EBOOK
5 Networking Predictions For 2022
The last two years have seen a far-reaching re-evaluation and restructuring of how we work and live, and this transformation continues. Demand for connectivity from anywhere and any device is accelerating. These challenges are compounded by the increasing numbers of connected devices, especially IoT, that must be factored into the infrastructure. Providing predictable and secure connectivity continues to challenge IT across all organizations.

The necessity of SASE is recognized by cloud-first organizations small and large, but there’s more than one approach. Businesses realize they need to be on an evolutionary path. They are looking for technology that increases flexibility and agility, enabling them to adapt to shifting business, market and working conditions. But what will this involve? Where are the enablers? It’s certainly a conversation that goes beyond SD-WAN.

With all these dynamics in play, we have five predictions for the year ahead that will help enterprises to problem-solve and accelerate transformation at the network edge.

IDC predicts:

In 2022
more than 30% of organizations will prioritize connectivity resiliency to ensure business continuity, resulting in uninterrupted digital engagement for customers, employees, and partners.*

David Hughes
Chief Product and Technology Officer at Aruba, a Hewlett Packard Enterprise company.

*Source: IDC FutureScape: Worldwide Future of Connectedness 2022 Predictions
1 Devices will outnumber people 10:1 by 2025

Digital transformation is driving a proliferation of IoT devices, and Machine to Machine (M2M) communications are growing rapidly. Today, connected devices outnumber people 5:1. Over the next three years, there will be 10x more connected devices than people, making automated secure connectivity of IoT of paramount importance. Without an automated way to onboard, provision, and secure these devices, organizations will be left vulnerable to security breaches, which are continually growing in sophistication.

**Gartner** predicts:

**By 2025**

40% of enterprises with SD-WAN deployments will use artificial intelligence (AI) functions to automate Day 2 operations, compared with fewer than 5% in 2021.*

*Source: Gartner

How we help

To keep pace with the rapid increase in IoT devices, enterprises must move away from the security limitations of legacy networks. Securing IoT requires edge-to-edge role-based segmentation – from the AP, through LAN and campus switches, across the WAN, to the DC and the cloud. By deploying a zero-trust architecture from edge-to cloud, organizations can simplify policy management, and leverage AI and automation to detect devices and apply the correct security policies automatically.
Two clear paths to SASE emerge

As SASE deployments enter the early majority stage of the adoption lifecycle, the market will see a clear split in approaches. Small and medium size enterprises are likely to be attracted to the all-in-one SASE offerings, where simplicity and a single point of contact take priority over advanced capabilities.

On the other hand, large enterprises will remain unwilling to compromise on security, reliability, or the quality of user experience. They will look to a dual-vendor approach, pairing a best-of-breed SD-WAN partner for on-prem security and WAN-facing capabilities with a fully-fledged cloud-delivered security partner delivering secure web gateway (SWG), cloud access security broker (CASB), and zero trust network access (ZTNA) services.

How we help

Networking and security, although intrinsically related, are two different and very complex domains of expertise. Aruba EdgeConnect provides an advanced SD-WAN foundation for a robust SASE architecture that lets organizations choose from market-leading cloud-delivered security service providers now and in the future.

Gartner predicts:

By 2024 more than 70% of software-defined wide-area network (SD-WAN) customers will have implemented a secure access service edge (SASE) architecture, compared with 40% in 2021.*

*Source: Gartner
The transition to Wi-Fi 6E will take off in 2022

While much attention has been given to 5G cellular, on the campus and inside the enterprise, we are on the cusp of a fast transition to Wi-Fi 6E. Wi-Fi 6E delivers high capacity with an additional 1200 MHz of new spectrum, while retaining backwards compatibility. Leading market intelligence firm 650 Group expects over 200 percent unit growth of Wi-Fi 6E enterprise APs in 2022, indicating that enterprise organizations recognize the potential of 6E, especially with the continued reliance on activities such as videoconferencing, telemedicine, and distance learning.

How we help

With Aruba Wi-Fi 6E solutions, you can support hybrid workplaces, IoT, and rising user expectations with improved speed, efficiency, flexibility, and scalability. Wi-Fi 6E helps accommodate the growing number of mobile and IoT devices to better meet IT and business requirements. Higher data rates and increased capacity deliver a better user experience, even for congested environments and demanding applications such as AR/VR, keeping the workforce productive and customers engaged.
Hybrid working will drive the rise of “microbranches” supercharged with AI automation

Even as the pandemic recedes, work-from-home is here to stay. This new normal will drive the emergence of the microbranch or “branch of one.” In the early days of the pandemic, organizations scrambled to expand VPNs and deploy remote access points (RAPs) to connect their locked-down workforce and implement pop-up testing kiosks. In 2022, we will see enormous growth for purpose-built microbranch offerings that combine enterprise-class Wi-Fi access with sophisticated multi-path WAN connectivity and advanced AIOps for reliability and consistent user experience. These microbranch offerings will securely extend the enterprise to the “branch of one.”

By 2024

45% of contact centers supporting finance, retail, and hospitality industries adopt Branch of One architectures, enabling efficient and secure enterprise-class work-from-anywhere experiences.*

*Source: IDC
The increased value on “services” will increase in demand for infrastructure consumption models like network as a service (NaaS)

There is a culture shift happening right before our very eyes – the increased value consumers are placing on “experiences” over “things”, and the decline in needing to “own something” has already touched our everyday lives. This same shift will begin to play out in the enterprise as well in the coming year, with organizations being less focused on devices and capex, and more focused on the business outcomes of their technology investments. Organizations want greater financial flexibility and cost predictability, while being able to increase IT efficiency and keep pace with innovation. A flexible infrastructure consumption model allows for all of this. For those organizations that aren’t fully ready to take the plunge, flexible consumption models provide the option to “try before buying,” so that enterprises can adopt the new model – or not – at their own pace. This will drive a big increase in demand for consumption-based services like NaaS in 2022.

IDC predicts:

**By 2025, 60% of mid-sized to large enterprises will adopt network as a service (NaaS).**

*Source: IDC*
What’s your priority?

Chances are your organization is grappling with challenges and opportunities around at least one of these predictions. It’s more likely you’ve had conversations about several. So, where next? We’ve made it easier to answer that question, with a link for each prediction that offers more information and shows how Aruba helps.

1. **Devices will outnumber people 10:1 by 2025**
   Discover how IoT security is the next frontier for SD-WAN

2. **Two clear paths to SASE emerge**
   Read our blog discussing key reasons to choose multiple SASE vendors

3. **The transition to Wi-Fi 6E will take off in 2022**
   Read about our enterprise-grade Wi-Fi 6E solution

4. **Hybrid working will drive the rise of “microbranches” supercharged with AI automation**
   Find out more about our EdgeConnect Microbranch solution

5. **The increased value on “services” will increase in demand for infrastructure consumption models like NaaS**
   Find out what’s in a NaaS experience and how insights and automation control put you in the driver’s seat