Computacenter

ERA OF INTELLIGENCE SERIES

Unlocking business value through Secure Connected Enterprise

Harnessing innovation to protect and propel your enterprise

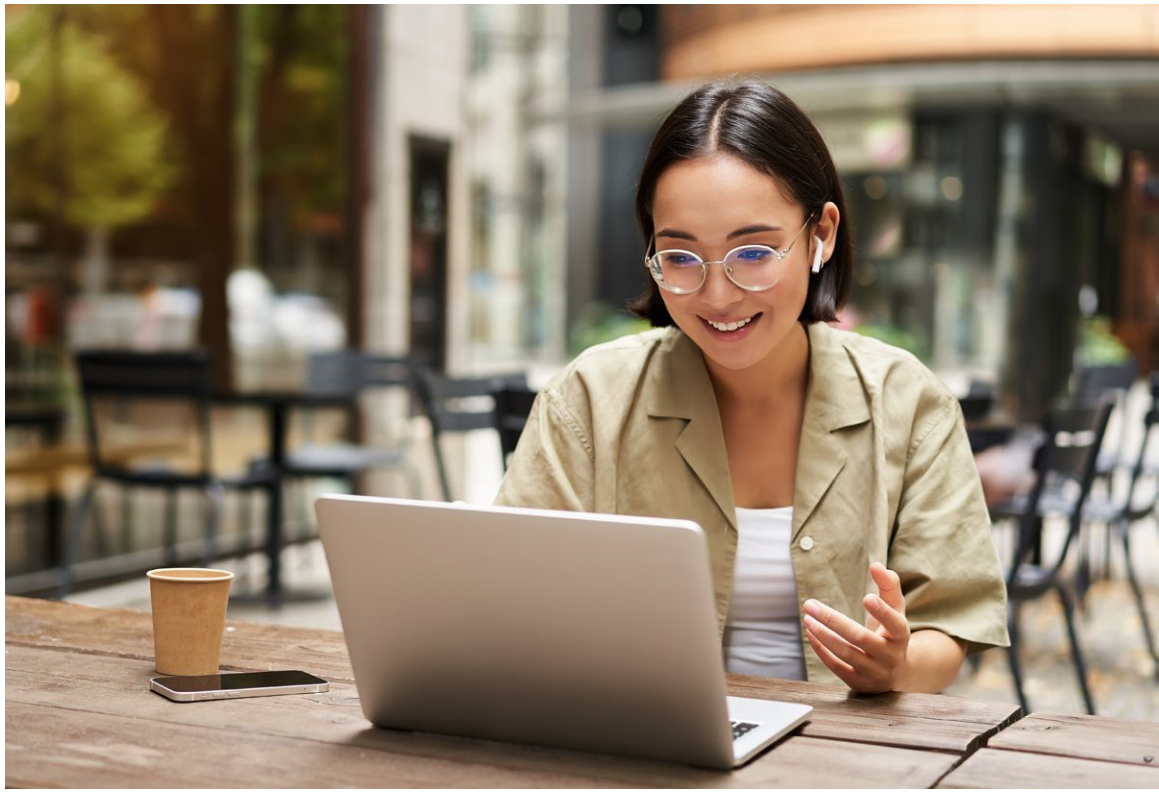
As we advance through the 21st century and embrace the Era of Intelligence, a world without hyper-connectivity and instant data access is unimaginable.

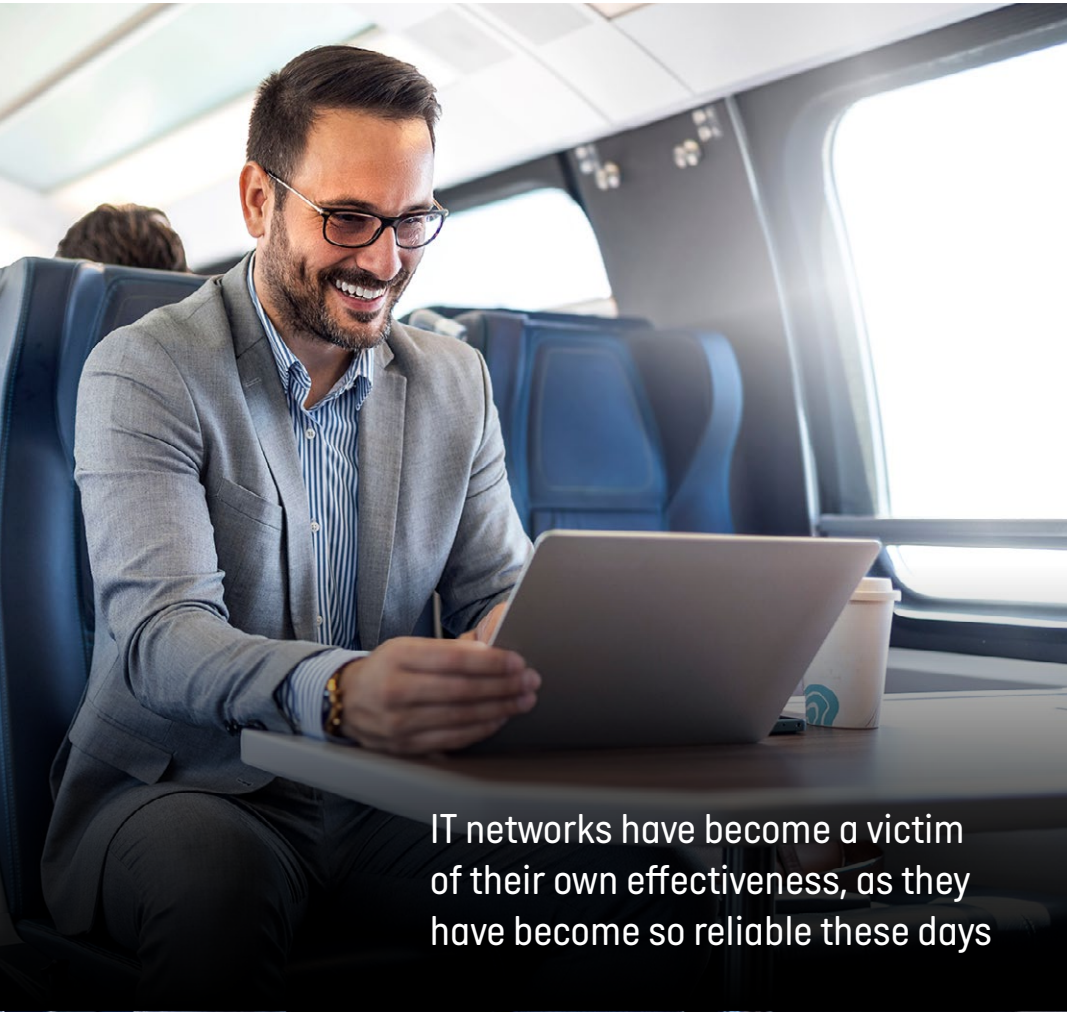
Whether at work, in the home or social environments, always-on access to applications and data is essential to modern life.

The term Secure Connected Enterprise describes a technology landscape where users and business expect secure, always-on access to IT systems that are failure-resistant and accessible from any location. The Secure Connected Enterprise is a concept and represents the desired outcome to achieve. Furthermore, secure networked connectivity is the key and tangible element at the heart of enabling the user and business outcomes.

Connectivity and networking are an essential component of the digital by default experience users and businesses consider mandatory to remain effective in this highly competitive world where being 'offline' is not desirable. The network must work with connectivity acting as a technology umbilical cord, transporting data 24x7x365.

In a digital world, security isn't optional but instead an essential element to enable safe, performant access to applications and business systems. Cyber-attacks is a very lucrative activity and offers extremely high rewards for an often-insignificant investment in platforms, tools. Even in world with modern and advanced IT systems, cyber-attacks continue to be effective due to inherent vulnerabilities in software and IT systems, in addition to the use of social engineering techniques to trick users into activities that leave them open to compromise.





It's time to change the network

IT networks have become a victim to their own effectiveness, as they have become so reliable these days, that non-technical users assume they'll always work, invisibly supporting. However legacy corporate networks are ageing with technical debt and accumulated complexity that has built up over many years. Removal of the above complexity unlocks and increases the possibilities to gain efficiencies offered by automation.

No part of the network should escape this rethink with both hardware and software platforms, architecture, and wireless networking ripe for change to continue to deliver a highly optimised connectivity experience everywhere whether in the campus and data center LAN or extended across sites using SDWAN. Few areas in networking have seen more recent changes than wireless networks, as they shifted from a nice to have to the primary connectivity mode for end user devices.

However secure high performance wireless networks with reliable and comprehensive coverage are fundamental to a positive connected user experience. The solutions have been enhanced by the additional of GenAI to offer management simplification and optimisation to deliver real time service assurance for users.

Smart Infrastructure – intelligent workspace outcomes

As the line between office and remote working blurs, corporate workspace will become smarter, leveraging sensors and IOT devices for automation and enhanced functionality. User experience is key, and the use of intelligent office or even smart city technologies connected securely via resilient networks to transform workforce or citizen experience can only be beneficial to all.

'Smart Infrastructure' will enable data driven assurance for users in addition to providing specialist services including building management, environment sensors, security, and CCTV. The possibilities presented by network connected, data driven physical infrastructure devices at times are only limited by our creativity and imagination. Potentially we are moving into the realm of a 'thinking building' that will positively transform the experience of the users within.

Focus of Security matters

Inherent security is at the heart of the Secure Connected Enterprise concept ensuring all data whether at rest or in transit by the network is secured by default. With IT existing to serve the user, the initial focus must ensure digital identities are protected with end user devices configured correctly using client security technologies that include EDR and allocated to end users with effective cyber awareness training.

The historical template of applications residing primarily within the corporate data center has evolved with the users accessing data applications and corporate resources wherever they are offered which increasingly includes public cloud or via SaaS delivery. This has resulted in an architectural rethink and the use of SSE or SASE solutions to secure cloud environments increasingly designed using zero trust security principles.

The Secure Connected Enterprise exists everywhere where network connectivity is present. Therefore, cyber security must be always on for users at home, in public spaces in the corporate workspace and even during travel. This means protection from multiple attack vectors with ransomware arguably the most pressing and damaging cyber security concern, must be top of mind wherever the user accesses a network be it on premise or within cloud environments. The increasing role of GenAI used within cyber-attacks but equally within emerging platforms utilised by cyber defenders has prioritised the importance and value of proactive and predictive security controls and operational platforms to keep data and enterprises intentionally secure.

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Observability has now emerged as a key element to enable optimal security of the Secure Connected Enterprise leveraging data and insight from end user devices, the network, IT platforms and threat intelligence sources for use by the SOC or XDR solutions to proactively protect the organisation. Any organisation that doesn't institutionalise a secure by design mindset is potentially leaving optimal security to chance and ultimately placing their business at risk.

Data and applications remain key

The Secure Connected Enterprise predominantly exists as a resilient, always available transport for data to unlock the value of applications and therefore deliver benefits to end users.

Digitisation is as apparent outside of the corporate workspace as it is within, modernising historical business practices to be underpinned using digital data to transform the experience for IT users or citizens within a community. However, this data has little value if it's not inherently secure, highly available and at the performance level required to offer the most beneficial user experience. Data security posture management (DSPM) is an emerging area in both hybrid and public cloud environments to help with the discovery, classification and security of data using assessments and analysis to determine the threats within. Data security activities will become increasingly important to underpin the security of GenAI solutions and LLMs as they become a core foundation of enterprise organisations.

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Computacenter can help

Business and technology change presents uncertainty but equally opportunity. Computacenter offers a portfolio of Secure Connected Enterprise technology services designed to help organisations benefit from our accumulated experience and substantial investment in vendor accredited technical skills. Our portfolio helps organisations to understand the business challenges they face and determine how the introduction of technology solutions will offer beneficial value.

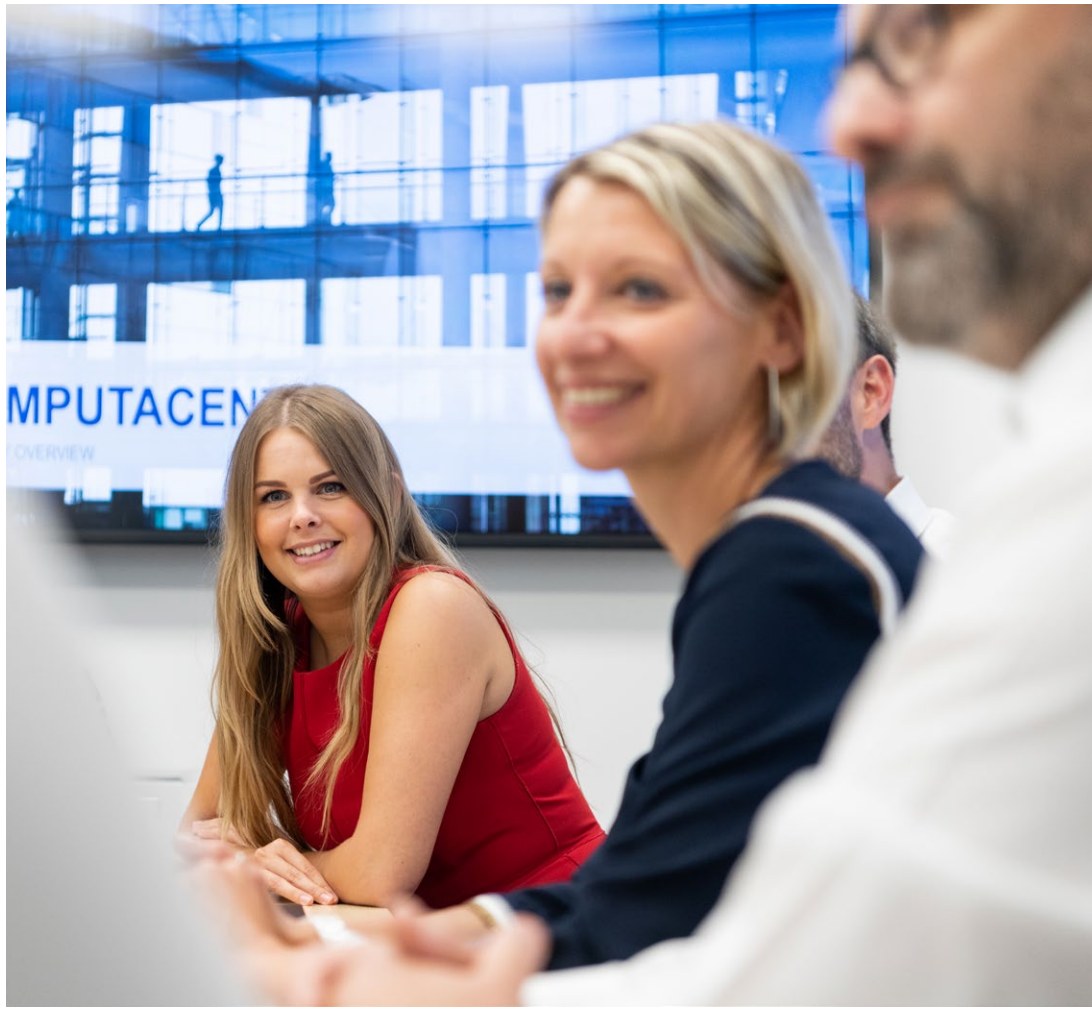
Computacenter services bring the Secure Connected Enterprise to life with focused services offerings in network automation and simplification in addition to multi cloud and software defined networking. Cyber Security benefits from specialisation with services that include cloud security, zero trust, and digital identity.

Our Smart Infrastructure portfolio includes data center infrastructure deployment, global wireless network design and implementation in addition to the delivery of structured cabling to some of the most hostile enterprise environments.

All services leverage a consistent multi-stage approach from the gathering of requirements, through advisory services and architectural design to deployment services and finally managed offerings to assist with in-life operations. The portfolio is underpinned by one of the IT industry's most comprehensive and highly accredited networking, security manufacturer product supply portfolios with an associated global logistics hub for the supply and distribution of IT products that's unmatched in the industry.

Summary

Imagining a world without secure always on connectivity, it may feel like a return to a societal existence many have never experienced. Whilst Gen X and the baby boomers will remember life before such an advancement in technology, recent generations were born into an always evolving digital existence which has guided both human behaviour and expectation. The Secure Connected Enterprise transporting data and offering secure access to applications and resources, has delivered undoubted benefits to the IT industry and humanity.



Office of the CTO

The Office of the CTO (OCTO) team leads in the exploration and application of technology products and delivery methodology to aid the digital transformation of our customers.

As a team of cross-functional technologists with extensive industry and IT experience we deliver thought leadership, advice and real-world implementation experience to help our customers achieve their goals.

Computacenter

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