, instances of shadow IT to be identified and eliminated much sooner than would otherwise be possible.



My Cloud Gateway

Keep track of your network performance, utilisation and traffic flows in real time

- 1 Simple, intuitive and configurable dashboard
- 2 Access to advanced monitoring and analytics tools
- 3 Raise and track support tickets
- 4 Gain full visibility of network, users and data
- 5 Download and schedule detailed reports
- 6 Track cyber threats using interactive security maps

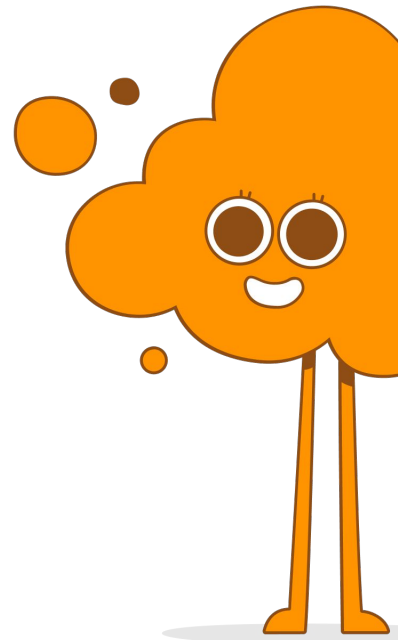


#6 Ease of management

One of the primary benefits of a SASE solution is the consolidated management of its component parts into one unified, cloud based application or portal. **The entire service can be controlled from a single point**, significantly reducing the time required to manage network and security devices, policies and vendors.

As your organisation's IT estate grows and evolves, SASE ensures that the resource needed to manage and maintain it does not. Securely provisioning new capabilities, sites, users and cloud environments can be achieved in a fraction of the time it would typically take traditional providers. For this reason, **SASE delivers a degree of operational agility that was previously unattainable.**

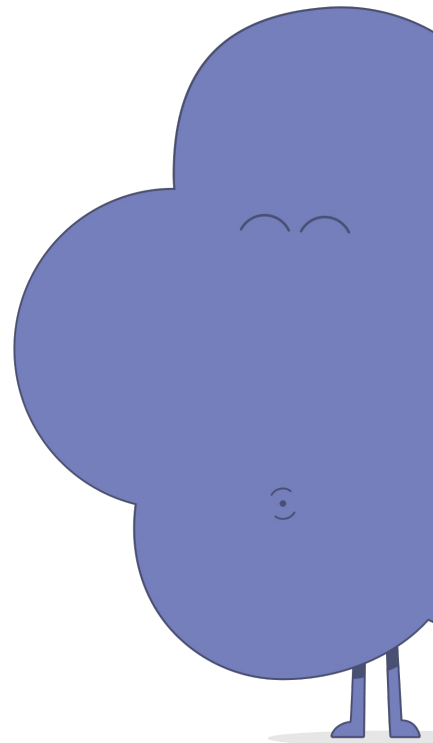
Our SASE solution is delivered as a **fully managed service with 24/7 support**, allowing IT teams to focus on driving business growth instead of maintaining legacy infrastructure and systems.



#7 Zero Trust Network Architecture

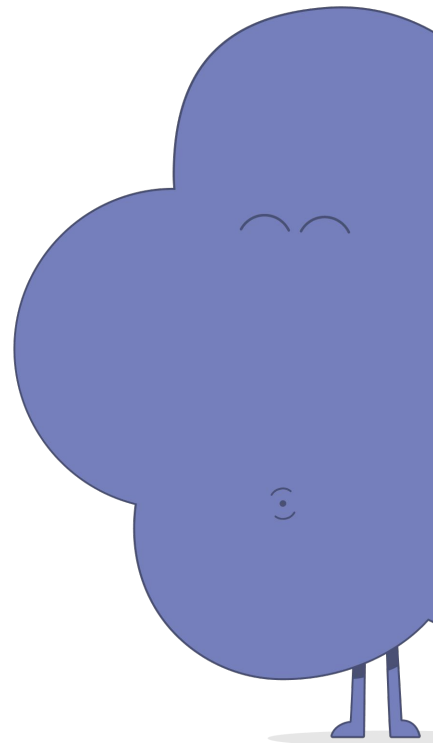
As the name implies, ZTNA technology is driven by the need for organisations to embrace a zero trust security model built for mobility and a cloud-first world. It provides seamless and secure connectivity to private applications **without ever placing users on the network or exposing apps to the internet.**

The key principle of a zero trust networking approach is that network access **is based on the identity of the user, the device and the application** — not on the IP address or physical location of the device. Network access based on the individual user means there is more control over who can access what, and what functions they can perform when they get there. **ZTNA delivers greater control over privileges and permissions to better secure the network from untrusted parties.**



#7 Zero Trust Network Architecture

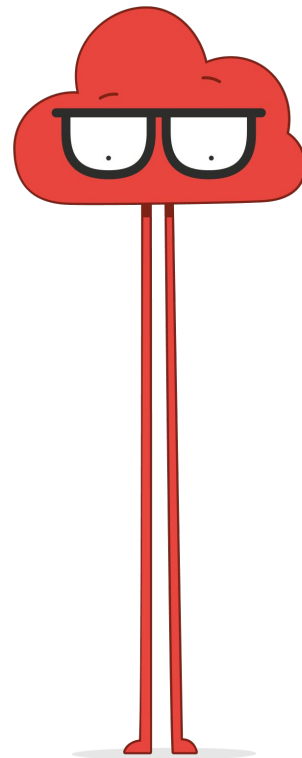
The adoption of ZTNA strategies has been accelerated by increased demand for secure remote access during the pandemic. Traditional technologies did not afford organisations the degree of agility and scalability they needed to respond decisively. As businesses [continue to move towards hybrid and multicloud strategies](#) ZTNA will be the method by which organisations ensure access to the network remains secure.



#8 Firewall-as-a-service

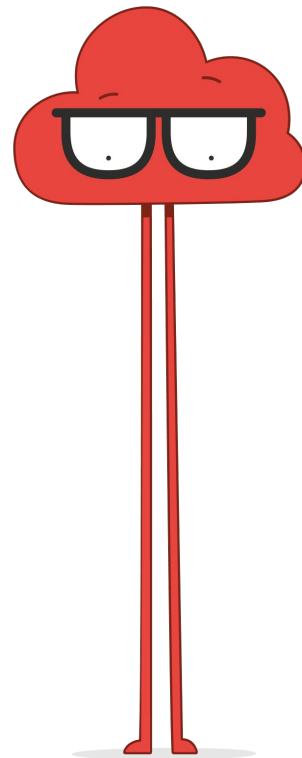
FWaaS is the delivery of firewall and other network security capabilities as a cloud-based service or hybrid solution. It offers **perimeter protection** without requiring organisations to deploy dedicated firewall devices to each business location. This **reduces the administrative burden on IT teams** responsible for managing and maintaining security hardware, capacity and policies.

The aim of FWaaS is to make sure **the network is secure, and that security policy can be applied consistently across the network** from a central location or application. It utilises multiple enterprise firewall features, including Anti-Virus, Anti-Malware, Deep Packet Inspection, IPS/IDS, and Geo-IP blocking, as well as traffic tunnelling to partially or fully move security inspections to a cloud infrastructure. This architecture provides organisations with a solution **that protects them from data breaches and cyber security threats**, while also facilitating complete visibility of their network, users and data.



#8 Firewall-as-a-service

Furthermore, having cloud-based security means it is easier to scale, adjust and manage without having to manually update physical firewall infrastructure or replace hardware. Providers will evaluate emerging threats on the security landscape, then design, build, test, and deploy new rules and policies to combat them. Users can benefit from an enhanced security posture without additional cost or disruption.

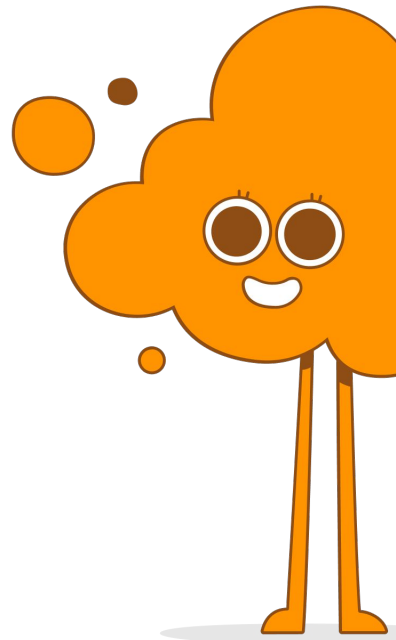


#9 Secure Web Gateway

In simple terms, a Secure Web Gateway (SWG) provides your organisation with a **set of security protections** specifically designed to repel web-borne threats, enforce company security policies, and filter malicious internet traffic in real-time. This **reduces the risk and impact of data leaks and other security incidents**, such as phishing and malware attacks.

As networks evolve and grow, the security perimeter typically becomes more distributed, disjointed, and challenging to manage. **SWGs facilitate secure access for remote users, BYOD, IoT, and third parties**, without the need to maintain and update policies across multiple point solutions.

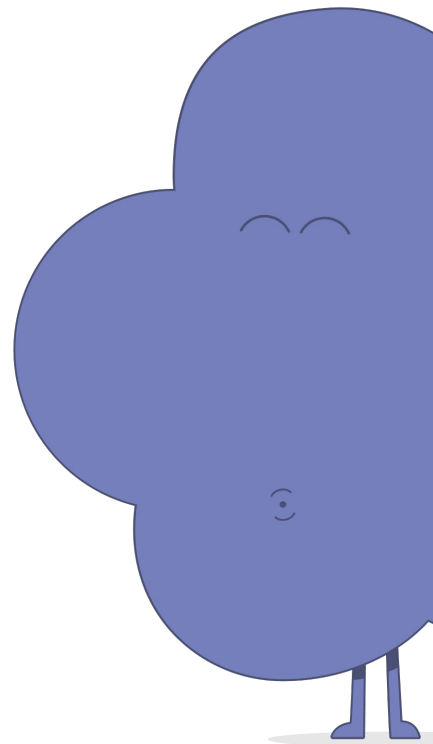
A SWG will typically offer URL filtering, application controls for web applications, data loss protection, and the detection and filtering of malicious code. Bundling SWG capabilities with other network security services **creates a more robust and comprehensive security posture for the business**, while also making it easier to manage and maintain for IT teams.



#10 SD-WAN

SD-WAN is a virtual WAN architecture that allows organisations to leverage any combination of transport services – including MPLS, LTE and broadband internet – to securely connect users to applications. It connects the corporate network together with intelligent routing, **maximising network performance and reliability, and providing faster connectivity** between sites, cloud environments and remote users.

It is often thought of as an 'internet-as-backbone' solution, but can be used with other transport methods too. As its name suggests, SD-WAN is software-based, using an OPEX spending model rather than needing investment in pipes, MPLS, and other traditional networking infrastructure. As it is software-defined networking, **any changes in routing rules or policy can be applied consistently from a central console** across all devices rather than individual pieces of kit.

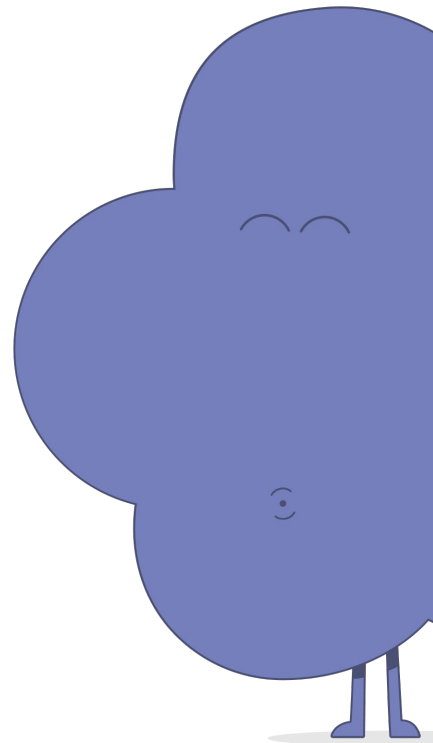


#10 SD-WAN

Traditional WAN architectures typically require dedicated hardware on site. This can be costly to procure, install and maintain. A SASE network is predominantly cloud-based, managed by software, with distributed points-of-presence (PoP) located near enterprise data centres, sites, devices, and users. This **helps eliminate issues with latency that could impact performance.**

So, what does this all mean?

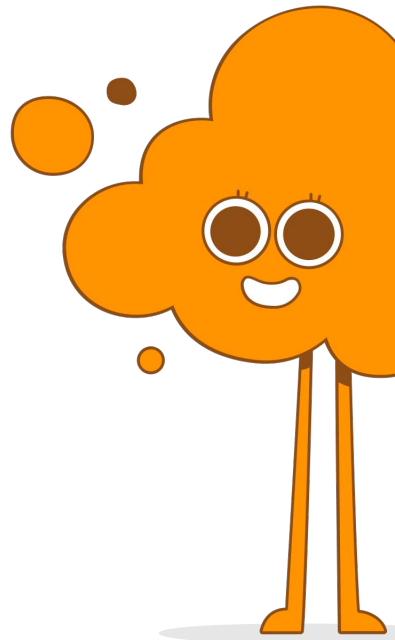
SASE enables IT teams to monitor the health and performance of the network in real time. It **removes the complexity, cost and administrative burden** that is often associated with traditional architectures, providing a foundation on which digital transformation can continue in a more controlled, secure and scalable manner.



#11 Cloud Access Security Broker

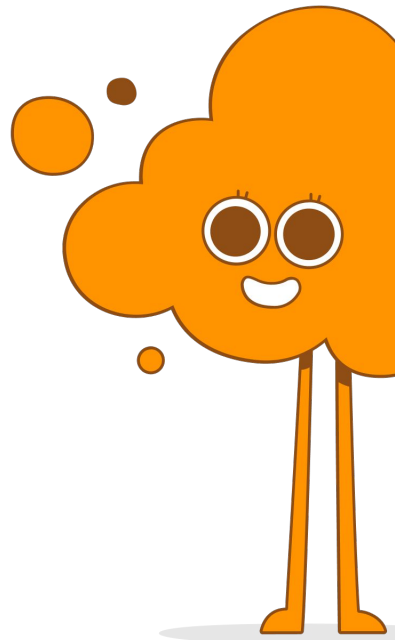
A Cloud Access Security Broker (CASB) is a software tool or service used to protect data stored in cloud applications. It sits between an organisation's on-premise infrastructure and cloud environments, acting as a gatekeeper that allows organisations to **extend the reach of their security policies beyond its own infrastructure**.

One of the principle benefits of the cloud is **its ability to facilitate secure access to information from any device, in any location**. The challenge for IT and security teams is to only allow that type of freedom to authorised users. A CASB solves this challenge by securing and monitoring access to information within the cloud, not just at the perimeter.



#11 Cloud Access Security Broker

Furthermore, in the absence of meaningful governance, cloud has also made it easier for IT teams to spin up applications, often resulting in examples of Shadow IT. By being able to monitor what is going on within the cloud, the business can identify and eliminate unauthorised or duplicate applications that can cost the business money to maintain or retire.

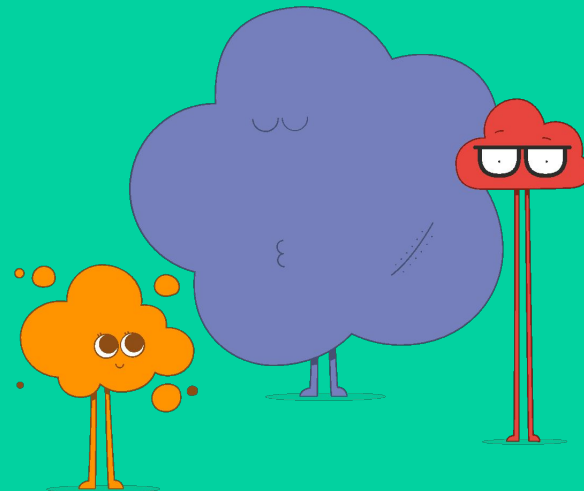


#12 Managed Service

The SASE experience

As we have learned over the past eleven entries, SASE is not a single technology but a bundle of security and networking solutions that when designed, deployed and managed with each other in mind increase their overall effectiveness and reduce the administration burden on IT teams.

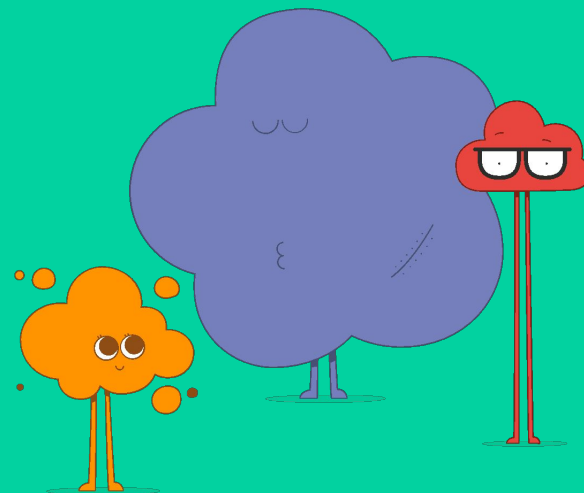
A SASE solution helps optimise network performance, strengthen security, and reduce cost and complexity. Importantly, it can be adopted using a phased approach at a pace that suits the business and without causing disruption to customers or staff. It addresses the need for greater control over the technology and vendors being utilised to power the digitalisation of the business.



#12 Managed Service

At Cloud Gateway, we deliver all these benefits as a managed service with 24/7 support if required. For most organisations, the skills and resource needed to manage their network and security effectively are in short supply. The convergence of all these capabilities into one managed solution can enable and accelerate innovation for businesses seeking an advantage in the market.

SASE is as much about an approach to IT and transformation as it is the technologies that underpin it. The holistic nature of the framework is arguably its key strength. It is the foundation upon which organisations can harness the full power and potential of digital, data and technology.



Get in touch

SASE provides the tools and support to future proof the performance, reliability and security of your network. Delivering a better user experience via the digitalisation of services, methods and processes allows businesses to establish a competitive edge. SASE is the platform from which all this is able to happen.



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