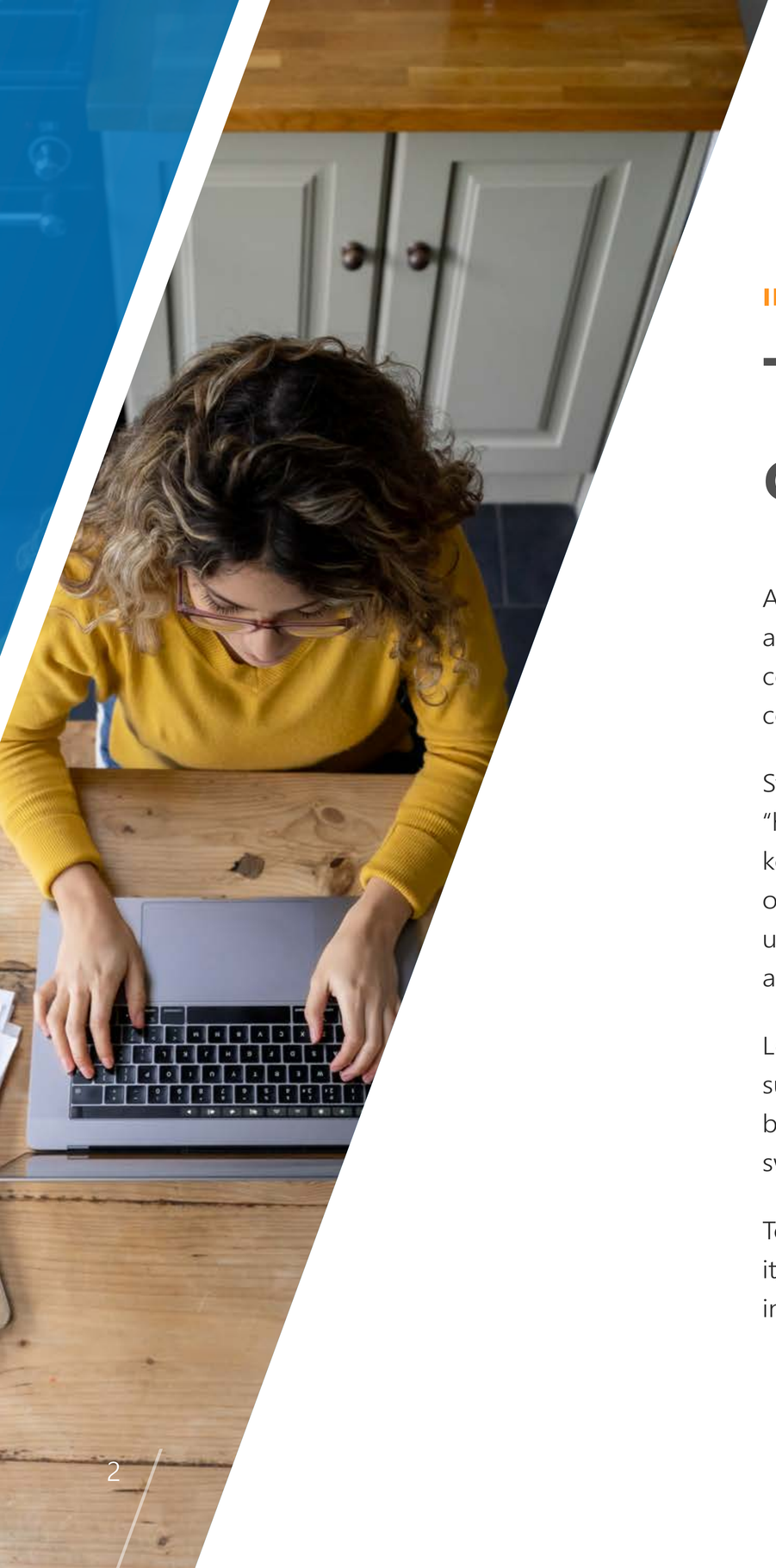
Maximizing your Microsoft 365 investment

Enhance connectivity, security, and accelerate productivity with Zscaler

zscaler



INTRODUCTION

The nature of the workplace is changing. Is your IT environment?

As the workplace shifts its shape to accommodate a changing world, the need to facilitate fast, secure connections to mission-critical applications—while controlling costs—remains top of mind.

Staff and teams are physically removed from their office "hubs," and cloud-based applications are the glue that's keeping the moving parts of the workforce together. To optimize these applications and unlock their power to unite and drive productivity, they require direct user-to-app connection.

Legacy hub-and-spoke architectures, by design, rarely support these efforts—instead forcing traffic to be backhauled over slow and costly multiprotocol label switching (MPLS) network connections.

To handle this increase in traffic, and the need to secure it, many organizations have turned to massive hardware investments to keep up with changing times.

In reality, organizations don't need to go to these extremes. There's a new way to support connectivity to cloud-based applications for workers everywhere, with an unmatched user experience:

Turn IT into the business enabler you need.

With the right tools, IT teams can easily accelerate application transformation with direct-to-internet connections that promote seamless, secure collaboration to drive efficiency and productivity. They can also provide full visibility into all network traffic, which will enable them to better respond to the needs of workers and to have a clear line of sight to growth and modernization.

Not only are these tools essential—they're easy to deploy and they actually simplify your network architecture. So let's explore what they are, and how they can help.

Hub-and-spoke networking is impacting your applications

The name “hub and spoke” brings a well-formed image to mind: its overall network topology resembles a wheel with a central hub connected to points along its edge, through multiple spokes.

Sometimes called a “star network,” the hub is the central component to which the multiple endpoints around it must connect. While hub-and-spoke architecture has the potential to build powerful networking solutions, its topography is geared towards isolation, not collaboration.

In the past, an organization’s mandates may have required:

- Setting up separate development and production environments
- Isolating the workloads of different customers, such as the subscribers of an ISV
- Segregating environments to meet compliance requirements, such as PCI and HIPAA
- Providing shared IT services such as log server, DNS, and file sharing from a central network

42% of the US labor force is working from home during the COVID-19 pandemic

But in today’s displaced working environment, modern, SaaS-powered collaboration is the new reality. And that requires applications with fast, direct internet access to ensure a great user experience and optimize productivity gains.

Unfortunately, many organizations continue to rely on their traditional hub-and-spoke architectures, which simply weren’t designed for today’s virtual collaboration needs. To compensate, they’re forced to increase spending on next-generation firewalls to handle increasing traffic volumes, use legacy VPNs, or continue to backhaul traffic over MPLS links.

The consequence: out-of-control costs and complexity, with a severely degraded user experience.

Fortunately, there’s a better approach—one that’s effective and simple.

The path to the future is direct

What, then, is the alternative for enterprises seeking to move into the modern age by enhancing their productive and collaborative workflows?

Strengthening their cloud-based application delivery with a direct internet connection.

When Microsoft Exchange servers and Office applications were on-premises, backhauling traffic from remote sites and mobile users to the datacenter was inevitable—it was the only way to provide connectivity.

But now that these services have moved to the cloud in the form of Microsoft 365, backhauling all of your traffic to your datacenters creates the kind of latency that leads to frustrated users and delayed deployments.

As the world's largest inline cloud security platform, Zscaler makes Microsoft 365 deployment easy.

There has been a 400% increase in interest for collaboration software

It provides your users with a fast application and internet experience via local internet breakouts while maintaining the highest level of security for internet traffic.

In fact, when Microsoft assessed four basic network concepts for Microsoft 365 connectivity, there was one outright conclusion for best performance and cost savings: **Direct-to-internet connections.** To achieve this with Zscaler, simply point your internet and Microsoft 365 traffic to Zscaler Internet Access. With more than 150 edge datacenters around the world, you can guarantee that your users are getting the best experience possible. Plus, there's no hardware to deploy and manage, and since traffic is routed locally, you can drastically reduce your MPLS spend.

Zscaler's Cloud Firewall, which is application- and user-aware, scales elastically to support the massive number of persistent Microsoft 365 connections. Making firewall changes is simple—unlike with appliances. Zscaler is a truly multi-tenant cloud platform, so within seconds, your changes are enforced worldwide.

Zscaler helps enterprises seeking to rein in spiraling costs, reduce risk and overhead, and get the most complete and clear view of all Microsoft 365 traffic.

Get more from your Microsoft 365 investment with Zscaler

Zscaler has helped thousands of organizations accelerate their adoption of Microsoft 365 and Teams. The unique cloud-based proxy architecture of the Zscaler Zero Trust Exchange™ enables all traffic to be securely routed through Zscaler Internet Access™ (ZIA™) for fast, direct internet connections; SSL inspection at scale; and superior inline security controls.

Organizations can leverage unlimited cloud capacity without the need to add legacy appliances to keep up with growing usage and performance needs. To keep users and applications secure, organizations have the option to enable SSL inspection for some or all Microsoft 365 applications and can gain real-time threat prevention and detection backed by the world's largest inline security cloud.

61% of CIOs intend to standardize on Microsoft Teams

Zscaler's global security edge locations are also directly peered with Microsoft datacenters for the best possible security and performance.

With deep, built-in integration with Microsoft Office 365 and Teams, ZIA makes deployment fast and management simple with a one-click configuration. ZIA enables two powerful one-click configuration options for Microsoft 365:

- **Enhanced security:** Complete or partial SSL decryption and full inline security controls for Microsoft 365 traffic while creating a direct-to-internet connection for Microsoft 365 applications to ensure a great real-time collaboration and meeting experience. IT and security teams continue to benefit from Zscaler's superior visibility of all application activity.

- **Visibility:** Choose to inspect SSL traffic for trusted Microsoft 365 applications while maintaining visibility, in compliance with Microsoft's Networking Partner Program guidance. Zscaler has the scale to ensure optimum performance, including SSL inspection and inline security. Although this option is not necessary, it is available for specific instances.

Zscaler: Strengthening your Microsoft 365 experience

Zscaler for Microsoft 365 complies with Microsoft's connectivity recommendations, equipping businesses with the power to:

1. **Identify and differentiate Microsoft 365 traffic.**
   One-click configuration automatically optimizes your Microsoft 365 traffic and automates IP range updates without administration effort.

2. **Egress network connections locally.**
   Enable direct connections through the Zero Trust Exchange for the fastest path to Microsoft 365.

3. **Avoid network hairpins.**
   Enable local internet breakouts to Microsoft 365 for remote users and branches without VPNs, network hairpins, and costly MPLS connections.

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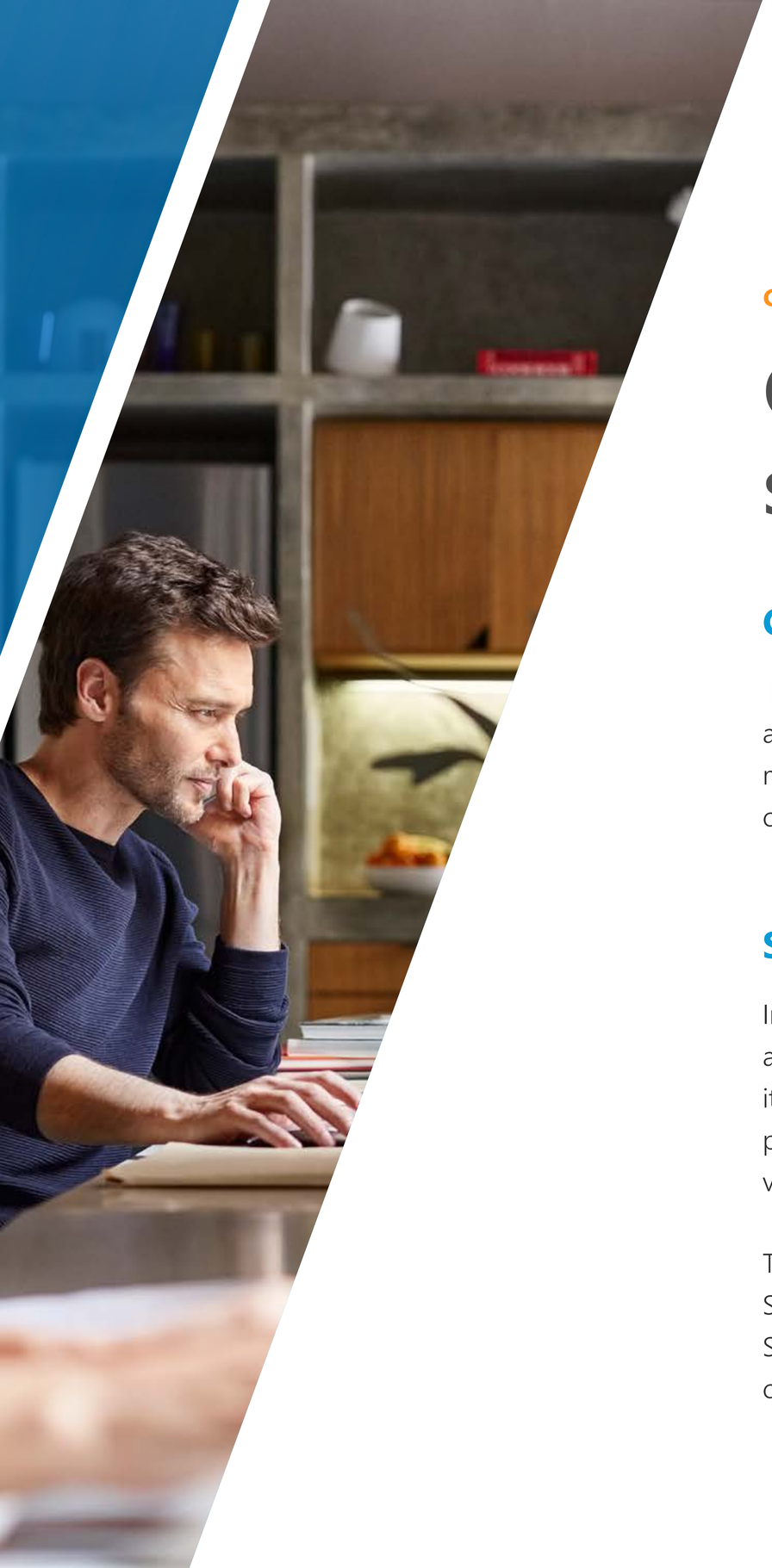

CASE STUDY

Global brewer taps Zscaler to secure its digital transformation

Company

Headquartered in Copenhagen, Denmark, Carlsberg is a global brewer that owns 140 brands distributed to 150 markets worldwide. In addition to beer, Carlsberg sells ciders, soft drinks, and bottled water.

Situation

In 2016, Carlsberg's executive leadership team defined a strategic initiative called "Sail '22," and identified its objectives as strengthening its core business, positioning the company for growth, and enhancing value for its shareholders.

To support Sail '22 from an IT perspective, Jonathan Sheldrake, Director of Carlsberg's Global Network Services, and the team needed to undertake a complete system overhaul, including:

- Modernizing the IT infrastructure
- Embracing Microsoft 365 and moving legacy applications to the cloud
- Taking control of operational costs
- Strengthening security

Challenge

Carlsberg had been operating a traditional centralized network that was not set up to accommodate the needs of today's businesses and users. "Our network consisted of a hub-and-spoke architecture, MPLS with central internet breakouts, and centralized security controls. Our employees had to suffer through a poor user experience," explained Sheldrake.

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In addition to performance issues—including slow connectivity for users—administrators lacked visibility into threats and the sources of traffic. The company required a new approach to security to protect and optimize connectivity for all users, regardless of location.

Solution

Carlsberg initiated the project by upgrading all its laptops and desktops to Windows 10. The team then reduced the number of applications being used from 873 to 350, and their on-premises servers from 1,300 to 700. Of the remaining servers, 600 were moved to the cloud as part of a full SAP migration to Microsoft Azure.

Carlsberg had previously processed around 70% of traffic on its internal network, and 30% was to and from the internet. After migrating its servers, Carlsberg was then sending about 70% of its traffic over the internet, with about 30% traversing its MPLS network—which, in addition to being slow, was expensive.

Carlsberg introduced SD-WAN to enable local breakouts and optimize the use of MPLS connections and upgraded its traditional network perimeter security for Zscaler Internet Access, which offers a complete security stack delivered as a cloud service.

Results

Zscaler's centralized controls help Carlsberg simplify policy management and improve visibility into traffic across their local breakouts to Microsoft 365.

Carlsberg's IT team was also able to optimize connectivity by providing each of its branch locations with secure local internet breakouts drastically optimizing connectivity while being able to move to more cost-efficient broadband connections. Using Bandwidth Control—natively integrated into ZIA—the team can prioritize Microsoft 365 traffic to keep the business moving.

To learn more about Carlsberg and Zscaler's modernization partnership, **click here.**

"Thanks to Zscaler's interoperability with Microsoft 365, I eliminated a huge headache. I no longer have to maintain ACLs, IP addresses, and new DNS addresses. Zscaler takes care of it all through its one-click feature."

– Jonathan Sheldrake, Director of Global Network Services, Carlsberg Group

When you're ready to optimize or deploy Microsoft 365—look to Zscaler

With more than 2,500 customers optimizing and securing their Microsoft 365 users through Zscaler Internet Access, Zscaler can help deliver a great user experience while reducing costly MPLS connections and avoiding forklift upgrades to next-generation firewalls.

Zscaler can make your Microsoft 365 deployment simpler, faster, more secure, and more successful. Contact Zscaler to request a full demonstration and more information.

Request a demo

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