7 Strategies for
enabling effective hybrid work in 2024

nexon™ | CISCO Partner

In today's rapidly evolving business world, the hybrid work model, which integrates the strengths of both office and remote environments, has become the norm. With a striking 78% of organisations now adopting a blend of remote and in-office employment, the call for transformation has never been more prevalent. Especially as traditional networking and security methods — rooted in backhauling all traffic via MPLS networks and VPNs through a centralised security infrastructure — are becoming congested, costly, and bogged down by complex multi-point solutions.

The shift towards Cloud-based, consolidated security solutions is now considered essential in this era of distributed workforces and applications across multiple clouds. This evolution is not merely about adapting; it's about fundamentally reshaping our security approaches to ensure safe, flexible remote work that meets today's work culture demands.

Ready to keep your organisation at the forefront? Explore these seven essential strategies designed to conquer the hybrid work world, promoting a culture of innovation, efficiency, security, and success.

nexon

1 Scale with efficiency

Scaling your IT infrastructure is not just a task to tick off the list; it's an opportunity to future-proof your organisation. First off, it's important to note that organisations are rapidly shifting their applications and services away from traditional data centres and physical hardware, with an impressive 50% of an organisation's workload running on Cloud-based platforms. This transition offers the advantage of allowing users to securely access their work from anywhere, at any time, enhancing flexibility, productivity, and scalability.

By embracing scalable Cloud solutions and moving away from physical on-premise hardware, you're creating a flexible, robust foundation that grows alongside your business. This strategic move streamlines your operations today and paves the way for sustainable growth and innovation, ensuring your organisation remains resilient in the face of change and growth.

Ask yourself:

Is our IT infrastructure architected to support multi-Cloud applications and a distributed workforce, ensuring it is equipped to thrive in the future of hybrid work and adapt to unforeseen challenges?

2 Eliminate disparate platforms

To optimise the effectiveness and cost of security systems, it's crucial to address the issue of disparate platforms. Utilising multiple security platforms, such as endpoint security programmes, mail security software, and Extended Detection and Response (XDR) from various vendors, can lead to inefficiency and introduce potential security vulnerabilities.

By implementing Cloud-based, consolidated platforms that enforce a Zero Trust security model, organisations can transition to a more cost-efficient and unified platform. This approach not only simplifies the IT teams' need to manage different platforms to maintain visibility and control but also mitigates the creation of security gaps in the operational landscape.

Ask yourself:

Does my current network and security solution meet our hybrid workforce way of working?

NEXON

3 Prioritise user experience across environments

Prioritising user experience (UX) in all work locations is non-negotiable when it comes to employee satisfaction. However, **with 47% of organisations** reporting off-site workforce security as their top challenge, it's clear that ensuring the security of remote users is integral to maintaining a smooth and consistent tech experience.

A secure UX, both in the office and working from home, leads to increased productivity, encourages team cohesion, and facilitates seamless collaboration. This adaptability also significantly improves employees' work-life balance by offering greater flexibility. If you want to know more, **read on here.**

Ask yourself:

- Are there any gaps in our technology that hinder effective collaboration and communication among teams, especially with remote employees?
- Does our network technology support a secure workforce across the office and remote environments?

nexon

4 Accelerate Cloud migration and application support

To excel in a hybrid work environment and ensure anytime, anywhere access to applications, accelerating Cloud migration is key. This crucial step not only simplifies accessing apps from any location but also enhances security, providing a more flexible and safer work environment.

Moreover, adopting Cloud technology facilitates the easier incorporation of artificial intelligence (AI) and automation, key drivers for innovation and faster market entry. This integration sets a solid foundation for competitive advantage and operational agility, essential for thriving in today's market. For more, click here.

Ask yourself:

- Have we considered how our data centre network and security needs will evolve?
- Does our current deployment provide the scalability and availability to support our more critical Cloud-based applications?
- Have we considered our network needs at the edge (LAN, WAN & WIFI)?

5 Educate employees on cyber risks

As humans, we often represent the weakest link in the security chain. This is why educating employees on cyber risks is essential for enhancing an organisation's security posture, especially in a hybrid work environment where more users are accessing data from various locations.

By informing employees about the potential cyber threats and how to recognise them, organisations can significantly strengthen their defences against cyber-attacks; ensuring that their workforce becomes a line of defence rather than a vulnerability. For more information, read on here.

Ask yourself:

- What programs have we implemented to educate our employees on the cyber risks in our environment?
- Are employees aware of how to effectively use the security tools in place? Or does Shadow IT still exist amongst our remote users?

6 **Leverage Cloud-based security technology**

Leveraging Cloud-based technology offers several benefits, including enhanced visibility, cost efficiencies, and easier management. As organisations adopt Cloud solutions across all locations, the added value of migrating network and security functions to the Cloud becomes extra important.

Utilising a solution that centralises control through a single, Cloud-managed console facilitates streamlined deployment, management, and optimisation of hyper-distributed environments. This approach simplifies the user experience by ensuring that all users and devices, including those unmanaged, can securely and effortlessly connect to the internet and mission-critical applications.

What's more, incorporating Secure Access Service Edge (SASE) and Security Service Edge (SSE) enhances protection, achieves a higher level of consistent security, and ensures granular, application-specific access to private applications. The integration of SASE and SSE not only improves user experience and productivity but also leads to a more efficient and effective hybrid workplace.

Ask yourself: **?**

How are you reducing complexity, cost and streamlining IT operations?

7 Finding the right partner

It's not just about having the technical skills, but also the capability and the end-to-end experience to guide your organisation forward. When it comes to designing and deploying comprehensive solutions, the focus should be on finding a Managed Service Provider (MSP) that offers a broad spectrum of expertise. For example, choose a partner who can help you shape a holistic IT strategy aimed at enhancing user experience and operational efficiency.

By finding a partner that provides end-to-end solutions, it ensures you're streamlining your processes and ensures that technology is an enabler, not a hindrance, in achieving your goals. Our broad experience across teams, organisations and workplaces uniquely equips us to boost your security and support your applications, making us your ideal end-to-end partner for comprehensive technological success.

Ask yourself:

Do I currently have a strategic IT partner to advise, design, deploy and manage your environment and if so, are they effective?
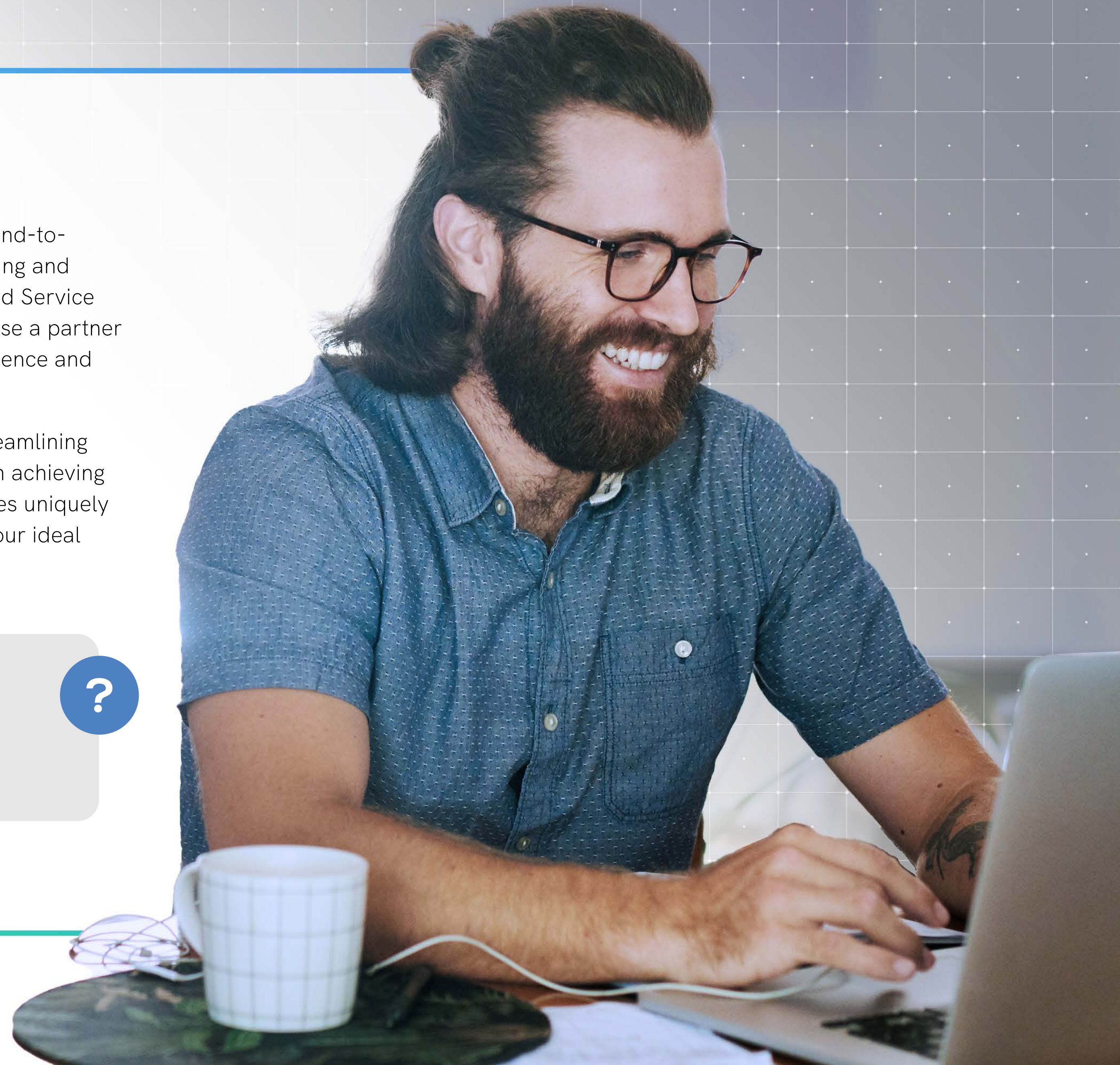
Hybrid work is here to stay, and as we navigate the complexities that come with it, the significance of integrating strategies for flexibility, security, and innovation cannot be underestimated.

Achieving this balance requires thoughtful implementation of technologies like SD-WAN, SASE and SSE, which are instrumental in enhancing network security and scalability at the edge, along with centralising management.

As your organisation adapts, the importance of maintaining a streamlined infrastructure becomes clear. In this evolving landscape, Nexon provides end-to-end services and solution-oriented strategies that ensure organisations are well-equipped for a sustainable future.

Streamline your hybrid workplace

Seek a simplified, secure, and scalable solution to hybrid work? Contact us to activate your SASE architecture today.

A SASE architecture converges networking and security functions in the Cloud to connect users to the applications and data they need, wherever it lives, from wherever they are.

The benefits of this approach include:

- Enhanced user experience, boosting productivity.

- Comprehensive protection for users, applications, and resources, both on and off the network

- Streamlined operations through unified security capabilities in a single Cloud-based tool.

- Rigorous enforcement of Zero Trust with extensive access control measures

- Swift detection, investigation, and remediation of security issues

We're here to accelerate your network & security journey with end-to-end solutions, including:

- Strategic Road mapping

- Expert Implementation

- Ongoing Management

Ready to get started?
Get in touch today.

Follow **nexonap**