

DRIVING THE CHANGE

Managed Software-Defined
Campus from Computacenter



THE NETWORK EVOLUTION

Software-defined [SD] technologies have changed the way networks today are designed, built and operated. A modern network is no longer controlled by individual devices, rather it's a centrally managed fabric – versatile and robust.

The hardware will always be behind the scenes, but it is controlled from centralised software based on automation. This flexible architecture is focused on business use cases, not technical capability.

Moving infrastructure into programmable features means that analytics now offer a more comprehensive understanding by seeing the network in full. With this big picture, intelligent software can proactively mitigate threats and avoid network downtime allowing more time to focus on business enablement and use cases.

Software-defined networking (SDN) continues to evolve in line with wider demands and trends:

PEOPLE

End user experience in SDN is about anywhere, anytime access. This increases flexibility and productivity whilst maintaining security.

APPLICATION/DATA

SDN benefits customers focused on data and applications by making them easier to consume through enhanced connectivity to hybrid or cloud platforms.

IT SECURITY/GOVERNANCE/ COMPLIANCE

Security can now be applied as central policy, making it simple and consistent to deploy.

SOFTWARE/PROGRAMMABILITY

Programmability and API (Application Programming Interface) integration increases operational efficiency, business agility and automation, all whilst reducing risk.

VISIBILITY/CONTROL

End-to-end visibility and control make network operations more efficient and responsive. Downtime and time-to-provision are reduced.

USAGE/CONSUMPTION

Flexible consumption and subscription-based licensing help drive SDN adoption.



THE EFFECT ON MULTI-DOMAIN NETWORKS

The individual domain technologies are focused on their core purpose but are integrated using standard APIs (Application Programming Interface) to make their connections. Achieving this integration requires an intent-based network architecture across all network domains. An emerging technology, intent-based networking adds intelligence to the network in order to replace the manual processes of configuring networks and reacting to issues.

For an enterprise to be successful with intent-based networking, it needs to fully embrace automation in the data center, the campus, the wide area network, and in the branch.



35%

PLAN FOR THEIR NETWORKS TO BE INTENT-BASED ACROSS ALL DOMAINS BY 2022 – UP FROM JUST 4% IN 2019

Global Networking Trends Report,
Cisco, 2020

FOCUSING ON THE CAMPUS DOMAIN

- Drive better user experiences with access from anywhere (wireless-first strategy)
- Success with application performance and data, because hybrid and cloud platforms need a software-defined connectivity
- Enhance consistent security, governance and compliance, because a wireless connectivity, mobility and the connection of more devices need a consistent security background
- Increase the individual flexibility, because a business needs to be agile and react to changes quickly, while reducing risks
- Achieve granular visibility of the network to predict issues before they arrive and reduce the number of downtimes
- Cost transparency through usage and consumption models which give you a better understanding why the costs appear and many more commercial benefits.

The Campus is a place where people and things connect to the company applications and infrastructure. The Campus is wired and wireless as one network entity with a consistent policy and security. Within a modern Campus network different areas of your offices and building networks are logically segmented as part of a single enterprise network. This could consist of many Local Area Networks (LANs), like Wireless LANs (WLAN) and Virtual LANs (VLAN).

New business use cases and operating models such as SaaS (Software as a Service) will require more complex and agile architecture as organisations continue to grow their networks. The flexibility offered by the SD-Campus will allow for a greater variety of devices, applications, cloud opportunities, and scope for growth.



END-TO-END EXPERIENCE

HOW CAN COMPUTACENTER HELP YOU TO BUILD UP YOUR SOFTWARE-DEFINED ARCHITECTURE FOR YOUR CAMPUS NETWORKS?

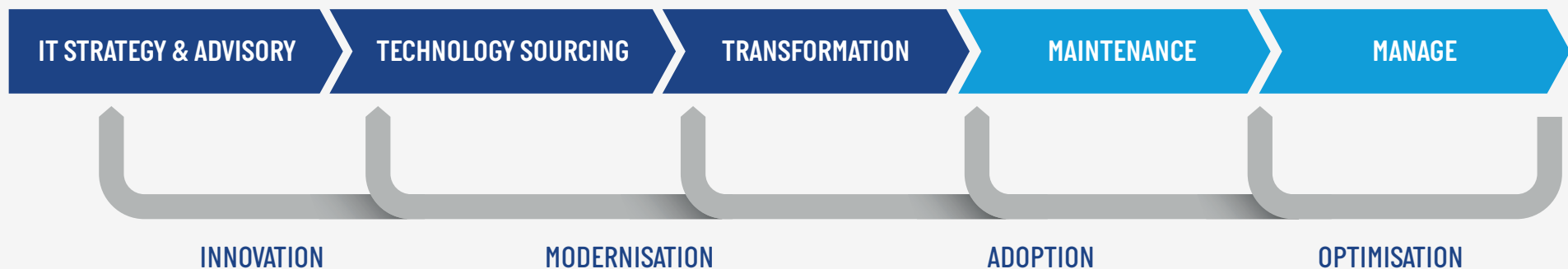
MANAGED SD CAMPUS

Computacenter's Managed SD Campus service is about delivering tomorrow's networks end-to-end. We are the right provider to source, transform and manage your entire network estate.

Our managed service leverages the developments in SD Campus technology and adds value through proactive and reactive network management, incorporating features such as:

- ✓ NETWORK HEALTH & INSIGHTS
- ✓ POLICY CONFIGURATION & DEPLOYMENT
- ✓ SOFTWARE LIFECYCLE DRIVING PATCHING & UPGRADES
- ✓ BACK-END INFRASTRUCTURE SUPPORT
- ✓ FABRIC DESIGN & CONFIGURATION
- ✓ DEVICE PROFILE & IMAGE MANAGEMENT
- ✓ PROACTIVE MONITORING & EVENT MANAGEMENT
- ✓ ADVANCED SECURITY & SEGMENTATION

The real value of our SD Campus implementation can be seen through both the end goals and the service along the way. This combination of high-level skills make the difference:



START YOUR SD CAMPUS JOURNEY

LEVERAGING SOUND ADVICE AND A PARTNER YOU CAN TRUST

As our customers are adopting the new features and functions of software-defined networks, Computacenter's own delivery and service methods have had to evolve to meet these new demands.

IT-STRATEGY AND ADVISORY

Our professional services and pre-sales teams will engage with you to support these discussions and provide insight for any initial SD Campus deployment, including the type of solution recommended and any use cases that are best suited to address individual challenges.

TECHNOLOGY SOURCING

Working with you and the technology partners, we will define and agree on the scope and scale of any deployment. This will help build the bill of materials (BoM) and co-ordinate licence procurement activities.

MAINTENANCE

We protect your most valued assets by maintaining the organisation's most critical information and business operations. We prioritise flexibility in solving critical network outages to be sure they are fixed without impact to customers and key stakeholders.

TRANSFORMATION

Following the scope of service definition and licencing procurement, our professional services team will complete the design and implementation of the SD Campus solution.

MANAGED SERVICES

We deliver managed services using our own best-in-breed facilities or customer tools, applying highly-skilled and accredited resources with global scale and capability.

Within our proactive and reactive network management offering, we can improve your network to continuously optimise, adopt, modernise, and innovate the overall solution to get the best performance for today and tomorrow. You can free up your own resources to concentrate on adding value elsewhere in the business while we are taking care of the service delivery, managing and mitigating risks.



USE CASES

Click  for more information.

PEOPLE 

APPLICATION/DATA 

IT SECURITY/GOVERNANCE/COMPLIANCE 

SOFTWARE/PROGRAMMABILITY 

VISIBILITY/CONTROL 

USAGE/CONSUMPTION 

PEOPLE

- Manage wired and wireless networks and users from a single interface [e.g. Cisco DNA Center or Meraki]
- Ability to offload wireless data path to network switches [reduce load on controller]
- Scalable fabric-enabled wireless with seamless roaming across campus
- Simplified and time-saving policy provisioning



USE CASES

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PEOPLE



APPLICATION/DATA



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VISIBILITY/CONTROL



USAGE/CONSUMPTION



APPLICATION/DATA

- Administrator can define user-to-application access policy from a single interface
- End-to-end policy management for the enterprise
- Flexibility when enforcing policy at campus



USE CASES

Click  for more information.

PEOPLE



APPLICATION/DATA



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IT SECURITY/GOVERNANCE/COMPLIANCE

- Reduce time needed to provision network segmentation and user groups
- Segment the network into different groups where each group has its own policies and define a governance around how they can interact together
- Provide a foundation to enforce network security policies
- Be able to detect and intercept threats at line rate from the center throughout the network, including all devices on the network edge
- Mitigate the risk of unauthorised access
- Respond to and reduce risks
- Enhance regulatory compliance



USE CASES

Click  for more information.

PEOPLE



APPLICATION/DATA



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USAGE/CONSUMPTION



SOFTWARE/PROGRAMMABILITY

- Increase flexibility and business agility
- API-Integration increases operational efficiency
- API connects other areas of the IT estate enabling use cases for IoT devices and use of other vendor marketplace services
- Customise the standard enterprise solution based on the requirements



USE CASES

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PEOPLE



APPLICATION/DATA



IT SECURITY/GOVERNANCE/COMPLIANCE



SOFTWARE/PROGRAMMABILITY



VISIBILITY/CONTROL



USAGE/CONSUMPTION



VISIBILITY/CONTROL

- Dashboards show the status of the network at a glance in a data rich format
- Significantly reduce troubleshooting times and mean time to resolution
- Leverage AI/ML to understand network usage patterns and mitigate threats before they arise
- Build a detailed inventory of previously unknown endpoints
- Ensure that endpoints on your network are compliant with policies



USE CASES

Click  for more information.

PEOPLE



APPLICATION/DATA



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SOFTWARE/PROGRAMMABILITY



VISIBILITY/CONTROL



USAGE/CONSUMPTION



USAGE/CONSUMPTION

- Flexible licensing options introduce features in sensible levels, allowing you to vary the features you deploy to the demands of your business
- Subscription focussed commercial models give chances to reduce Capex investment and achieve more through Opex
- Feature rich and agile, the future using SDN allows you to pay for the licenses and features that you consume



A TRUSTED PARTNER

Our experience speaks for itself. For many years, Computacenter have provided businesses with value added services to make the most out of their networks.

We understand that the network is central to fulfilling the goals of your enterprise. A network needs to do a lot more than ever before; there is no way of driving a cloud strategy other than working with a new and modern networking model.

Software-defined networks will be the future in overall network evolution. The impact on this will change the way networks are planned, built, operated and optimised due to the lifecycle. All of this is covered by our trends and technology radar to guarantee the best and most future-focused network to support your business goals.

WHY COMPUTACENTER?

SCALE

We currently manage over 100,000 network devices across the world with a significant install base across our extensive client base. We continue to invest in expanding the scale and reach of our business as shown with our recent acquisitions in France and North America.

BROAD PORTFOLIO

Our presence in Workplace, Cloud and Data Center, and Security infrastructures enables us to work across multiple platforms. A sound network will enhance these products as they, in turn, enrich employee experiences.

DEPTH OF EXPERIENCE

We have over 15 years of experience delivering end-to-end networking services and deploying global networking solutions and services. We also were the first to deploy Software-Defined Access in the UK.

GLOBAL REACH

We have global reach and end-to-end networking capability across IT Strategy and Advisory Services, Technology Sourcing, Transformation Services, and Managed Services. Our extensive global partner network gives us the ability to deploy expert skills and resources on a global basis.

END-TO-END DELIVERY

The Computacenter story is a simple one; we deliver a software-defined, end-to-end product that takes the risk and complexity out of networking. We help our customers achieve their business objectives through sound advice, reliable service, and proactive management and insight. Computacenter source, manage, and transform networks to get the right results for your business. Our approach integrates security at every stage of the process to deliver proactive solutions to organisations.

POWERFUL PARTNERSHIPS

Computacenter is vendor independent and has strong partnerships with global network vendors including Cisco and HPE Aruba. The SD Campus offering is being developed in conjunction with Computacenter's strategic partners to maximise the value of the offering and allow our customers to leverage the power of those partnerships.

BREADTH OF SKILLS

Computacenter has over 600 skilled networking engineers globally and access to many more through our strategic partnerships. Our extensive skills and resources can adapt quickly to customer demand. Computacenter is constantly investing to expand and develop our skills base across vendors and technologies.



LET'S TALK

START YOUR DIGITAL TRANSFORMATION JOURNEY WITH US

To discover how Computacenter can help you to build up your software-defined network architecture for your campus, please contact your Account Manager or visit www.computacenter.com/uk/network

About Computacenter

Computacenter is a leading independent technology partner, trusted by large corporate and public sector organisations. We help our customers to source, transform and manage their IT infrastructure to deliver digital transformation, enabling users and their business. Computacenter is a public company quoted on the London FTSE 250 (CCC.L) and employs over 16,000 people worldwide.



Computacenter