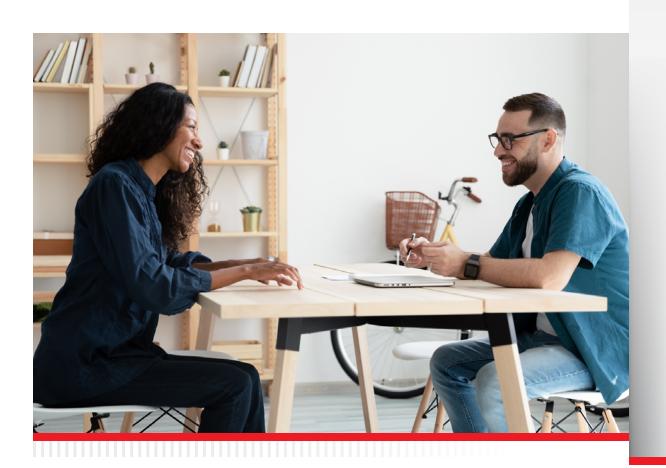# Network transformation
starts with a
maturity assessment

Establish a baseline with the future in mind

B USINESS IT is steadily moving off-premises and to the cloud. According to **the 2022 Foundry "Cloud Computing Study,"** nearly three-quarters (72%) of IT decision-makers are defaulting to cloud-based services when upgrading or buying new solutions. Additionally, nearly all (88%) are migrating at least some of their existing workloads to a cloud service. One-third of the survey respondents said that they are migrating core applications through a hybrid cloud approach. Just under one-third (32%) are taking a cloud-first strategy, rebuilding or refactoring a majority of their applications for cloud. Almost one-quarter (23%) are moving a few targeted applications to a single cloud services provider.

That said, private cloud and data centers are still a large part of enterprise IT. Regardless of where workloads live, they move only as fast as the connection to end users can support. With workloads now residing in a myriad of on-premises and cloud data centers, enterprises need to assess whether these centers are meeting current and future needs.

Not all use cases are created equal

Different organizations have different needs when it comes to the underlying network connection. Financial institutions, for example, may need ultrafast connections to conduct automated trading, whereas retail chains require reliable connections with plenty of throughput to handle point-of-sale transactions during peak periods. Manufacturers, on the other hand, need rock-solid high-performance connections

to ensure that machinery and autonomous vehicles can communicate and be precisely controlled.

No two networks are the same, and most large organizations will have use cases that require different kinds of connectivity. It's important to look at each endpoint to determine what connectivity is required for the performance needed.

Begin with applications, and make sure there's an underlying long-term application strategy. For example, ask:

- Where will these workloads be deployed next year?

- Where will they be in three years?

- Are we planning to move some infrastructure and applications from on-premises to the cloud?

Understand where your end users are experiencing performance issues today and where they could face performance issues in the future when they begin using more advanced technologies.

Build for the future

It's challenging to accurately forecast what your network requirements will be three years down the line. No one wants to overbuild now and pay for speed and capacity that won't be needed for several years. That said, it's important to put a stake in the ground so you can build a modern network that can scale appropriately to meet performance requirements without having to redesign the network.

Conduct proper due diligence to make sure you work with a connectivity partner that can help you achieve your goals. Look for a provider with a private nationwide network and a commitment to excellent U.S.-based customer service. With multiple vendors, many support calls often devolve into finger-pointing. A single end-to-end provider will take full accountability for performance, so you get the benefit of speedy issue resolution.

Also, consider whether the provider will have the capacity to meet your ongoing requirements. It's common for providers to oversubscribe their networks, which can result in network congestion and performance issues. Make sure that the provider will always have capacity and that you will be able to scale as needed.

Network modernization to support new technologies: a case study

To illustrate how network modernization can benefit an enterprise, let's look at a **U.S. company that operates two casual dining restaurant chains with more than 500 locations across the United States**. The company's point-of-sale (POS) system was more than 20 years old, and the organization knew that it needed to upgrade it to address security concerns and improve the customer experience.

A modern POS system would significantly raise the bar for connectivity, and it was clear that the company needed to modernize its network.

Spectrum Enterprise conducted an audit to help the company understand what it required to support the new POS and position the company for growth.

The organization needed a reliable high-performance network that could provide strong security, scalability, and ultra-high-speed data transfer, so it implemented a network that powers a cloud-based POS system with handheld devices for servers at more than 500 restaurants. The new system enables restaurants to speed table turns, increase order accuracy via connected kitchen displays, enable contactless payments, and accelerate credit card transaction processing — all of which increases efficiency, reduces labor costs, and improves customer satisfaction.

Companies, such as the one above, need to take a strategic approach to network performance, and having a strong partner is essential to success.

Spectrum Enterprise provides services nationally with a coast-to-coast network and support model. With a technical support team available 24 x 7, Spectrum Enterprise is committed to your success.

"Spectrum Enterprise provides services **nationally with a coast-to-coast network and support model".**

Learn more about how to help your business deliver unmatched connectivity, security, reliability, and speed.

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