FIVE ADVANTAGES
OF A CONVERGED EDGE NETWORK

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First Things First.
What is the edge network?

For years, IT professionals have spent a considerable amount of time and effort architecting and deploying local area networks (LANs) to physically connect devices (computers, printers, etc.) to an enterprise network. As devices and work habits changed, the classic, hardwired network was augmented with Wi-Fi hotspots. As the number of hotspots increased, the wireless LAN (WLAN) emerged and with it a new way to architect and manage the wireless infrastructure.

Together, the LAN and WLAN represent the edge network. Two critical, but distinct networks. Each currently managed independently.

What's driving convergence?

As organizations rush to keep up with bring-your-own-device (BYOD) initiatives, work environments morph to more flexible design and applications move to the cloud, IT organizations are struggling to keep up. The converged edge network is about bringing together the management of both the LAN and wireless LAN (WLAN) environments, creating organizational and financial savings, and providing users a better experience. At CommScope, we have identified five key advantages for pursuing a converged edge network.

I. Reduced network management clutter

By unifying the management of both the LAN and WLAN onto a common platform, IT gets better visibility of overall network performance from a single dashboard. The IT team gains greater visibility to overall wired and Wi-Fi network performance. Unified management reduces the training time and helps make IT staff more productive, faster.

II. Workflow automation

With a converged edge network, it becomes possible to automate a number of routine tasks. Profiles and configurations can be pre-defined and as new switches and access points (APs) come on the network, the unified management systems can be automatically pushed to the new elements. Automating routine tasks frees up IT staff to focus on high-priority issues and ensures network consistency.

III. Better network analytics

When the environment consisted of desktop computers running email and tied to the corporate data center, understanding what the user community was doing was rather straightforward. Today, with BYOD, applications moving to the cloud and an explosion of social media applications, understanding the behavior of users requires visibility across both wired and wireless infrastructures. With a converged edge network, it is faster and easier to pull analytics on user behavior without needing to correlate across different infrastructures.
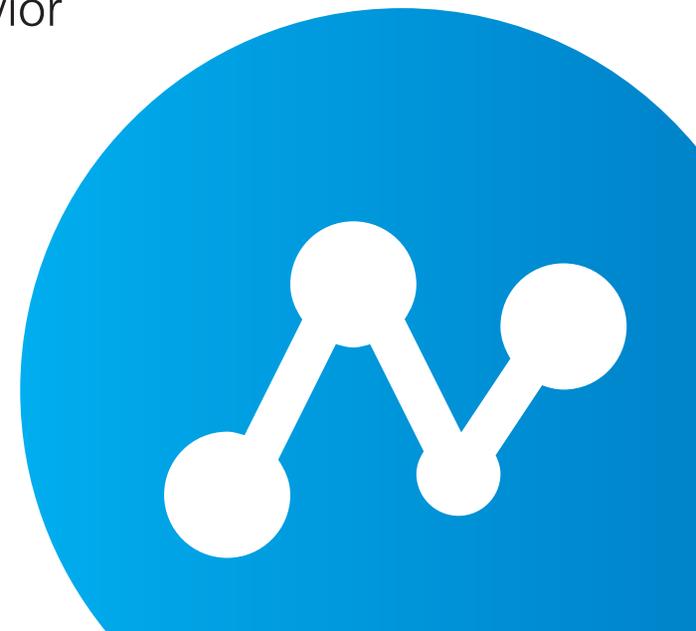
IV. Improved capacity planning and network optimization

As applications move to the cloud, devices become more mobile and network usage patterns change, it is becoming increasingly more difficult for IT organizations to plan for and manage network capacity. With unified visibility across both the wired and wireless domains, IT is better able to forecast and plan network growth as well as better optimize the current infrastructure.
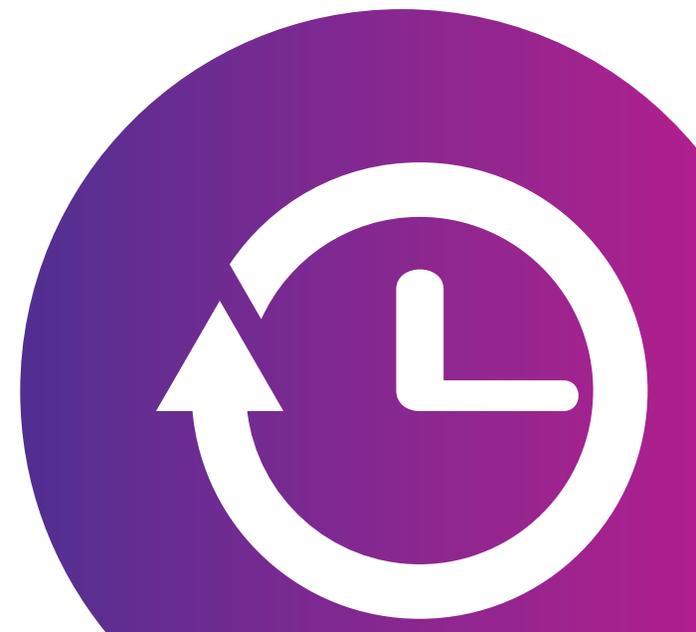
V. Ability to leverage the API economy

A converged edge network built for the application programming interface (API) economy will allow for the seamless integration of edge network data into an existing manager of managers (MOM) or data lake. This puts the power and visibility of a converged edge network directly into existing workstreams using APIs, providing even greater insight, control and visibility.

The future is a converged edge network

As part of any digital transformation, organizations need to consider the value and savings of a converged edge network. With greater control and visibility, a converged edge network provides the flexibility that today's modern enterprises need to succeed. At CommScope, we are redefining the converged edge network. Visit www.commscope.com for more information.

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