

CHECKLIST

Unified SASE Must-Haves

As organizations embrace hybrid work, expand cloud adoption, and advance toward zero-trust access, modernizing IT infrastructure has become a necessity. Many are moving beyond traditional SD-WAN to unified SASE—a solution that integrates SD-WAN with security service edge (SSE) for comprehensive, cloud-delivered security.

SSE includes critical security services such as Firewall-as-a-Service (FWaaS), secure web gateway (SWG), zero-trust network access (ZTNA), and cloud access security broker (CASB). To fully realize the benefits of unified SASE, organizations should seek a solution that is unified, flexible, and intelligent, ensuring seamless management, adaptable security, and AI-powered automation.

✓ Unified: Simplify and Consolidate

A true unified SASE solution eliminates complexity by providing centralized management, reducing agent sprawl, and improving visibility across the network. Look for:

- **A single console:** A unified management console that streamlines policy configuration and enforcement across networking and security
- **One agent:** A single-user agent that simplifies deployment and minimizes operational overhead
- **Single data lake:** A consolidated data repository that enhances visibility, insights, and analytics

✓ Flexible: Adapt to Evolving Needs

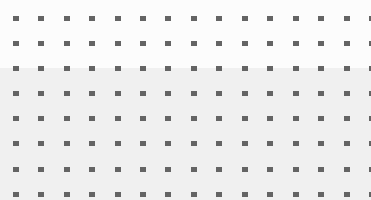
With hybrid workforces and global connectivity needs, a unified SASE solution must be adaptable to regulatory requirements, user locations, and application needs. Key capabilities include:

- **Policy enforcement:** Customizable enforcement and inspection to meet compliance and security policies
- **Global points of presence (POPs):** Distributed POPs to secure users wherever they are located
- **Adaptive access:** Scalable branch connectivity and intelligent access to SaaS and web applications

✓ Intelligent: Automate and Optimize Security

Harnessing AI-driven capabilities enhances security effectiveness and operational efficiency. A robust unified SASE solution should offer:

- **Generative AI assistance:** Generative AI-powered insights to simplify operations and accelerate troubleshooting
- **AI-powered security:** Advanced AI-driven protection for users, applications, and data
- **Automation:** Self-healing capabilities that proactively resolve issues and optimize performance



Conclusion: Look for These Capabilities

Beyond these core capabilities, IT leaders should evaluate a unified SASE solution that offers:

- **Fast and easy onboarding:** Seamless deployment in minutes for existing SD-WAN environments
- **Simplified licensing:** A cost-effective model that reduces complexity
- **Flexible zero-trust enforcement:** Strong security policies that don't disrupt the network
- **Universal ZTNA and security efficacy:** Consistent protection for all users and devices
- **Digital experience monitoring:** Tools to enhance user experiences and accelerate issue resolution

By choosing a unified, flexible, and intelligent SASE solution, organizations can strengthen security, simplify operations, and future-proof their IT infrastructure for the evolving digital landscape.