

12 step roadmap to SASE

SASE simplifies the complexities of security for the remote workforce, but turning SASE's concepts into a tactical plan can be a challenge for IT leaders. This roadmap offers a pragmatic approach to network and security convergence.

Build a cross-functional team to create internal alignment across network, security, and remote workforce enablement

Map SASE against your existing capabilities, identifying and prioritizing the areas where it will provide the most value

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Create a strategy to “consolidate to 1-2 vendors converging SD-WAN and security services”¹

Source: Gartner.

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Identify how SASE should make your network infrastructure more virtualized and software-defined using SD-WAN

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Consider which security features should move to the cloud or remain on-premise — SASE doesn't have to be 100% cloud

Leverage a technology refresh project to implement SASE and justify it on both technical and business foundations

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Identify your needs, understanding where network and security teams will need support from the service provider

Consider the expertise behind each security technology and understand how these technologies are consolidated into one platform

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Let your prioritized SASE capabilities above guide you in evaluating solutions and selecting a provider, as they vary widely

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Implement SASE using a phased approach that prioritizes areas delivering the greatest benefits to your business

For the long term, identify ways to converge network and security operations into one organization

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Don't forget to “enforce contractual service level agreements from SASE providers”¹

Source: Gartner.

¹ Gartner, 2021 Strategic Roadmap for SASE Convergence, Neil MacDonald, Nat Smith, Lawrence Orans, Joe Skorupa, 25 March 2021