

SECURING THE EDGE: HOW SERVICE MODELS DELIVER FLEXIBILITY AND EFFICIENCY



Over the past two years, New Zealand has experienced a huge shift in the way we work. Most businesses are overwhelmed with managing the ever-increasing number of devices (particularly IoT) that are connected to their infrastructure. IDC's telecommunications team predicts that in 2022, over 30% of organisations will prioritise network resiliency, ensuring business continuity, and uninterrupted digital engagement for customers, employees, and partners.

In this blog, we'll explore the factors that are impacting New Zealand businesses, and how flexible consumption models are supporting businesses to achieve network resiliency. Let's dive in.

New Zealand networks: the state of play

Up until the COVID-19 pandemic, many New Zealand businesses merely dabbled in hybrid work arrangements. Once we all found ourselves working from home every day, device management quickly became a major security concern. Workers were accessing secure business data using old or outdated technology, and login requests from personal devices became more and more frequent.

As a small country with a relatively small population, it's easy to assume we're not an attractive target for cyber attacks. However, as we saw in the Waikato District Health Board ransomware attack, a cyber breach can have disastrous consequences.

Today, many of our clients are similarly operating with small IT teams, limited budgets and a proliferation of devices, which can be incredibly hard to manage. What businesses need in 2022 are solutions that offer them deep technical expertise across a range of capabilities at an affordable price.

Adopting flexible consumption models

To address these challenges, many New Zealand businesses are switching to consumption-based services such as Network-as-a-Service (NaaS). These services enable organisations to consume edge connectivity and security on demand. In other words, they are able to outsource the complete lifecycle of a network deployment through a cloud-like subscription model.

Flexible consumption models like NaaS allow SMBs to easily operate their own network without the need for maintaining their own infrastructure. As their business needs change, they can quickly scale their services up or down, while also predicting any future needs for consumption. Businesses that have adopted these models see improvements in performance, reductions in cost and a greater ability to drive strategic business outcomes.

It's important to note that different services will be suitable for different businesses and



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industries. There are various privacy considerations to take into account, along with the types of devices, levels of access, kinds of data and services that their users have access to.

However, at a broad level, businesses can start looking at implementing managed software-defined WAN (SD-WAN), firewall as a service, and network as a service. Softsource's Network as a Service offering, featuring industry-leading Aruba technology can be tailored to affordably provide network management for a variety of businesses, delivering our partner Aruba's industry-leading SD-WAN through the cloud. This means your organisation will always have secure, high-speed network access.

We also recommend organisations to adopt a Zero Trust approach for higher levels of security and lower operational overhead. By deploying this architecture, you can leverage AI and automation to detect devices and automatically apply the correct security policies.

Edge security through Softsource vBridge

As we've mentioned previously, there's no silver bullet to success when it comes to technology and business. However, Softsource vBridge can support you to meet the challenges faced by your IT team, head-on. If you're dealing with siloed management across your networks and losing visibility over your IT infrastructure, Softsource's Edge Services Platform could be the right solution for your business.

In our experience of security testing, we often find that SMBs come away with over 10 serious vulnerabilities that need to be addressed as soon as possible. In conjunction with our partner Aruba, we can support you to navigate your edge experience, harnessing its capabilities while also increasing your security profile. Our Edge Services Platform leverages an AI-powered sixth sense, designed to automate and protect your edge.

When you work with us, you'll be fully supported by our team – network specialists with the deep technical expertise you're looking for. Because we have a varied and experienced talent pool to draw from, we can provide you with support across a wide variety of capabilities. We can advise you on best practices, maintain and support your edge capabilities or simply outsource your Intelligent edge as-a-service.

If you'd like to speak with an edge network specialist, make sure you talk to the Softsource vBridge team today.

Get in touch