



The Top Seven Use Cases for SASE

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After years of struggling with the complexities of secure global WAN connections, cloud application performance and agile, secure remote access, organizations finally have a way to address all these issues with a single, simple cloud-native solution.

Secure Access Service Edge (SASE, pronounced “sassy”) describes cloud services that provide users anywhere with fast, secure access to applications everywhere. With SASE, enterprises ultimately replace their patchwork of networking and security tools with one global network for leaner operations, lightning-fast agility, always current security and unsurpassed visibility. Let’s see how SASE solves seven key enterprise use cases that formerly required deploying and managing a lot of complex technology.

What is SASE?

Secure Access Service Edge (SASE) converges the functions of network and security point solutions into a unified cloud-native service delivered through a global network of local gateways. Without convergence into the cloud you can't realize SASE's benefits.

Traffic is sent to the local SASE gateway via a variety of technologies: Office locations connect with a simple SD-WAN device. Mobile and home users connect via client software or clientless access. Cloud services connect natively and often house SASE gateways inside their cloud datacenters.

Once traffic enters the gateway, SASE applies network and security policies and forwards it over a fast global private backbone or the Internet. The SASE cloud service takes care of delivering and managing a comprehensive security stack, including upgrades and security updates, for all office, home and mobile users.



Access | Network | Security

The 7 Use Cases

There are many reasons to deploy a SASE framework to support modern enterprise environments. Let's look at the top seven.

1 MPLS migration to SD-WAN

2 Optimized global connectivity

3 Secure branch internet access

4 Cloud acceleration & control

5 Remote access security & optimization

6 Work from home

7 Easy management

1

MPLS migration to SD-WAN

SASE enables organizations to move quickly from expensive, capacity-constrained MPLS networks to a more affordable alternative that takes advantage of high-capacity Internet links.

It does so by connecting its network of gateways with a global private backbone that delivers the same (or better) performance and predictability as MPLS at a lower cost. While MPLS deployment takes weeks or months, deploying SASE at each location typically takes a few days or even a few hours.

Once connected, SASE boosts usable capacity and improves resiliency everywhere, optimizing performance and maximizing throughput to both on-premises and cloud applications.

2

Optimized global connectivity

SASE provides a global network of gateways connected by a private backbone of SLA-backed network providers and built-in WAN and cloud optimization to deliver a predictable, low latency network experience worldwide.

Customers who suffer from high-latency and network inconsistency across their global locations will find that SASE creates a far superior user experience with both on-premises and cloud applications compared to connecting over the public Internet or even MPLS.

3

Secure branch internet access

SASE solutions enhance and simplify branch office WAN security with a complete built-in, cloud-delivered network security stack.

Connecting branch locations to the SASE gateway protects all traffic, both Internet-bound and WAN, with enterprise-grade, cloud-based security services. It's no longer necessary to backhaul Internet traffic to a datacenter, or deploy and manage disparate branch network security appliances and solutions.

SASE synchronizes all security policies and updates are implemented in the cloud and immediately applied for all locations and users.

4

Cloud acceleration and control

SASE accelerates cloud traffic seamlessly by routing traffic from all network edges over its global private backbone to the SASE gateway closest to the cloud data centers.

SASE gateways share the data center footprint of major cloud providers, so latency between the SASE framework and these providers is essentially zero. Optimizing cloud application access is just a matter of adding a single application-level rule defining where cloud application traffic should egress the SASE cloud.

You no longer have to use legacy access methods which are not well suited for cloud connectivity.

5

Remote access security and optimization

Cloud-native SASE solutions extend their global networking and security offerings to mobile and remote users.

Rather than authenticating users to the entire network, SASE uses Zero Trust Network Access (ZTNA) technology to limit users to the resources they're allowed to see. Using simple mobile clients, the SASE security stack protects them against threats everywhere and enforces application access control. Unlike legacy VPNs, SASE solutions scales globally to support 24x7 access for the entire workforce.

No longer are mobile users treated as second-class citizens of the network and security infrastructure.

6

Work from home

SASE solutions support all employees working at home with the same scalable cloud-native infrastructure, management, and security policies as their site-to-site and cloud connections.

Once customers connect on-premises and cloud data centers to a SASE framework, they can enable self-service provisioning of VPN client software to all users who require work-from-home or remote access. Unlike legacy VPN products that struggle to support the entire business, SASE offers a cloud-scale platform with a global private backbone that optimizes home traffic of thousands of users to all applications and continuously inspects traffic for threats and access control. The result is that all home users get the same fast, secure network and application experience—and the same productivity—they had at the office.

7

Easy management

SASE solutions simplify management with a single console that you can use to configure, manage and report on your entire network and security infrastructure.

Doing so provides richer data context and makes it unnecessary to switch back and forth between consoles to gather important information and troubleshoot network and security issues. The result is improved visibility into network and security issues, easier optimization and troubleshooting, and a consistent set of policies across WAN, mobile and home deployments. Some solutions also offer real-time analytics that provide insight into network issues such as jitter, packet loss and latency to help IT configure the network for the absolute best user experience.

Conclusion

SASE is a game changer that allows organizations to address a variety of digital transformation use cases with an agile, cloud-native solution, rather than multiple technologies, hardware appliances and carrier services. Consider the efficiency and cost reductions of replacing multiple vendors and legacy products with a single solution. Windstream Enterprise offers a holistic platform that provides a high-performance network, with integrated security and the unrivaled service and support, that will help your organization consolidate security elements in the cloud.

Cloud-enabled connectivity, communications and security—guaranteed.

Windstream Enterprise drives business transformation through the convergence of our proprietary software solutions and cloud-optimized network to unlock our clients' revenue and profitability potential. Our managed services streamline operations, enhance productivity and elevate the experience of our clients and their end users while securing their critical data and brand reputation. Analysts certify Windstream Enterprise as a market leader for our product innovation, and clients rely on our unrivaled service guarantees and best-in-class management portal. Businesses trust Windstream Enterprise as their single-source for a high-performance network and award-winning suite of connectivity, collaboration and security solutions—delivered by a team of technology experts whose success is directly tied to our clients' complete satisfaction.

To learn more about SASE, visit windstreamenterprise.com