

# Inside Cisco IT

Powering the Next Generation Hybrid Workspace with SASE

Roel Bernaerts, PRINCIPAL ENGINEER



# Cisco Webex App

### Questions?

Use Cisco Webex App to chat with the speaker after the session

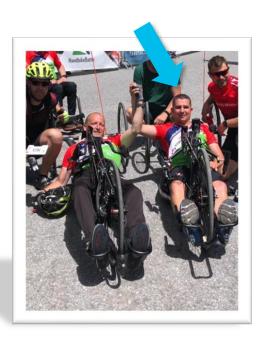
### How

- 1 Find this session in the Cisco Live Mobile App
- 2 Click "Join the Discussion"
- 3 Install the Webex App or go directly to the Webex space
- 4 Enter messages/questions in the Webex space

Webex spaces will be moderated until February 24, 2023.



## About me ...



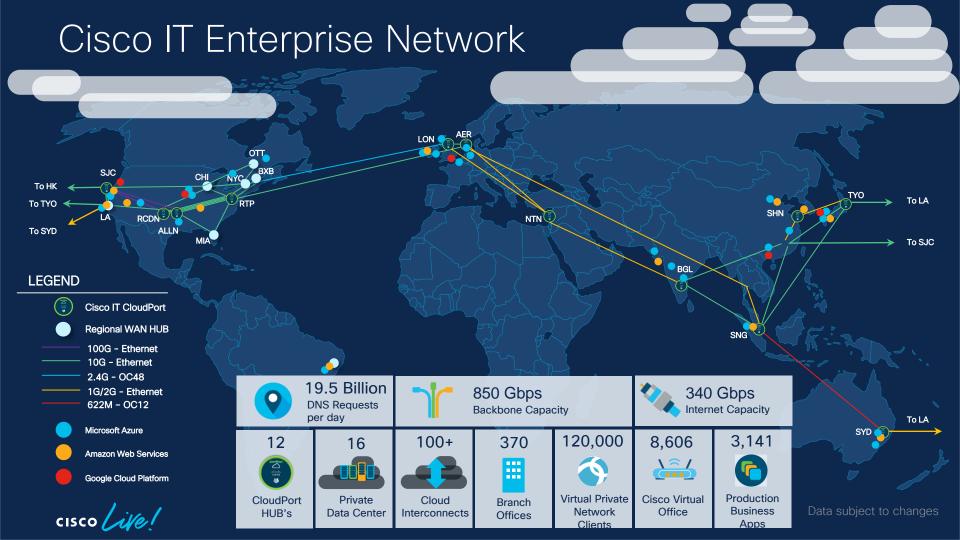
### Roel Bernaerts

- 22 years at Cisco ...
- Network Routing & Security Operations, Implementation, Design, Architecture
- Love(s)d the CLI
- Wanted to become graphic designer
- Hand bike buddy



# Agenda

- What is SASE and why is it important to Cisco IT?
- Our journey so far ...
- On-Prem "SASE" HUB
- SASE Use-Case deep-dive
- What's next for Cisco IT?



## Introduction

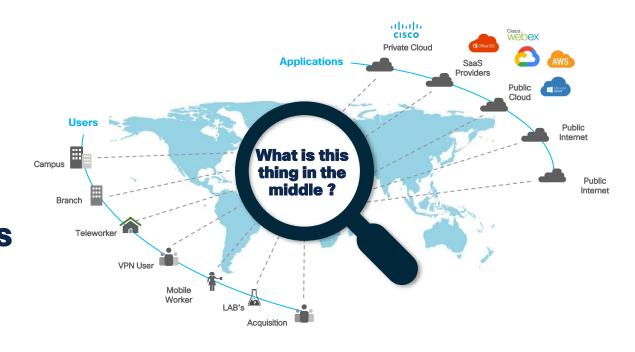
Enabling users ANYWHERE to talk to application EVERYWHERE!

WE ARE LIVING IN A HYBRID WORLD

**75%** work from home **over 50%** of the time

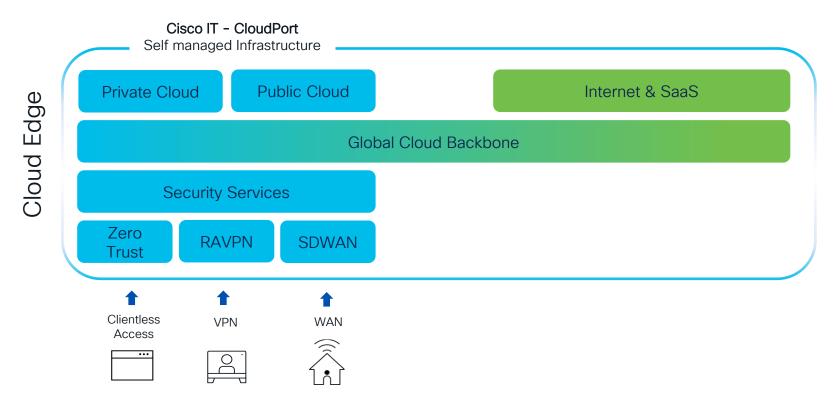
Business applications move to **Cloud & SaaS** 





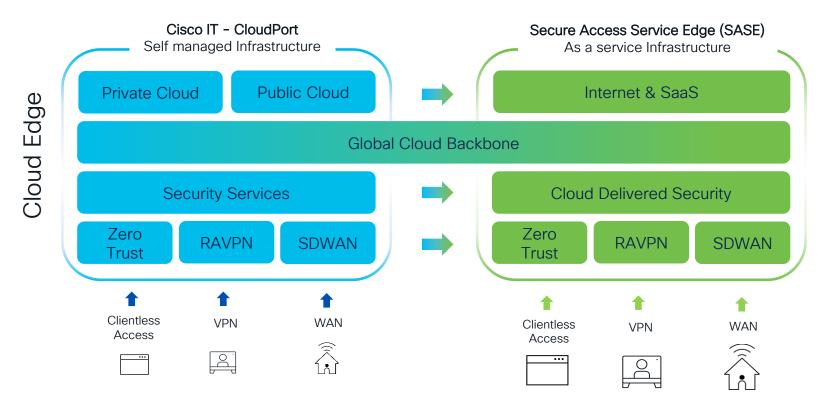


# Evolving Hybrid Work platform to as a Service





# Evolving Hybrid Work platform to as a Service





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# Why is SASE important to Cisco IT?

### Business value with SASE

Solve IT business problems

### Do it vourself challenges

- Complex to build and maintain
- Requires specialized skillets
- Less insights with traditional security Multitude of platforms and controllers
- Infrastructure heavy shipping and cost
- Difficult to react to fast changing business needs



Optimize IT spend Improved client experience Outsource complexity Enhanced security controls Centralized insights Business agility

### Cisco on Cisco

Be Cisco's first and best customer

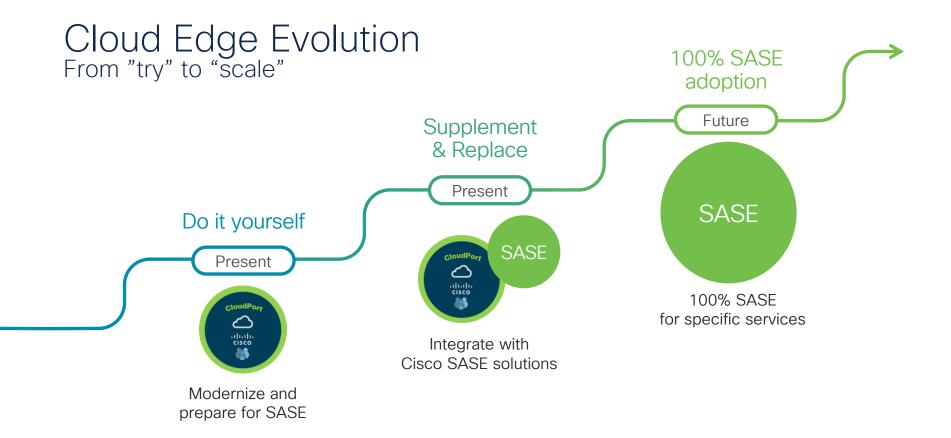
- Influence Vision & Execution
  - Help shape Cisco's SASE vision by sharing real customer business challenges and requirements
- Make our products better Evaluate new technologies & solutions early in the

development process before shipping to our customers

Share with our customers

Help customers by sharing lessons learned. success stories and adoption strategies.

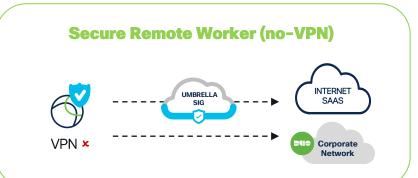


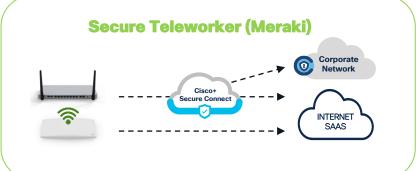


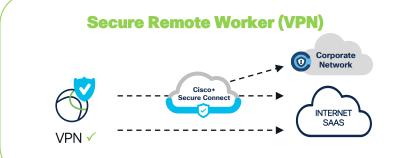


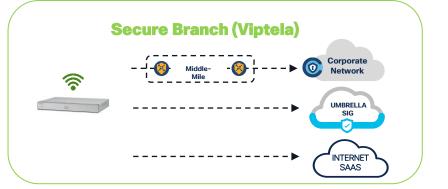
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# Early adoption









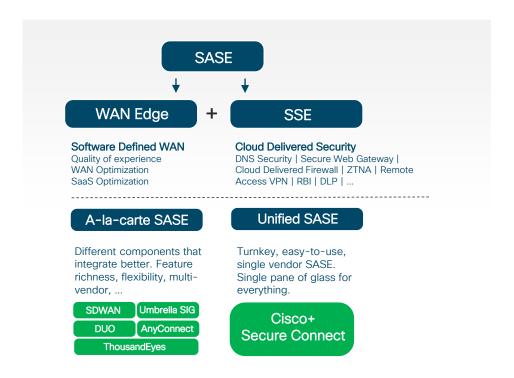


### Lessons Learned

### What does SASF mean?

- Gartner, Dell'Oro, SASE providers all have different definition that can change from time to time
- Marketing often ahead of the execution
- Difficult to commit during times of uncertainty. Created some emotional resistance.
- More clarity and consistency today.
   First SASE wins!
- Excited about what is coming!

# My Cisco IT's definition of SASE



### Lessons Learned

### Mixed-Mode environments

- During the transition period there will be the legacy and SASE way of doing things
- Resistance because in the interim things can get a bit complex
- Low incentive we have something that mostly does what it needs to do
- Focus on things that generate minimal overhead and bring immediate value
- Target specific use-cases that can be moved completely within a reasonable timeframe

### Operational readiness & outsourcing

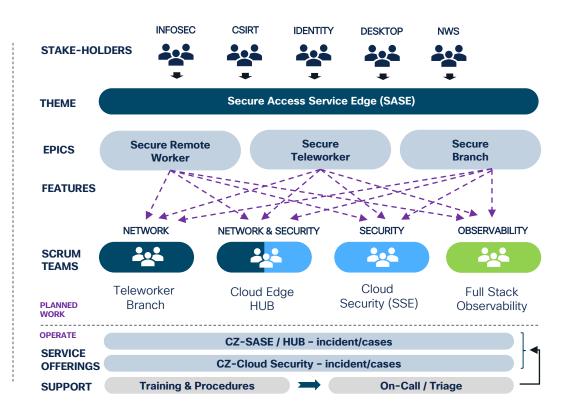
- Neophobia<sup>(\*)</sup> and agoraphobia <sup>(\*\*)</sup> are common and in this scenario probably a good thing
- Rome wasn't built in one day embrace some disruption and mitigate with your own tooling
- Start small and build confidence & trust
- Have a fallback plan for as long as you think you need it
- Allows resources to work on more important & critical work



### Lessons Learned

### **Execution & Operating model**

- Networking and security needs to converge more than ever!
- Ownership distributed across many different teams
- Unique requirements & priorities that don't always align
- Tried new operating models with a smaller portion of the organization
- Agile framework that assures alignment and drives work across networking and security teams



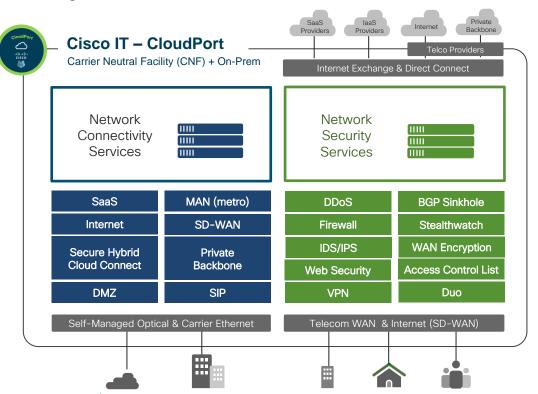


# Cisco IT - CloudPort

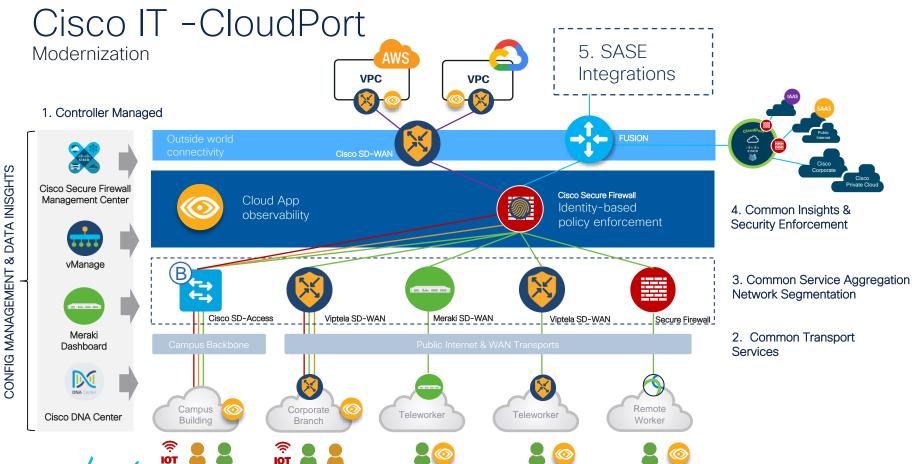


## Cisco IT -CloudPort

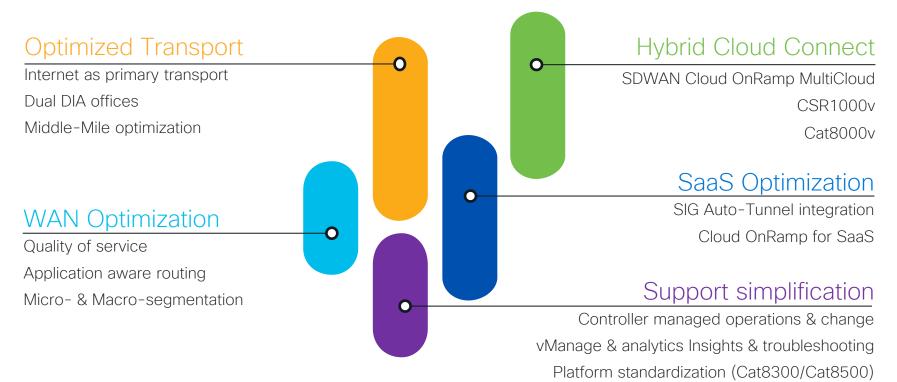
Single tenant "SASE"







# SDWAN Everywhere





# Network-as-a-Service

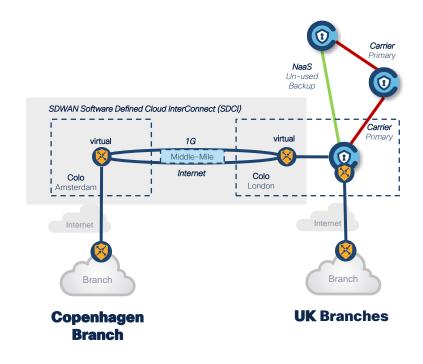
- Telco is usually in the top 3 of highest costs for an IT organization
- Cisco's backbone consist of full-stack HUB's and smaller WAN only hubs.
- Some WAN only hubs are high cost for the purpose they serve. Some circuits in the backbone are only used in failure scenario.

### SDWAN Software Defined Cloud InterConnect (SDCI)

- bring up virtual SDWAN nodes in Colo facilities
- Optimized Middle-Mile connectivity to on-prem

### Software defined capacity

Replace expensive idle/backup circuits with costeffective, high-speed and reliable connectivity delivered by Colo providers





# SASE Use-Cases



## Use-cases

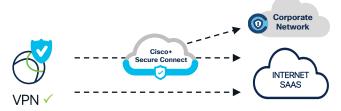
### **Secure Remote Worker (no-VPN)**







### **Secure Remote Worker (VPN)**

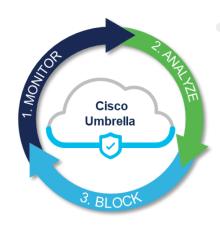






# Umbrella DNS Security

Importance of DNS security often underestimated First step in connecting to the internet Used by all devices, in nearly all internet connections Authoritative DNS Cisco CISCO DNS -ON-PREM Umbrella nd and Control Calibacks OFF-PRFM Phase 1 Phase 2 On-Premise DNS **AnyConnect Roaming MONITOR MONITOR BLOCK** 



19.5b

DNS Queries per day off sourced from the Cisco network and endpoints **22m** 

DNS blocks per day

1000x

Amount of threat intelligence in Umbrella vs Infosec home grown system

30 min

Average time of the change requests to enable enterprise wide policy changes

110k

Umbrella clients enabled in 2 weeks

End client installation cases

<10 cases

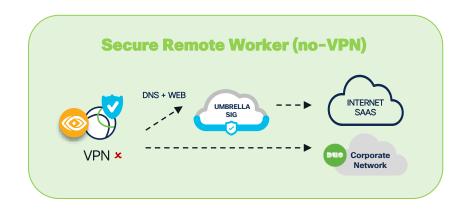
For False Positives per Month



# Secure Remote Worker (no-VPN) Use-Case summary

# Protect users at home when not connected to VPN

- When users work from the internet, they are only protected by security on the endpoint itself
- With AnyConnect VPN integrated with Umbrella SIG, users can be protected even when not on VPN
- DNS protection and advanced Web protection
- Client experience monitoring via ThousandEyes endpoint agents





# Secure Remote Worker (no-VPN)



#### 1. ENDPOINT

- Cisco AnyConnect VPN with Umbrella Secure Roaming module
- Desktop team creates a software package and makes it availablele to entitled users
- Package includes the Umbrella Org ID information
- Umbrella Root Certificate installed via Mobile Device Management (MDM)

#### 2. DOMAIN MANAGEMENT

Bypass trusted or "broken" domains from redirection

Internal Domains
 Resolve against client DNS and do not proxy

Local Domain suffix added automatically. Cisco Internal domains.

External Domains
 Resolve against Umbrella
 DNS and do not proxy

Trusted applications such as O365, box, WebEx, ...

#### 3. DNS POLICY

Configure the DNS Policy

- Identity
- Security Setting
  Malware, C&C, Phising,
  Cryptomining, DNS Tunnel
  VPN.
- Content category filtering Application Settings
- Allow/Blocklist
- Block Page
- Logging
- Intelligent proxy

Powerful toolset to protect at the DNS layer!

### 4. WEB POLICY

#### Configure the Web Policy

- Rulesets
   (Allow, Warn, Block, Isolate)
- <u>File inspection</u> / ThreatGrid
- File Type ControlSAML
- Logging
- Security Settings
- Inspection
   Selective decryption

Powerful toolset to protect at the Web layer!

More powerful when inspection is enabled!

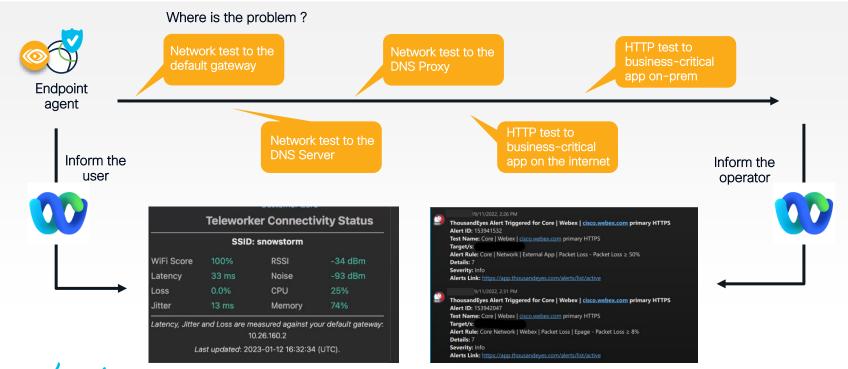
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### 5. SECURITY OPERATIONS

- Pro-actively test policy decisions with policy tester
- Monitor what is being blocked and why in activity reporting
- Export logs through Log Management
- Query Umbrella's database to gain insights via Smart Search



# Visibility puts you in control ThousandEyes



# Secure Remote Worker (no-VPN)

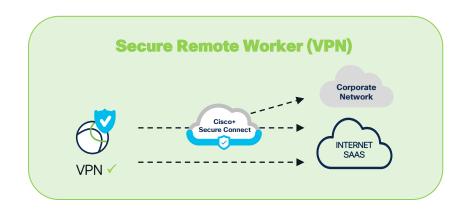
### Lessons Learned

<ul> <li>Potential performance improvements with DNS and better footprint - but overhead of inspection Mixed feedback from clients</li> </ul>	Fine tune the policy to balance security versus connectivity. Takes some time to find a good middle ground
<ul> <li>Unexpected blocks for business related sites (SWG) due to certificate &amp; cipher problems</li> </ul>	Selective bypass until the underlying issue is resolved. Easier to solve for the things you own.
<ul> <li>Troubleshooting performance issues has become even more challenging</li> </ul>	ThousandEyes endpoint agent helps to define if the issues is at home, Umbrella or the internet
<ul> <li>Good for security operations –lacking on network operations</li> </ul>	See above
<ul> <li>There can be some initial pains - especially with inspection</li> </ul>	Start with a small community with mixed job profiles Fine tune policy and expand.
Domain management can be challenging	Feature request - better traffic steering capabilities at the client ( Intelligent proxy )

# Secure Remote Worker (VPN) Use-Case summary

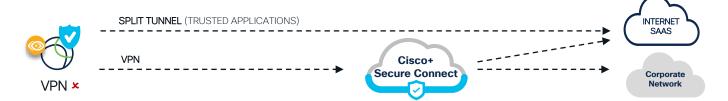
#### Remote Access VPN as a service

- Deploying and maintaining on-prem VPN infrastructure can be resource intensive
- Cisco+ Secure Connect delivers RAVPN as a service with a few clicks of a button
- Provides secure internet access and protected access to private resources
- Consistent policy when on- and off- vpn





# Secure Remote Worker (VPN)



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#### 2. DOMAIN MANAGEMENT

Bypass trusted / "broken" domains and private resources from redirection

- Internal Domains
   Resolve against client DNS and do not proxy
- External Domains
   Resolve against Umbrella
   DNS and do not proxy

#### 3. SAML / USERS

### Configure SAML & Users/Groups

- Org. wide SAML configuration (DUO,Okta, PingID, ...)
- Import users (Azure, AD, manual, ...)

DUO allows access only for **approved** users connecting from **trusted** devices!

#### 4. REMOTE ACCESS

#### Configure Remote Access VPN settings

- Select regions
- IP's, DNS, Domain suffix
- Traffic Steering policy
   Split exclude
   Split include
- Basic client settings
- Assign Users & Groups
- Endpoint compliance

### Update Roaming Computer settings

Trusted Network Detection

#### 5. BACKHAUL+ POLICY

Build **backhaul connections** to the corporate network to reach private resources

- Add a new tunnel
- Select the far end platform (ASA,FTD, Meraki, Viptela, ...)
- Define which IP addresses are behind the tunnel
- Configure the far end

Restrict access to private resources by **firewall policy** 

Allow- or block list policy



# Secure Remote Worker (VPN) Lessons Learned

Multiple places to maintain policy for traffic steering decisions	Try to keep it simple. Keep traffic inside the tunnel when possible
Endpoint compliance is limited today. Inconsistent with ISE on Prem	VPN protection with DUO SAML. Feature request for ISE
<ul> <li>When issues happen – limited ways for the user to work around that him/herself</li> </ul>	Start without protection when on VPN (TND) and use on-prem security stack. Turn on protection after proving steady state
Corporate network routing policies pose restrictions for backhaul connectivity (IP mobility & disaster recovery)	Build it the "SASE-way" - solve routing issues on- prem when integrating
Scalability- number of users supported and backhaul capacity	Use for smaller scale use-cases.

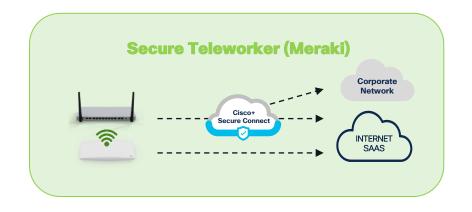


# Secure Teleworker (Meraki)

### Use-Case summary

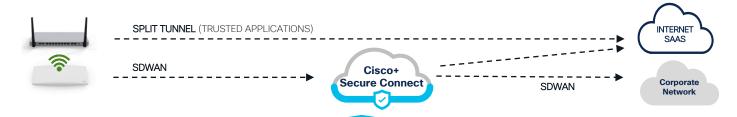
### Meraki SDWAN - as a service

- Entitled users need a hardware-based solution for working from home
- Cisco+ Secure connect allows to very easily integrate Meraki SDWAN
- Access to private resources via a Meraki SDWAN backhaul connectivity
- Secure internet Access via SIG
- Unified policy with VPN users





# Secure Teleworker (Meraki)



#### 1. CLAIM & CONFIG

#### Client receives the hardware

- Claim serial number
- Licensing
- Firmware upgrades

#### Basic configuration

- WAN
- IP Addressing
- VLAN's
- DHCP
- WIFI
- ...

#### 2. SPLIT TUNNEL

#### Local internet breakout -Send trusted applications direct to internet

- Protocol / IP based
- Application

### Build SDWAN **tunnels** between **client devices** and C+SC

3. ONBOARDING

- Configure API Keys
- Map networks to HUB
- Enable VPN membership per VLAN
- Middle-Mile connectivity established automatically

#### Build SDWAN **Tunnels** between **on-prem** devices and C+SC

4. BACKHAUL

- High Availability
- Map Networks to HUB
- Enable VPN membership
- Routing configuration

### 5. POLICY

#### Create/confirm identities

- DNS : Network Devices
- Web : Internal Networks

#### Add identities to existing policies

#### Enable Umbrella DNS protection

- DHCP Policy
- Group Policy (MX)
- Firewall & Traffic shaping (MS)

# Secure Teleworker (Meraki)

### Lessons Learned

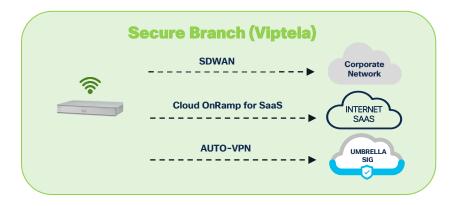
Inconsistent traffic steering for direct to internet between VPN and Meraki	Creates complexity - try to avoid inconsistencies
Feature differences between router (MX) and Access-Point (MS)	Wireless access-points required to be able to bypass internal domains from DNS interception
Limited routing capabilities on Meraki for integrating with On-Prem (active/active, BGP,)	Use IPSEC Tunnels for backhaul tunnels (Viptela SDWAN)
Works well for Teleworker. Less feature rich than Viptela SDWAN (micro/macro segmentation)	Feature enhancements requested



# Secure Branch (Viptela) Use-Case summary

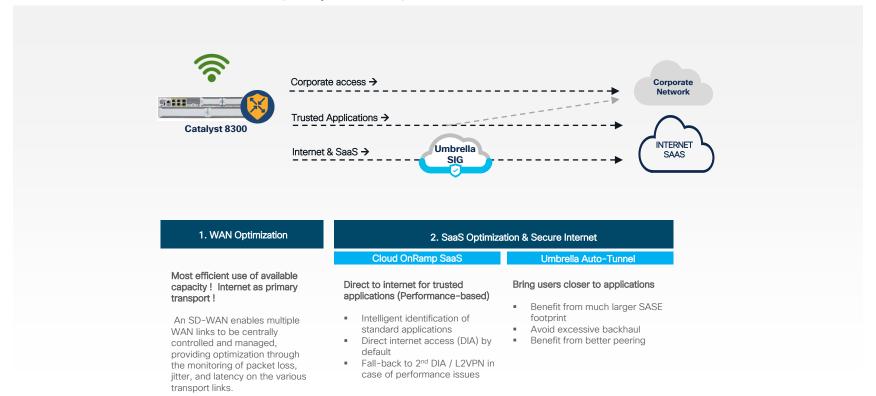
### Optimize SaaS applications experience

- A lot of traffic is backhauled to central locations impacting user experience
- Performance based routing of trusted applications direct to internet
- Bring users closer to applications while keeping Cisco Secure





# Secure Branch (Viptela)





# Secure Branch (Viptela) Lessons Learned

Application recognition failures resulting in Internet traffic routing to the internet	Install latest protocol packs, integrate with SaaS providers to supplement NBAR/AVC
<ul> <li>Application recognition failures resulting in On- Prem traffic routing to the internet</li> </ul>	Data-Policy to force traffic over the SDWAN VPN
Adds another layer of complexity to troubleshoot when things don't work as expected	Network Path Insights !! Ability to capture traffic and detailed view of AVC/routing decisions
Sometimes difficult to see where traffic is going.	IT can be found Not too intuitive.



## Remember... SASE is a journey

- Very excited about what is next!
- Be Cisco's first and best customer
- Adopt SASE at scale when/where it makes sense
- Decrease dependency on on-prem infrastructure
- Strengthen partnerships and combine efforts

### Cisco on Cisco

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**Collaboration Experience** 



Remote Work: From Home to Anywhere

Behind the Curtain with Cisco IT

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