

EVOLVING SASE AND SD-WAN

A practical guide to long-term success

How to scale SASE and SD-WAN across regions and departments, prove long-term value, and turn transformation into a lasting advantage.

Table of contents

03 How to succeed over the long-term

04 From strategic planning to expansion

05 A successful deployment, in practice

06 Practical success metrics to track

07 Key best practices for sustainable transformation

08 Evolving your SD-WAN and SASE environment

09 Core areas to evolve

10 Common challenges you may experience

11 A strategic perspective on secure operations

12 What high-performing organizations do differently

13 Scale secure operations confidently with SASE

14 Why choose Momentum

15 Ready to get started?

PART THREE OF THREE

How to succeed over the long term

Modernizing enterprise IT doesn't stop at deployment. The real value emerges after the foundation is in place, when architecture, automation, and security begin to operate as a unified system. Now, the focus shifts to what happens next.

How do you scale this model across regions, departments, and environments? How do you prove long-term value, reduce complexity, and adapt to new requirements without breaking what's working?

This guide covers the key strategies, milestones, and operational principles that help teams evolve from rollout to resilience, and turn transformation into a lasting advantage.

IN PARTS ONE AND TWO

Why legacy networks can't keep up, and how SASE provides the architectural reset needed to scale securely.

How AI and automation transform day-to-day operations, helping teams work faster and respond to threats in real time.

PHASE THREE

Going from strategic planning to expansion and optimization

Phase 1 established a secure foundation aligning infrastructure with identity and cloud strategies. Phase 2 focused on early deployment, building operational confidence with AI and automation. By this point the architecture is in place, basic automation is working, and early gains are showing up in performance. Phase 3 is where organizations scale, simplify, and prove long-term value by consolidating policies, retiring legacy tools, and extending visibility across the business.

PHASE 3: EXPANSION AND OPTIMIZATION

- Extend SASE to all users and sites, retiring legacy VPN and MPLS.
- Expand AI-driven telemetry and proactive remediation.
- Build sophisticated automation playbooks for ransomware, insider threats, and privilege escalation.
- Consolidate visibility into a single platform for network, user, and security monitoring.

REALISTIC OUTCOMES

80–90% of user traffic covered by unified security policies.

60–80% reduction in mean time to detect and contain threats.

40–60% faster policy change implementation.

Alert fatigue drops sharply as automation filters out low-priority events.

IN PRACTICE

What a successful deployment looks like

A quick example of how a SASE rollout went for a financial services company that followed the phased timeline:

YEAR 1

Managed overlapping VPN and SASE systems, facing growing pains with identity integrations and user pushback.

YEAR 2

Achieved 50% improvement in SaaS app performance for remote users, unified identity-based access, and cut manual configuration by 45%.

YEAR 3

Retired legacy MPLS contracts, automated incident ticketing for most anomalies, cut response time from 8 hours to under 90 minutes.

This transformation took three years, but the results were worth it: better security, simpler operations, improved user experience, and a measurable drop in risk exposure. It wasn't an overnight initiative, it was effective because it was planned with realistic expectations from day one.

PRACTICAL SUCCESS METRICS

Practical success metrics to track

CATEGORY	METRICS TO TRACK
Security outcomes	Time to detect incidents, time to contain breaches, and a reduction in successful phishing or credential attacks.
Operational outcomes	Time to deploy new apps, time to update security policies, and ticket volume reduction at the help desk.
Performance outcomes	SaaS application latency improvements, VPN retirement progress, and remote worker experience scores.
Compliance outcomes	Reduction in audit exceptions and automated compliance reporting coverage.

TIP

You cannot manage what you do not measure. Establish baselines before beginning your transformation, then track improvements aggressively.

SUSTAINABLE TRANSFORMATION

Key best practices for a sustainable transformation

With the right mindset and buy-in from internal teams and stakeholders, your shift to SASE can deliver immediate value. Follow these best practices to ensure long-term success.

Start with small, low-risk groups to catch unexpected issues early. Lessons from pilots save time and cost during broader rollout.

Prioritize identity and visibility. If you can't see or verify a connection, you can't protect it, the foundation of Zero Trust.

Focus on business outcomes. Tie every technical step to user experience, security posture, and efficiency, or lose executive support.

Invest in education. Clear communication and training reduce resistance and turn employees into active defenders.

Expect turbulence during the transition. Most environments run legacy and modern systems side by side for months or years, budget for it.

INITIAL DEPLOYMENT IS JUST THE START

Evolving your SD-WAN and SASE environment

Deploying SD-WAN and SASE is a major step forward. But the initial rollout is only the beginning. Most organizations start with basic goals like securing remote access, improving cloud application performance, and rolling out consistent identity-based access policies.

True long-term value comes from continually evolving and optimizing the environment. Enterprises that keep improving see better security outcomes, lower operational costs, faster application experiences, and stronger resilience.

STARTING GOALS

- Securing remote access
- Improving cloud application performance
- Rolling out consistent identity-based access policies

CORE AREAS TO EVOLVE

Four key areas to expand and strengthen

Direct-to-cloud optimization

Move from routing cloud traffic through legacy inspection points to full, secure local breakouts protected by cloud-delivered security.

Retirement of legacy VPN and firewalls

Full VPN replacement and reduced dependency on perimeter firewalls, using SASE enforcement instead, simplifies operations and cuts cost.

Advanced zero trust network access

Evolve from one-time login validation to continuous session verification, with risk-adaptive access based on behavior and device health.

Cloud security integration expansion

Add CASB policies, DLP controls, and cloud workload protection across IaaS platforms as SASE matures beyond web and SaaS traffic.

PREPARING FOR THE BIGGER PICTURE

Common challenges you may experience

Stagnating after deployment

Assuming “we’re done” after Phase 1 leads to drift and missed performance gains.

Incomplete policy migration

Leaving old firewall or VPN policies unmanaged creates gaps attackers can exploit.

Underestimating cloud complexity

As multi-cloud adoption grows, policies and enforcement must evolve to keep pace.

No deployment goes completely according to plan. Successful teams maintain a roadmap, refresh objectives annually, and continually align network and security architecture to business goals.

Evolving your SD-WAN and SASE deployment unlocks immediate operational and security improvements. But even fully optimized networks are only part of a larger challenge: building a secure, intelligent, and resilient enterprise.

A STRATEGIC PERSPECTIVE

Pillars of secure, intelligent operations

Success doesn't come from standing still. It comes from building a technology foundation that continuously adapts, improves, and strengthens over time, an intelligent operations platform that makes the business faster, safer, and more resilient year after year.

Unified visibility

Track user activity, application performance, and security events from a single control point.

Proactive operations

Move from reactive monitoring to AI-driven insight that predicts and fixes problems before they impact users.

Adaptive security

Controls adjust automatically based on behavior, device posture, threat intelligence, and compliance needs.

Continuous compliance

Automate compliance checks, audit reporting, and policy enforcement to build trust and reduce risk.

WHAT HIGH-PERFORMING ORGANIZATIONS DO DIFFERENTLY

Make secure, intelligent operations your advantage

Success depends on continuing to ask three questions every quarter: where can we reduce manual effort even further? Where can we improve visibility and detection accuracy? Where can we move closer to real-time, predictive operations?

High-performing organizations invest consistently in:

- Expanding telemetry coverage
- Evolving zero-trust identity models
- Refining automation playbooks
- Tightening SLA performance targets and integrating new cloud services securely

WHEN IT CLICKS

Faster application launches, lower breach risks, higher customer and employee satisfaction, stronger regulatory defense, and greater agility.

Companies that embrace continuous IT evolution see faster revenue growth and higher operational resilience than peers who treat transformation as a one-time project.

BRINGING IT TOGETHER

Scale secure operations confidently with SASE

Modernizing your network, security, and operations is not a one-time event. It is the foundation for building a faster, more resilient, and more secure enterprise.

Success comes from ongoing investment in intelligent infrastructure, adaptive security, and proactive operations, all aligned to business outcomes. Momentum helps organizations move beyond initial deployment, supporting continuous evolution to drive performance, strengthen security, and scale intelligently.

WHY CHOOSE MOMENTUM

A partner that understands execution and business priorities

For many organizations, transitioning from traditional infrastructure or migrating from an unsatisfactory SD-WAN provider requires a partner who delivers tailored solutions for lasting results.

Tailored solutions

Designed around your workloads, compliance standards, and growth trajectory, pay only for what you need.

Unified services beyond networking

SASE, UCaaS, contact center, and managed security, centralized voice, video, and data on one network.

24/7 monitoring and expert support

Momentum's NOC proactively monitors infrastructure around the clock to minimize downtime.

Global connectivity and reach

Worldwide coverage and strategic carrier relationships deliver bandwidth, resiliency, and cost efficiency.

Flexible management options

Fully managed, co-managed, or self-managed, choose the balance of control that fits your team.

A one-stop shop for growth

Scales your WAN and security posture as you add offices, bandwidth, or advanced AI and analytics.

READY TO GET STARTED?

Book a call to improve network reliability and security with best-in-class SD-WAN and SASE.

Momentum helps organizations move beyond initial deployment, supporting continuous evolution to drive performance, strengthen security, and scale intelligently.

[Book a call](#)

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