

The Top 5 Networking Trends for 2022

“The network is the computer” – Sun Microsystems, 1984

Top 5 Networking Trends

Software Defined-Wide Area Networking (SD-WAN). SD-WAN has become far more critical as businesses shut down offices early in the pandemic, driving either a [hybrid work environment](#) or a work-from-home (WFH) strategy. WFH went from temporary to permanent for many companies early in the pandemic, which redefined the network edge. VPNs, which were often the point-to-point solution for remote workers, gave way to always-on SD-WAN appliances for many tasks as the [network edge extended into employees' homes](#). With businesses becoming more distributed, they have accelerated their migration plans to SD-WAN because of the improved experience and security for their WFH workforce.

Wi-Fi 6 / 7. The transition to Wi-Fi 6 has been problematic for many businesses that began planning the migration for 2020 or 2021. The shift to WFH had a dramatic effect on commercial real estate. Many offices were shuttered, and those that are still running often saw lower employee density. Device density, one of the greatest benefits of Wi-Fi 6, is growing in demand as more employees go back to the office. Where Wi-Fi 6 is growing, and will continue to grow, is on the consumer side, especially with WFH. The demands of home-based employees for higher bandwidth can more easily justify the small price in moving to the new technology.

AI Enablement. The AI enablement of networking products has been a necessary consequence of the growing network complexity. 2021 had a concerted focus on the enablement of applications with AI, especially in the security and analytics areas. As the workplace splintered into WFH and hybrid environments, the security threat profile changed dramatically. Additionally, managing productivity for remote workers is infinitely more challenging, and AI can help bolster the human efforts through monitoring and analytics.

While compute and storage are critical Information Technology building blocks one could make the argument that the network is the connective tissue. The network plays the role of being the transport system for moving the bits and bytes. We need a network that is “always on,” highly responsive and secure. Like every other facet in technology the pace of change in networking is rapid. We are going to lay out the Top 5 networking trends and describe how Ingram can help you take advantage of the trends.

How can Ingram Help you take advantage of these trends?

COMCAST BUSINESS MASERGY Ingram recently started working with Masergy (a part of Comcast Business Services), a managed SD-WAN service. This turnkey solution enables reseller partners to expand their business by offering SD-WAN Managed Services with minimal investment all while maintaining their strong customer relationships. Adding these services to new sales of compatible Fortinet appliances increase both customer value and recurring revenue opportunities. Additional value add from Masergy allows you to deploy SASE-ready SD-WAN with a zero-touch set up for end users. You can also deliver 24/7 network monitoring and support from Masergy. Best of all Masergy has a 99.9% retention rate.



Ingram has been fortunate to be working with Ekahau for several years. For more than a decade, Ekahau has led the future of Wi-Fi network design and management by continually making the highest quality products and innovating on the features and functionality Wi-Fi pros need to succeed. Their most popular product, Ekahau Connect is a suite of Wi-Fi tools that enable you and your team to design, optimize and troubleshoot any Wi-Fi network faster and easier than ever before. It allows seamless collaboration between IT personnel, who are charged with keeping Wi-Fi running smoothly, and the Wi-Fi expert, who is often overloaded with managing multiple projects and sites.

NETSCOUT. Ingram has been working with NetScout, the leader in network performance, availability & security. NETSCOUT's differentiation is pervasive visibility solutions and deep packet inspection for monitoring and security analytics thru its patented Smart Data (ASI). NETSCOUT Smart Data provides continuous, uniform visibility and automates the precise identification of risk and performance status across all connected services and their interactions - from the network edge and across all services. NETSCOUT packet capture is used for service assurance, security, and business analytics. This one data source is derived from the single source of truth that is un-corruptible and always accurate – packets don't lie.

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Network Automation. Network automation has had an important role because of the pandemic. As employees moved to WFH, IT was clearly overtaxed. Many IT professionals became further removed from their systems. Additionally, many IT folks realized they were now managing far more physical devices than ever before and relying more on automation to help compensate for the changing work profile. As we wrap up 2022 and head into 2023, automation will continue to grow as it has proved its value through these trying times.

(Source: <https://www.techtarget.com/searchnetworking/opinion/The-top-5-predictions-for-networking-technology-trends-in-2022>)

Network Resilience. When trouble strikes – whether it is a hurricane or a cyber-attack, a local power outage or a global pandemic — the network must be ready. Aberdeen Research found that every hour of downtime costs a typical company \$260,000. Not to mention the frustration it causes customers, and the number of angry calls and emails to the Operations team. If worried about uptime, then improving Network Resilience should be top of the priority list. Redundant systems might be the answer in a data center, but for edge locations you need an alternative way to monitor and manage your network equipment, even when there is no one on site.

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 Ingram recently started working with AppViewX. The modern enterprise has its applications in a heterogeneous environment, comprising on-premises, multi-cloud, and hybrid infrastructures. The Application Delivery Automation solution from AppViewX abstracts the complexity of deploying applications in each of these infrastructures and provides a standard methodology to simplify and accelerate application delivery. Application, network, and security engineers can self-serve the automation workflows to deliver compliance and true business agility. Apart from automation, the solution also provides complete management of the application and service lifecycle, including traffic management, health and performance monitoring, incident resolution, etc.

 Ingram has been working with OpenGear for several years. A console server in every rack, physically connected to your critical devices, gives you presence at, and proximity to, your IT infrastructure, no matter where it is in the world. It creates a secure network, separate to the production network, allowing you to manage your devices remotely, without impacting normal operations. A general network failure, or data congestion (from a misconfiguration or a cyberattack) can make it impossible to access individual network devices, to identify and remediate a networking problem. So, an independent access path to those devices, often via 4G-LTE cellular, provides a more reliable approach to managing the network infrastructure. This is true fail over and the best form of risk management to ensure network resilience.

Visit our website to learn more about Ingram Micro's Emerging Business Group and all of our technology offerings

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