The network is now a security solution

Security-first, AI-powered networking from HPE Aruba Networking

Organizations have come to expect uncertainty and looming threats when it comes to security. Have they also come to expect that networking and security roles are at odds?

There can be a misleading perception of competing objectives between networking and security teams: opening access to IT resources for the sake of business innovation comes at the expense of exposing the organization to unnecessary risk.

Our customers tell us that, while there might be the normal give-and-take between the networking and security teams, there is no tradeoff between innovation and protection. Both must be satisfied.

The opportunity lies in the increasingly critical role the network plays in driving the business forward. Whether via traditional on-premises connectivity or the Internet and the cloud, the network's mission is to collect, secure, and deliver data and IT resources to users, devices, and applications wherever and whenever it's needed. Given the ubiquitous nature of the network, it is only natural that it is now considered a bridge between connectivity and security.

In other words, the network is now a security solution. And this paradigm shift delivers benefits for both the security and networking teams.

Given the threat environment, every resource must contribute to cybersecurity protection. As a result, the network becomes the foundation for architectures such as zero trust and SASE. In its dual role as connectivity enabler and cybersecurity defender, the network naturally becomes a place of collaboration and cooperation between the network and security teams.

But not every network can satisfy both missions.

There are 4 requirements the network must meet to support both connectivity and security goals.

- **Zero trust and SASE solutions built into the network infrastructure.** This means delivering the design and implementation of "trust nothing and no one" while applying least-privilege access control policies that are seamlessly enforced from edge to cloud. This is the opposite of bolting on external security add-ons to make up for the gaps in network security.

- **A common policy framework for both networking and security.** Both teams use policies to express desired outcomes, either from a security or a connectivity perspective. Built-in zero trust and SASE networking solutions simplify both policy expression and policy implementation so that both teams can define their desired outcomes and trust the results.
- **Integration with the security ecosystem.** The network is the central touchpoint for all IT activity. Packet flows are the source of truth for both operating the network and delivering security-relevant information to other security solutions, such as firewalls, SIEMs, etc. Packet data can be summarized or delivered raw for upstream analysis. In addition, because the network is the gatekeeper for IT access, attacks detected by other parts of the ecosystem can be intercepted and blocked by the network.
- **AI-powered analytics.** Yes, AI is a trending buzzword, but applying AI networking to security problems is the only way to provide comprehensive cyber protection. For example, both networking and security teams are bedeviled by rogue devices that find their way onto the network. Not only are they a source of vulnerabilities, they also are not governed by any access control policy. By applying AI to network telemetry, devices are discovered and fingerprinted with a high degree of accuracy, allowing access control policies to be automatically applied.

The bottom line: Your choice of network matters when it comes to protecting your organization.

These connectivity and security capabilities do not magically appear in networks that have outsourced security with bolted-on third-party products. Whether it is built-in application layer stateful firewalling, cloud-native NAC, or device discovering and profiling, HPE Aruba Networking has been a long-time leader in security-first, AI-powered networking solutions.

Security-first, AI-powered networking from HPE Aruba Networking is built on zero trust principles, providing a common foundation for networking and security teams to power distinctive experiences and innovative business results — without sacrificing cybersecurity protection. With HPE Aruba Networking solutions, your network can now provide advanced visibility, insights, centralized policy management, data protection, threat defense, and access control in a single platform. Our AI-powered networking approach also helps your teams benefit from intelligent automation that reduces manual effort, improves visibility and anomaly detection, and enhances monitoring and diagnostics, all of which ensure your organization is not exposed to unnecessary risk.

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