

How Cathay Successfully Deployed Aryaka Unified SASE as a Service



CASE STUDY

 Airlines

 Large Enterprise

 www.cathaypacific.com

Modernizing the network and security for one of the world’s leading airlines is a massive undertaking. With dozens of partners, strict compliance demands, legacy WAN contracts, separated network and security controls, and performance-critical cloud apps like Amadeus and CHAMP, transformation would typically take years.

But the combination of Cathay’s and Aryaka’s collaborative and technically skilled teams were able to transform the network in record time.

Leveraging Aryaka’s Unified SASE as a Service, Cathay consolidated a sprawling global WAN into a unified, high-performance, cloud-first platform – all while achieving near-zero downtime, unprecedented agility, and a simplified operational model with a single pane of glass view across both network and security.

Executive Summary

Customer: Cathay Pacific Airways

Solution: Aryaka Unified SASE as a Service

Deployment Timeline: Feb 2024-May 2025

Key Outcomes:

- Increase in connectivity speed & improvement in application performance
- Unified end-user security for on-premises and internet
- Direct access for users to cloud-enabled applications
- Substantial network cost savings
- Faster failover / 99.999% uptime increase
- All-inclusive SD-WAN, Unified SASE and ZTNA solution
- Faster Deployment – reduced installation, relocation & change intervals

Customer Profile

About Cathay Pacific Airways:

Founded in 1946, Cathay Pacific Airways Hong Kong's flagship carrier and one of the world's top 3 airlines, Cathay Pacific Airways flies passengers and cargo to more than 100 destinations worldwide directly or through its subsidiaries.

Business Drivers

- Transform traditional WAN network to converged networking & security Unified SASE solution
- Network digitalization with high performance through Cloud migration ambitions
- Security posture enhancement by deploying ZTNA
- Need for highly reliable and predictable performance
- Flexible & On Demand increment / decrease of network bandwidth

Business Challenges

1. High WAN Costs & Complexity

Expensive & low bandwidth legacy WAN network

2. Need for Increased Agility in Onboarding New Sites

Longer lead time for circuit delivery & Site installation

3. Network Management of Self-Managed sites

- Direct coordination with the ISP for circuit issue. Dedicated resources to coordinate in 24*7 environment
- Management of third-party devices (Peplink) without contractual support engagement model

4. Cloud Connectivity through Data Centre

Amadeus & CHAMP performance issues, latency spikes, packet loss.

5. Decentralised Security Stack

Multiple point solutions (VPN, FW, Airport sites & Self-Managed sites) causing management overhead.

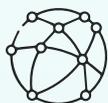
6. Provisioning and Troubleshooting

Long change windows; lack of network visibility.

7. Single Plane Management Portal

Sites managed & maintained by different vendors; lack of centralized monitoring

Objectives



Network Simplification

Consolidate global WAN into a single, cloud-native fabric.



Security Transformation

Implement Zero Trust Network Access and integrate Unified SASE security services.



Predictable Performance

Stable performance to Cloud Applications.



Operational Agility

Achieve zero-touch provisioning and unified dashboards for NOC.

Solution Overview

Aryaka Unified SASE as a Service

- **SD-WAN:** Dynamic path selection, built-in WAN optimization
- **ZTNA:** Identity-based micro-segmentation
- **NGFW:** Inline threat prevention and data protection
- **Unified Orchestration:** Single-pane management portal

Deployment Architecture

- **On-premises ANAPs** at Data Centre + 166 of branch sites
- **Aryaka PoPs** delivering global backhaul & optimization
- **Cloud On-ramp** Amadeus & CHAMP

What Could Have Gone Wrong – And How Aryaka Made It Work

Problem

- Slow browsing, timeouts, and poor cloud access in remote/global offices.
- Centralized DNS routing caused high latency and bandwidth use.

Solution

- Deployed **Split DNS (Conditional Forwarding)**.
- Internal domains resolved via central servers; public domains resolved locally using regional resolvers.

Technical Benefits

- **Huge latency reduction** for DNS lookups.
- **WAN traffic reduction** by eliminating unnecessary backhaul.
- Increased resiliency with local DNS redundancy.
- Faster regional content delivery.

Business Impact

- Improved user experience and productivity.
- Cost savings from reduced bandwidth upgrades.
- Scalability for new remote offices without DNS bottlenecks.

Implementation & Timeline

Phase	Activities	Duration	Owner
Discovery & Design	Network assessment, security policy mapping	45 Days	Professional Services
Pilot & POC	Proof-of-Concept at select sites	3 weeks	Solutions Team
Full Rollout	ANAP installs, policy deployment, cutover	65 weeks	Delivery & NOC
Post-Go-Live Support	Optimization tuning, 24x7 monitoring handover	1 weeks	Support & CS



“Aryaka’s Unified SASE solution and managed services will support Cathay’s growth as network demand increases, while allowing us to remain agile and secure in the process.”

- Rajeev Nair, General Manager of IT Infrastructure and Security, Cathay

Future Roadmap

- **Additional Unified SASE Modules:** Data Loss Prevention & CASB
- **Advanced Analytics:** Leverage AI-driven observability for proactive performance tuning

About Aryaka

Aryaka is the leader in delivering Unified SASE as a Service, a fully integrated solution combining networking, security, and observability. Built for the demands of Generative AI as well as today’s multi-cloud hybrid world, Aryaka enables enterprises to transform their secure networking to deliver uncompromised performance, agility, simplicity, and security. Aryaka’s flexible delivery options empower businesses to choose their preferred approach for implementation and management. Hundreds of global enterprises, including several in the Fortune 100, depend on Aryaka for their secure networking solutions. For more on Aryaka, please visit www.aryaka.com.



Schedule a Free Network Consultation with an Aryaka Expert

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