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SD-WAN Comparison

January 2025

Cato SD-WAN

Key areas	Capabilities	Prisma		Cato	
Controller and SD-WAN Fabric	Cloud Controller	Supported	✔	✔	Hardware related settings are on not seamlessly integrated on the Console
	On-Prem controller	Supported	✔	✘	Not supported
	Multi-tenancy/HA	Supported	✔	✔	Supported for Physical, Azure and AWS
	Branch Onboarding	Not as seamless as Cato	!	✔	Seamless compared to PA
	SASE Tunnel Provisioning	Automated IPSec Region 20–30 Mins and Branch 1–5 Mins	!	✔	DTLS Under 1 Min
	Overlay Routing Complexity	BGP	!	✔	None
	LAN Routing	Supports OSPF & BGP	✔	!	Limited to BGP , Supports Static routing if required.
	Config Abstraction/Intelligent defaults	None	✘	✔	DHCP Account defaults options exists, Predefined Network rules with QOS for Apps like VoIP, RDP, SMB.

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Traffic Steering and Policy Capabilities	APP SLA based Traffic Steering	Application aware and defines, pathing decisions are made at Application & Network layers	✔	✘	**Networks level:** packet loss, latency, congestion, port status, Internet connectivity status
	APP based prioritization QOS/QOE	Locally support App-ID, etc to make decisions on device prior to forwarding to circuits	✔	!	Predefined Network rules with QOS for Apps like VoIP, RDP, SMB. App Identification happens on the Cloud not on Hardware , requires decryption on Cato PoP for QOS.
	App Acceleration	TCP and App acceleration	✔	!	TCP Acceleration & Packet Loss Mitigation
	App detection & awareness	App-ID , User-ID, Dev-ID support all on device	✔	!	Leverages DPI, IP, Port, IP Membership, TLS attribute & Protocol info. App detection happens on Cato Cloud after traffic is decrypted. Resulting in added latency and bandwidth issues.
	User ID Context Awareness	Requires NGFW at the Hub location and integrate it for User-ID context forwarding	!	!	Only based on User to IP Correlation. Requires Cato Client on device for Authentication and UserID
	Device ID Context & device visibility	IONs are a IoT sensor for PANW's IoT solution	✔	!	Lacks support for IoT visibility natively built into its SD-WAN appliance (socket), but has recently launched IoT/OT device visibility will require traffic forwarding to cloud.
	Line Conditioning	Supports Packet Duplication and FEC	✔	!	packet duplication
	East-West Inspection @ the branch	ZBFW with App-aware Roadmap for adv security	✔	✔	Launched App-ware ZBFW **recently**
	Segmentation	Supports VRF Microsegmentation(**Roadmap**)	✔	!	VLAN Segmentation (VRF segmentation being worked on)
	Bursting	Supports Bursting if goes beyond bandwidth limit	✔	!	Cato drops packets if traffic goes beyond configured limit

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Service Integration	**Automated Services Integration for IAAS**	Supports Cloud INtegration	✔	✔	Supports Cloud INtegration
	Automated Services Integration with SSE	Supports other SSE vendors	✔	✘	No integration with other SSE's.
	Automated third party service integration	Prisma Partially Supports it via CLoud Blades	✔	✘	No 3rd party integrations.
	Virtual in Marketplace	Azure, AWS, GCP, OCI, Equinix, Terraform (Roadmap)	✔	✔	Azure, AWS, Esxi, GCP (No OCI or Equinix), Supports Terraform
	Middle Mile Optimization	requires manual installation on Equinix/Prisma Access	❗	❗	Relies on Tier-1 ISP links
	CLI	Complete CLI for troubleshooting and initial configuration if/where required (ping, traceroute, pcaps, debug command etc)	✔	❗	if its not in the UI its a TAC case

Cato SD-WAN summary

	Prisma SASE	Cato Networks
Onboarding	An automated onboarding experience, but slow, error-prone, and overly complex.(Roadmap to fix this)	A unified onboarding experience with built-in regional redundancy, eliminating routing and configuration complexity.
Line Conditioning and App SLA Steering	Path selection optimized by network and application metrics, featuring line conditioning with FEC and packet duplication-**coming soon.**	Path selection relies solely on network metrics, with line conditioning limited to packet duplication.
Application Acceleration	Acceleration for both network (TCP) and dynamic Layer 7 applications, supporting SASE and third-party remote networks.	Acceleration for only network (TCP) with Cato Sockets.
Hybrid WAN	Fully capable SD-WAN fabric with advanced routing, application intelligence, and seamless connectivity.	SASE-led platform enabling site-to-site traffic, with limited capabilities beyond basic network connectivity for traffic outside the Cato Cloud.
Branch Security	Application-aware, zone-based firewall with on-box TP, URL filtering, and DNS security—**coming soon.**	Basic network and application firewall primarily designed for branch LAN-to-LAN connectivity, with limited capabilities. Launched L7 ZBFW.
IoT Security	Seamless IoT visibility and enforcement with both on-box and cloud-delivered security.	IoT visibility limited to traffic traversing the Cato Cloud, with no on-box enforcement capabilities.
Logging	Not unified right now , but unified SLS-**coming soon.**	Unified logging.
Branch/Tunnel SWG and Enterprise Throughput	2.5Gbps SWG and 1Gbps Enterprise.	10Gbps Any.
5g + Wifi Support	Supports 5G , but no Wifi support	Cato X1600 will soon support 5G + Wifi

- Cato Network's biggest advantage is its seamless, easy-to-provision branch connectivity & policy creation as a SASE-led offering. We plan to enhance this with an improved connectivity architecture in a future release (PA 6.1 CC).
- Cato also has a Leg up with 10Gbps throughput and roadmap to support Wifi and 5G in single Hardware.
- Lacks a robust branch security and Hybrid WAN solution, offering limited options for customers who prefer not to route all traffic through Cato's Cloud.

NetSec Competitive Intelligence

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Cato DEM

Capabilities	Prisma		Cato	
User + App Monitoring	**RUM + PAB:** Page Load Time, Time To First Byte, Largest Contentful Paint (LCP), Cumulative Layout Shift(CLS), First Input Delay(FID), Interaction to Next Paint(INP), Availability.	✔	❗	Time to First Byte , HTTP/S Latency, HTTP/S Error Rate or TLS Connect.
Network Monitoring	DNS Lookup, Availability, TCP connect, SSL Connect, Server Response time, Packet Loss, Latency, Jitter.	✔	✔	Packet Loss, Tunnel Age, Latency,Jitter, TCP Connect time, TLS connect, DNS resolution check
Device Monitoring	CPU utilization, Memory utilization, Disk usage, Disk queue length, Battery level, WiFi information (SSID, RX and TX utilization, BSSID, and Channel).	✔	❗	CPU util, Wifi signal strength, Memory util
UcaaS Monitoring	-Integration with Zoom/Teams, including call quality monitoring	✔	✔	- Integration with Zoom/teams (private preview)
Hop-By-Hop Path visualization	-provides granular path visualization filters like ISP/IP/ASN based filters, hop performances and highlight based on threshold to troubleshoot issues.	✔	❗	-Limited hop-by-hop metrics. No ISP/IP/ASN information.
Troubleshooting & RCA	Selfheal, Automated RCA and Remediation playbooks, Access Analyzer, Copilot, ITSM integration, ML based Alert correlation & aggregation.	✔	❗	Integrated with XDR story workbench. No root cause analysis /remediation , no Copilot, no ITSM integration to create tickets, No self heal

Cato Hardware Comparison

Capabilities	Prisma SD-WAN		Cato Networks	
Integrated LTE	Prisma supports CAT-7	✔	✔	LTE CAT 12, supports up to 150/600 Mbps
Sim card	Dual Sim	✔	✔	Dual Sim
Integrated 5G	5G support	✔	✗	**No 5G support (Roadmap)**
USB Dongle for Cellular	No support	✗	✗	No support
Integrated Ethernet Access switch	Supported	✔	✗	No Support
Integrated WiFi	No support	✗	✗	**No support (Roadmap)**
PoE	Supported	✔	✗	No PoE
Hardware Bypass	Supported	✔	✗	No Hardware Bypass
MGig Ports	Supported	✔	✗	No MGig Ports
Fiber Ports	Supported	✔	✔	Supported
RJ45 / SFP Combo ports	Supported	✔	✔	Supported
Max Branch throughput	3 Gbps	✔	✔	Cato - X1700B - 10Gbps and X1700 - 3Gbps
Max Datacenter throughput	8 Gvps	✔	✔	Cato - X1700B - 10Gbps and X1700 - 3Gbps
uCPE	Supported	✔	✔	
Ruggedized	Supported	✔	✗	No ruggedized

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Thank You

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