Rethinking security as part of your digital edge strategy and architecture
ABOUT THIS PLAYBOOK

PURPOSE

This playbook outlines how industry leaders are distributing security to solve scale and integration challenges using interconnection and colocation (control points). This enables them to deliver new command and control capabilities as part of a broader digital edge strategy.

CHALLENGE

In digital business, market position is determined by business capabilities and scale. Digital transformation is the path to those capabilities, and digital optimization is their application to existing and new business models, to achieve scale.

It’s a fast-paced digital arms race affecting all industries with increasing complexity across more networks and participants (which grows the attack surface and shared risk). Together this is driving a fragmentation of controls and a breakdown of traditional top-down governance—none of which can be solved with conventional security practices, culture and infrastructure.

NEED

The business is depending on its technology teams to succeed in the digital economy. Security and risk professionals need to be digital business enablers, empowering innovation and change at speed, yet ensuring the right guardrails are in place to balance risk, protect the business and be trusted.

Digital edge security is not another layer in your current control framework. It’s rethinking the way you architect security and control for the digital edge as part of a new digital edge control framework.
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Security professionals face strong pressures that require a new strategy and architecture for the digital edge.

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MARKET TRENDS

Digital is increasing risk, both in volume and impact of security breaches... ...along with driving new demand for multiparty integration and information exchange... ...which requires re-architecting for digital business and distributed IT engagement

Implications

• In digital, trust is becoming more important than anything else. Lose customer or partner trust, and your position in the market shifts with it.
• Digital is forcing firms to move faster, increasing the rate of change, while diminishing the time to understand the implications.

Implications

• Tighter integration with clouds and business partners can fragment controls, increase or transfer risks, and become a barrier to cloud adoption.
• Traditional centralized security and compliance control functions are becoming less effective every day.

Implications

• Breaches are driving regulation changes, like GDPR, which have some firms re-thinking their existing cloud architectures entirely.
• New regulations and privacy rules are changing conventional security practices, culture and infrastructure.

Summary

Information security and risk practitioners need to transform from being seen as risk-averse business inhibitors to enablers of speed and agility—yet still place security guardrails to avoid disaster. As digital business drives firms to deliver new engagement, commerce and data models closer to population centers, networks and clouds, security needs to shift and adopt a digital edge control framework.
Interconnection Bandwidth* is projected to outpace growth of internet and MPLS traffic...

...with compounding growth year-over-year across all industries...

...and key interconnection use cases with strategic control points driving digital business.

Opportunity

Interconnection** is becoming standard for digital business scale. Companies take advantage of this by establishing the military equivalent of a forward operating base, closer to population centers and clouds, to create new traffic exchange and control points.

Interconnection in colocation facilities is being adopted by all industries to simplify their own environment, securely connect partners and engage in digital business with lower overall cyber risk. Businesses are using these points of aggregation and exchange to consolidate connections and keep traffic private.

Enterprises are using strategic control points and ecosystem access to optimize their networks, interconnect cloud and IT services, incorporate digital commerce services, integrate their supply chains and improve content distribution. All of these require various control functions where they meet.

Summary

Every industry is shifting corporate and partner/ecosystem traffic to interconnection, while using control points to exchange traffic privately. Interconnection is scaling the digital economy and therefore growing fast in ecosystem-dense locations. At this rate, Interconnection Bandwidth is forecasted to outpace the internet at twice the speed of growth and 6x the volume of traffic.

*Interconnection Bandwidth is the total capacity provisioned to privately and directly exchange traffic with a diverse set of counterparties and providers at distributed IT exchange points inside carrier-neutral colocation data centers.

**Interconnection is direct and private traffic exchange between key business partners.
CURRENT-STATE CONSTRAINTS

Digital has taken the traditional IT approach and turned it upside down

1. Lack of visibility
2. Unsustainable bottlenecks
3. Fragmented controls and management
4. Data dispersion and uncontrolled risk

Summary
Traditional IT architectures consolidated infrastructure and localized services and traffic around centralized “core” data centers. This created constraints that must be addressed for digital business. The shift to digital has effectively turned the topology upside down, and the tipping point has already passed for most industries. Traditional security tools and practices were not designed for these new architectural requirements, so “adding on” to existing will not work.
FUTURE-STATE CAPABILITIES

Solve with distributed points of interconnection with adjacent control functions

Summary

Interconnection is rapidly growing as the preferred approach to scale for digital business. Following the best practices of an Interconnection Oriented Architecture® (IOA®) strategy, firms are distributing strategic control points (near customers, employees, partners and ecosystems) and using them as forward operating bases (in military terms). This allows them to see the traffic across all networks; distribute control functions where needed for scale; strategically integrate cloud services and ecosystems; and enforce data compliance. IOA puts you back in the center of your architecture, enabling rapid scale with the required guardrails.
STRATEGY

Architecting for the digital edge requires an interconnection-first approach

Summary
Taking an interconnection-first approach, combined with a zero-trust model, allows for control of all business communication through traffic exchange points—with local private data repositories and multicloud application and services integration. This enables you to manage constant change in any cloud or partner, while maintaining control at the zero-trust exchange points.

1 Control digital communications
Deploy network security to strategic interconnection control points
• Choose physically secure locations.
• Aggregate connectivity and dynamically interconnect ecosystems.
• Drive all flows through a zero-trust checkpoint.

2 Integrate multicloud and data controls
Solve multicloud, application and data complexity with local integration
• Implement a common identity and encryption strategy.
• Privately store sensitive data and encryption keys.
• Integrate security with application infrastructure.

3 Enable digital business
Scale global awareness and dynamic response with trust
• Aggregate events into higher-level automation.
• Model and share expected behaviors with the ecosystem.
• Become a digital trusted provider/partner.
Security-customized roadmap based on IOA best practices

Summary
Leverage this security-customized roadmap, based on the best practices of an IOA strategy, to implement the DE playbook. Take control of all digital communications at the distributed interconnection and traffic exchange points. Locally integrate application and data controls across multiple clouds. Leverage ecosystems to achieve digital scale and become a trusted digital provider and partner.
To achieve the benefits of the strategy and the roadmap steps in this playbook, your architecture and platform require three critical elements: global location coverage; private interconnection with rich digital ecosystems; and the capability to integrate, standardize and simplify control.

### Reach Everywhere
- Global, metro cities and markets.
- Geographical compliance and sovereignty.
- Business operations and offices.
- Fleet, plant and field.

### Interconnect Everyone
- Access network and cloud providers.
- Participate in ecosystems exchange.
- Leverage commoditized services.
- Share and exchange data.
- Transact using digital commerce.

### Integrate Everything
- Marketplace of control functions.
- Cloud and managed services.
- Private data and distribution repositories.
- Globally standard policies.
- Business continuity and control.
- Establish digital commerce and payments.
GETTING STARTED

Playbook Companion Resources

Request a detailed briefing or strategy workshop with our experts.
Contact your Equinix account executive and learn more at equinix.com

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The Platform Equinix Vision
See how platform coverage, new dynamic SDN connectivity and ecosystem access enable new capabilities. eqix.it/PlatformEquinixVision

Global Interconnection Index
Learn how Interconnection Bandwidth growth is shaping next-generation opportunities. eqix.it/InterconnectionIndex

IOA Playbook and Blueprints
Download proven network architecture blueprints and design patterns based on industry-leading implementations of IOA. eqix.it/playbook eqix.it/securitywiki

Equinix Marketplace
Promote network services to installed platform customers worldwide. eqix.it/marketplacebrochure
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