



# How to build an agile enterprise network infrastructure

A practical guide to adopting a Network-as-a-Service model

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# Introduction

Cloud computing has revolutionised IT infrastructure models over the last few years. But despite this accelerated journey, the underlying network has not followed suit, even though it is an essential element for digital transformation success.

Networks-as-a-Service (NaaS) is a promising solution. It allows renting network infrastructure and applications, shifting businesses from CAPEX to OPEX, and increasing agility and flexibility as digital transformation accelerates.

With NaaS offerings now reaching a stage of maturity, networking teams finally have the opportunity to build a strong foundation for digital transformation while meeting their security, latency and cost improvement goals as well.



# Future-proofing enterprise networking infrastructure

## Multi-cloud data transfer

Most organisations still require physical network hardware, such as switches and routers, and an MPLS network to transport data to and from endpoints that reside in Layers 1-3.

This traditional approach requires expensive hardware that will eventually become obsolete while locking companies into long-term contracts for bandwidth-specific circuits. Provisioning network services within this model can take several months, making it difficult to scale and adapt to changing needs.

New technologies, such as Software Defined Networking (SDN) and Network Functions Virtualisation (NFV), enable on-demand and real-time provisioning of networks through Network-as-a-Service (NaaS) platforms such as Console Connect.

“By 2024, more than 75% of infrastructure in edge locations and up to 50% of data centre infrastructure will be consumed as-a-Service.”

**IDC**

## Console Connect advantage



Faster time to market



Flexible contracts



Guaranteed performance

# Why should network infrastructure teams consider Network-as-a-Service? \_

As cloud computing and X-as-a-Service models become more popular, network demands are changing. As mentioned, traditional networks are not as flexible and agile as they need to be to meet the new demands, leading to a growing technology debt and network infrastructure that is difficult and expensive to maintain.

NaaS can help to:

- **Build agile and scalable networks** that are continuously maintained without an extensive hardware investment
- **Improve network security** up-time and latency
- Comply with industry regulations
- Save hardware costs and reduce egress charges



In addition, NaaS models from specialist vendors can also provide solutions that are better suited to:

- **Fast and reliable** payment processing
- A faster connection for easy customer and credit verification
- Reliability with **guaranteed network performance**
- **Flexible** connectivity between cloud platforms, devices and office locations while avoiding the public internet

“25% of companies agree that security concerns present a roadblock to achieving their cloud business goals.”

**IBM**



# NaaS use case: Cloud connectivity

Cloud apps are often connected via the public internet, but they do not meet security and performance requirements, especially when dealing with sensitive financial data. Organisations are, therefore, turning to private connectivity options, such as MPLS, VPLS, and dedicated Ethernet links, but these can be slow and difficult to manage.

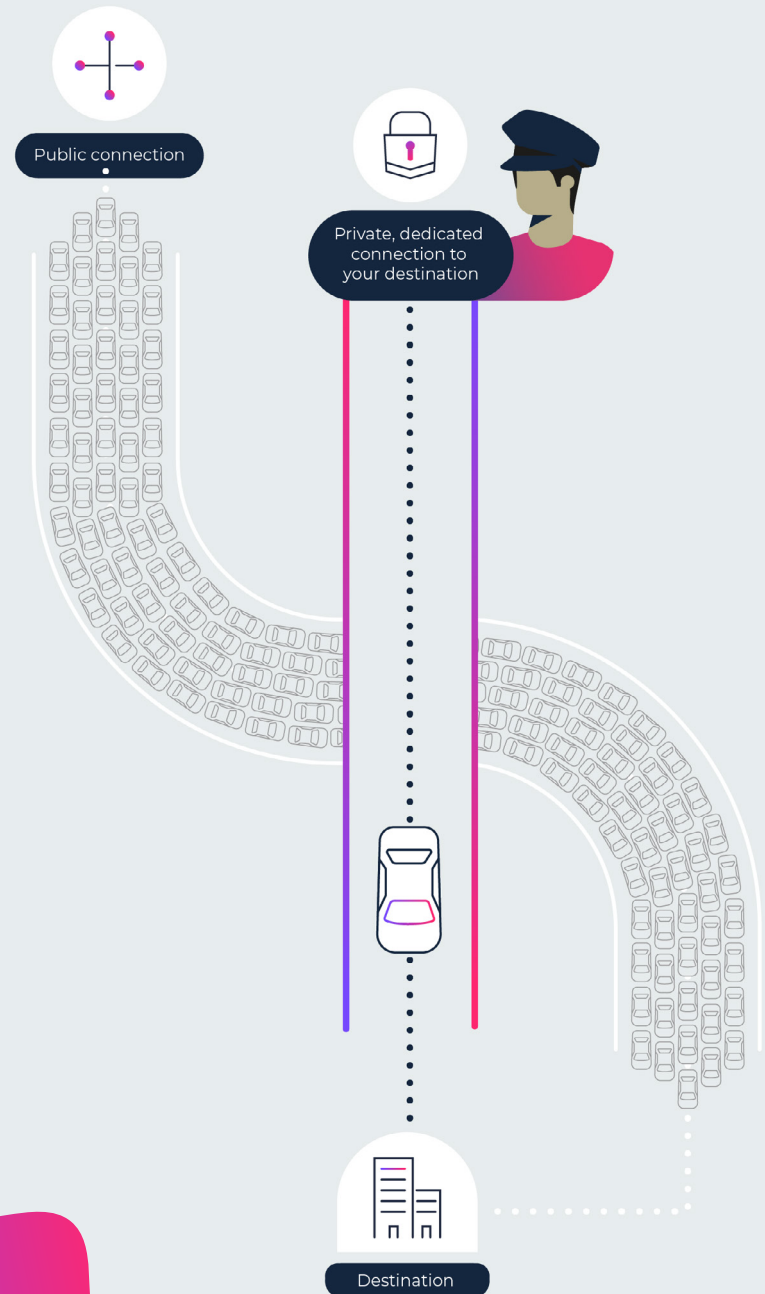
Network-as-a-Service (NaaS) platforms offer the benefits of dedicated, **private connections** with a cloud model's flexibility, including **performance guarantees**.

## Network redundancy and disaster recovery

Cloud providers are not incentivised to provide a single open API for connectivity, complicating access to and communication between different clouds.

To avoid vendor lock-in and failure, companies rely on multiple cloud providers for automated data backup and recovery, requiring reliable connectivity to and between different clouds with native redundancy.

A good NaaS provider like Console Connect offers a secure and cost-effective way to connect to multiple cloud providers or regions, with a virtual routing solution that creates full mesh layer three networks between clouds, avoiding backhauling traffic between data centre locations and the cloud.



# Three ways NaaS supports better cloud access —



## Cloud interworking

Moving workloads between clouds can be faster, more secure, and more efficient over a private network. A cloud marketplace like Console Connect can **simplify your network** by giving you **one place to connect to many different clouds and services**.



## Cost efficiency

Dedicated links can **optimise infrastructure ROI** by reducing unpredictable egress fees when moving data out of the cloud, enabling focused transport of mission-critical traffic. Simplified management tools facilitate prioritising critical traffic over premium links, freeing up public internet bandwidth for non-critical traffic.



## Automation

Over 50% of B2B collaboration occurs via APIs in a digitally transformed environment. NaaS unlocks new value from traditional Layer 2 and 3 network capability by moving it to Layer 7, giving businesses the agility to **orchestrate connections instantly**, reducing typical 30-60-day cycles to mere moments.



# Selecting the right NaaS partner

To summarise, NaaS offers greater flexibility and performance for enterprise organisation networks. On-demand scaling means paying only for needed services and achieving provisioning flexibility without re-architecting networks or renegotiating contracts. A good NaaS partner can enhance security while minimising digital transformation expenses and simplifying network usage control, which helps businesses focus on critical traffic.

## Partner selection & comparison

The table below provides an overview of the metrics to consider when selecting your NaaS partner.



Metric	Console Connect	Vendor 2	Vendor 3
<b>Network coverage</b>	900+ data centres across 50+ countries. Built on their own Tier 1 IP Network, which is ranked in the top 5 globally		
<b>Price</b>	Available on-demand, with instant quotes. Only pay for the bandwidth used with no vendor lock-ins. Pay via credit card or invoice with the option for added managed service bundles		
<b>Cloud connectivity covered</b>	All major cloud providers, including AWS, Google, Azure, IBM, Oracle, Alibaba <a href="#">and more</a>		
<b>Speed to market</b>	On-demand connectivity, available instantly via Layer 2, Layer 3 or IP transit		
<b>Latency</b>	Uncontended, redundant core network with multiple low-latency paths between countries		
<b>SLAs and support</b>	24/7 global support backed by industry-leading SLAs		
<b>Security</b>	Console Connect is certified to ISO 27001, including our web application and API. It gives you the option to avoid the public internet while protecting critical applications and workloads.		

Find out more

Book a meeting with one of our cloud networking consultants

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