



Cloud and IT Infrastructure | Article

Updating Your Network: 5 Key Considerations for Seamless Connectivity

Seamless connectivity is everything in today's digital-first and increasingly hybrid world of work. This means having a reliable, secure, and high-performing network as the backbone of your IT infrastructure.

A robust network should operate like a well-planned highway, propelling your business forward and connecting employees and customers to key resources for their success. However, the reality is that many businesses lack the technology and expertise to ensure such connectivity.

To maintain performance and security, and optimise costs, you need not only the right skills and knowledge but an up-to-date, scalable, and resilient network that grows at pace with your business.





When you know it's time for an update

Many organisations are often stuck using older equipment incapable of handling today's workload and complexities, leading them to resort to consumer-grade networks and devices instead. These legacy systems lack important security measures, such as endpoint security, firewall and VPN, which can lead to a host of cyber risks.¹

Furthermore, skilled IT personnel are harder to find and retain. This poses a significant challenge, particularly for many small and medium-sized businesses (SMBs) that struggle when it comes to network and the internet and knowing what to do with them.

“ According to Gartner, 64% of IT executives report talent scarcity as the biggest roadblock to the adoption of emerging technology, compared with only 4% in 2020.² ”

To overcome this, businesses now require a competitive and scalable network infrastructure supported by reliable service and maintenance—and powered by a clear vision that aligns networking strategies with overall business objectives.

Consider these five factors when updating your network.

¹Ahuja, K. (2021, March 30). How IT Can Enable The Success And Security Of An Elastic Workforce. Forbes.

²2021-2023 Emerging Technology Roadmap for Large Enterprises. (n.d.). Gartner.

5 things to consider when updating your network

1

Understanding today's minimum bandwidth requirements

With increasing data demands and a constant trend toward higher bandwidth services³, almost every aspect of operations relies on the internet for transmission. Tools such as real-time database applications, live video streaming, and voice-over IP (VOIP) all need a robust data pipeline—the requirements of which are subject to user volume.

Determining the right-sized data pipeline and having a clear understanding of where your applications will be hosted—whether on-premises or in the cloud—helps ensure your network infrastructure adequately supports your organisation's data demands and optimises performance.

2

Forgoing legacy networking equipment

When issues like slow application response emerge, it's essential to know how to address them quickly. It's possible that these problems occur because the systems used were developed when the technology landscape was vastly different, making many of them obsolete today.⁴

In today's hybrid world, secure connections and seamless collaboration are essential for success, regardless of your location. Our solutions empower you to fully leverage your technology by offering simplified visibility, management, and control. With application optimisation, network traffic can be prioritised efficiently across all locations, ensuring smooth operations.

Our flexible approach eliminates the need for multiple network devices, streamlining your infrastructure. By leveraging cost-effective connections such as NBN, Fibre, copper, 4G, and 5G, we create a robust and affordable internet pipeline, surpassing traditional MPLS options. Our software-defined wide area network (SD-WAN) solution also enhances redundancy and failover capabilities, mitigating risks and boosting productivity. Furthermore, integrated security measures safeguard your traffic through secure tunnels and robust encryption, while real-time threat detection and malware protection keep your network secure.

³Wiechman, B. (2019, December 30). How Much Bandwidth Do I Really Need Anyway? Forbes.

⁴Wong, W. (2021, September 27). How Organizations Can Transform Legacy Systems And Processes For The New Digital World. Forbes.

3**Setting up at a new location**

When setting up a new location, careful network configuration is crucial for an optimal user experience. A robust network infrastructure that provides a flexible wireless experience offers the convenience and mobility needed for your teams to easily connect with others, collaborate, and access critical resources whenever and from wherever. This is especially important in supporting an “anywhere” workplace that can thrive in the future.

4**Ensuring network security**

With the rise of hybrid work and the growing complexity and porosity of today’s networking environment, you need a proactive and agile cybersecurity strategy that allows you to detect, respond, and recover from a breach, should it occur. Networking solutions such as SD-WAN and Secure Access Service Edge (SASE) can aid this. SD-WAN drives secure traffic between locations, deploying virtual firewalls to address threats; while SASE integrates networking and security functions in the cloud for unfettered access to applications and data, regardless of location.

Agile solutions can help in adapting to the demands of modern IT infrastructures. Legacy applications can be migrated to fully virtualised environments that provide the flexibility to meet evolving business needs, driving enhanced performance and security while ensuring compatibility with current technologies.

5**Supporting multiple locations**

Managing complex internal and external relationships across different platforms and channels requires you to determine how best to provide high-performing network connectivity across those multiple locations while ensuring cost-effectiveness.

SD-WAN solutions offer a practical approach to creating a robust and cost-efficient pathway to the internet by leveraging and combining existing internet connections such as NBN, Fibre, copper, 4G, and even 5G.

Partnering with an experienced networking solutions provider enables you to navigate all these networking complexities better—without the cost of hiring and retaining a full IT staff.



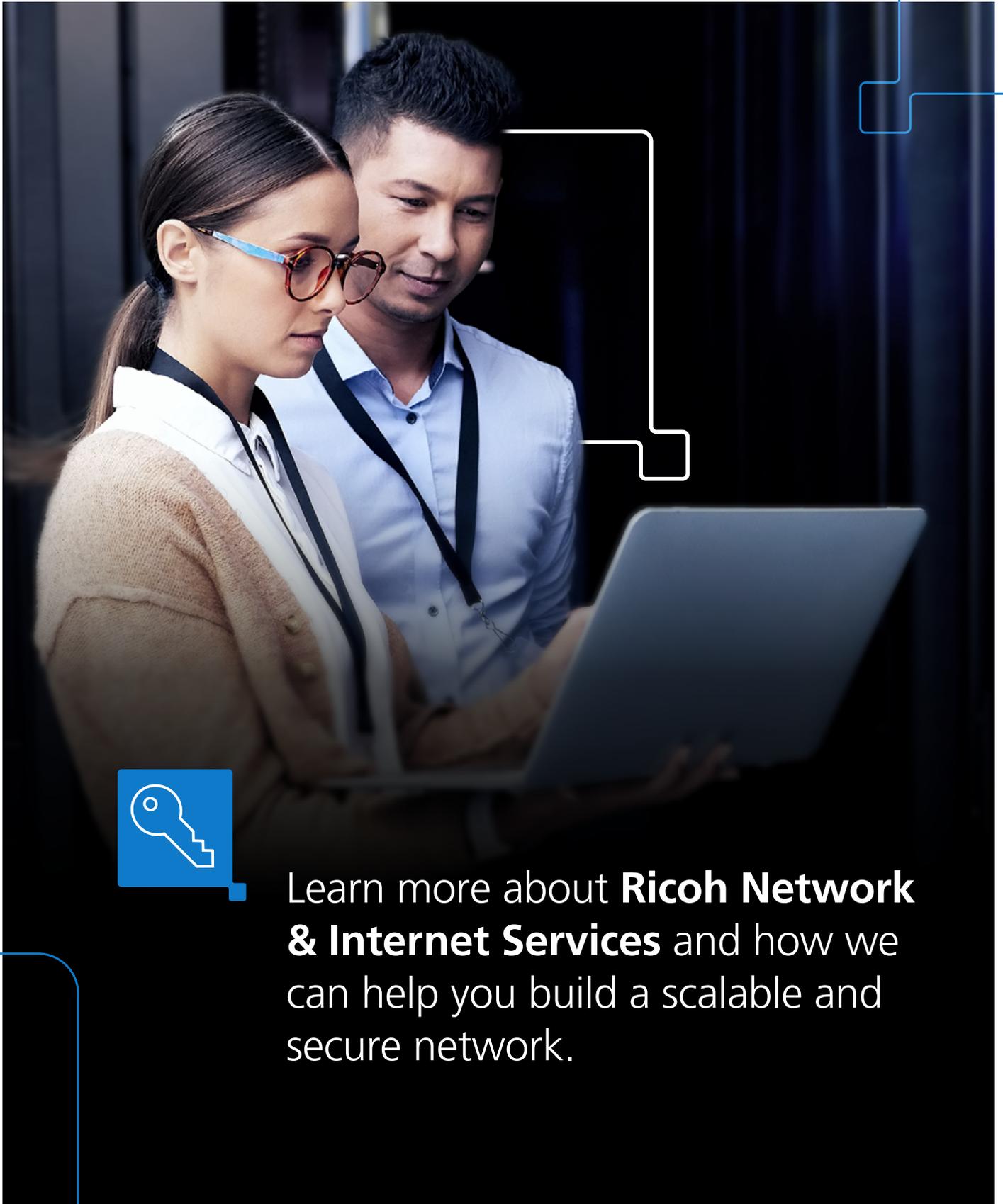
Moving forward with Ricoh's agile networking solutions

Choosing the right solutions provider can make all the difference between having a high-performing network, or one that could stifle your business operations and growth. At Ricoh, we help businesses like yours transform your network infrastructure for speed, efficiency, security, and a seamless experience for all users.

We analyse your specific connectivity needs, streamline your IT resources, and help you build a tailored networking infrastructure and future-ready IT ecosystem, backed by our expertise and a comprehensive array of agile networking solutions:

- SD-WAN
- SASE network solutions
- Local-wired LAN and wireless networking
- Data centre and co-location
- Internet connectivity
- Data and voice

With Ricoh, you can ensure your teams stay connected and agile wherever they are, enhance customer experience, and move your business forward with ease.



Learn more about **Ricoh Network & Internet Services** and how we can help you build a scalable and secure network.

About RICOH

Ricoh is empowering digital workplaces by utilising innovative partners and technologies and providing expert services that enable individuals to work smarter from anywhere. With cultivated knowledge and organisational capabilities

nurtured over its 85-year history, Ricoh is a leading provider of digital services, process automation, and information management solutions designed to support digital transformation and optimise business performance.



Learn more about our Cloud & IT Infrastructure at [ricoh.com.au](https://www.ricoh.com.au)

© Copyright 2023 Ricoh Asia Pacific Pte Ltd

RICOH
imagine. change.