



The State of Network Security in Business and Professional Services

How IT Leaders Are Balancing Cloud Agility, Security Visibility, and GenAI Risk

Aryaka Research Brief 2025

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Executive Summary

As Business Services organizations pivot toward digital-first operations—offering finance, legal, consulting, and HR solutions delivered through the cloud and remote work—they face intensifying network and security demands. New attack surfaces emerge. Applications decentralize. IT teams are pushed to scale with limited resources.

Aryaka's FY26 Q2 executive survey of 100+ North American IT and infrastructure leaders in this vertical reveals that:

- 1. Cloud migration and SaaS reliance** are surging
- 2. Performance and observability** are now board-level concerns
- 3. Edge security and GenAI readiness** still lag
- 4. Many are planning Convergence** to regain control and simplify operations

Cheers,

Team Aryaka





Modernization Drivers in Business Services

Business Services is accelerating its network evolution—not just to support hybrid work, but to ensure consistent service quality across cloud-native applications and client-facing platforms.

➤ Top Strategic Priorities:

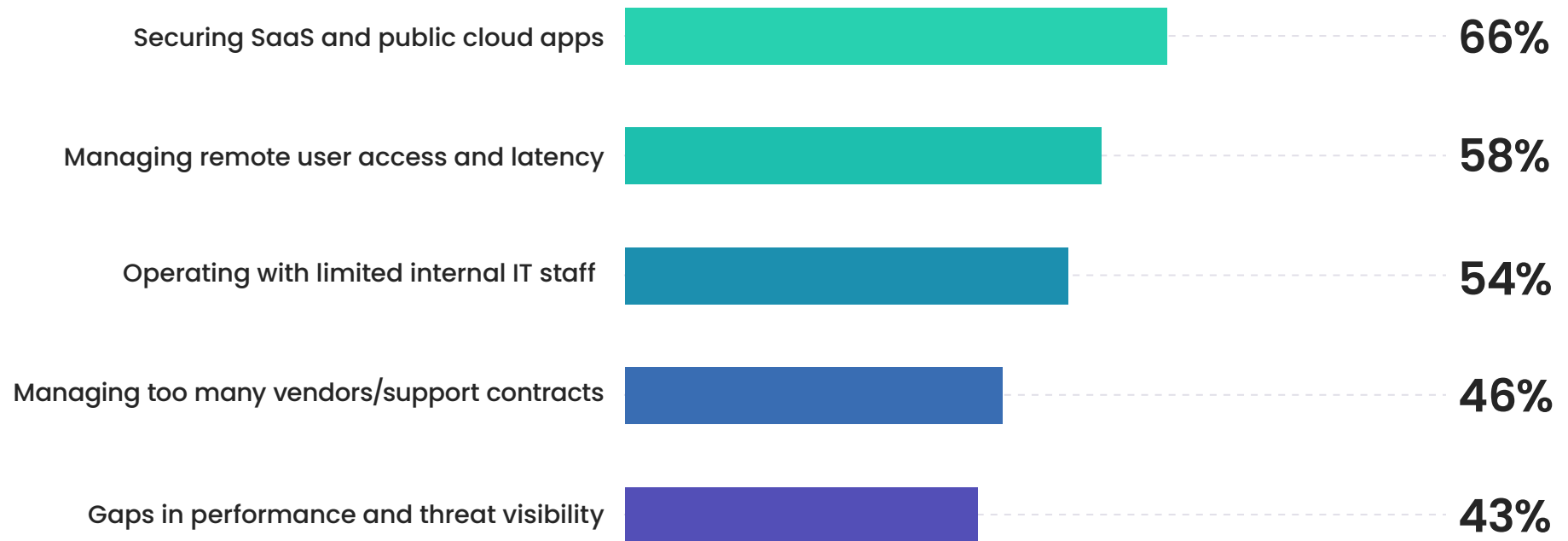


Insight: These priorities underscore a sector optimizing for user experience and operational agility.



Operational Pressures on Lean IT Teams

Day-to-day networking challenges reflect the reality of a fast-moving, resource-constrained environment:

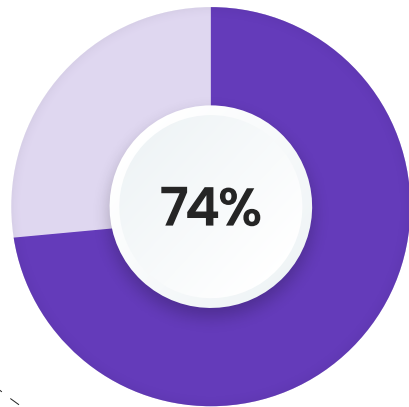


Insight: Complexity and staffing gaps are creating blind spots that affect both performance and protection.

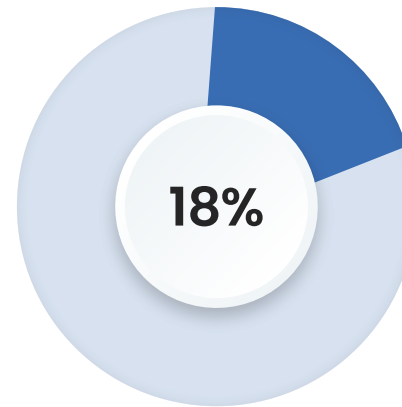


Cloud Hosting & Migration: A Hybrid Core

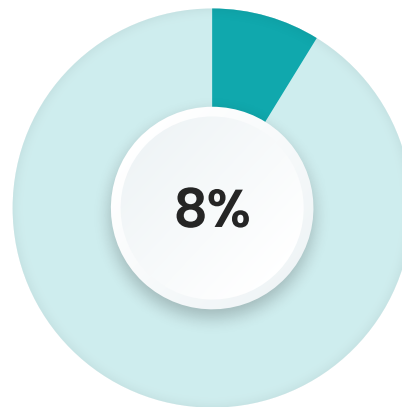
Business Services firms lead their peers in embracing hybrid cloud strategies.



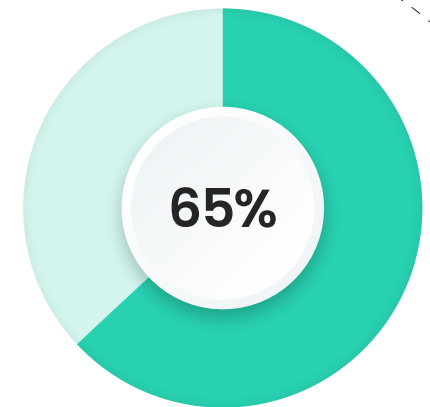
Host apps in hybrid environments



Are cloud-first (primarily IaaS/SaaS)



Remain on-premises only



Are actively migrating legacy apps today

Insight: This hybrid-first reality demands consistent security and performance enforcement across all environments.



Security at the Edge: An Overlooked Risk

Despite SaaS dominance and remote work, only 38% of Business Services leaders view edge security as “mission-critical.”

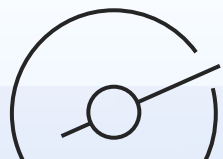


Implication: While cloud maturity is rising, edge-layer protections—ZTNA, SWG, NGFW—are often fragmented or under-deployed.

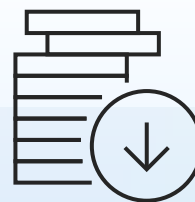
GenAI Readiness: Ahead of the Curve, but Vulnerable

With 34% of Business Services firms **actively evaluating or implementing GenAI**, this sector is well ahead of Manufacturing and T&L. However, most teams are underprepared for the performance and security implications.

➤ Top GenAI Concerns:



Bandwidth saturation



Latency degradation



Data exfiltration from unmonitored AI tools

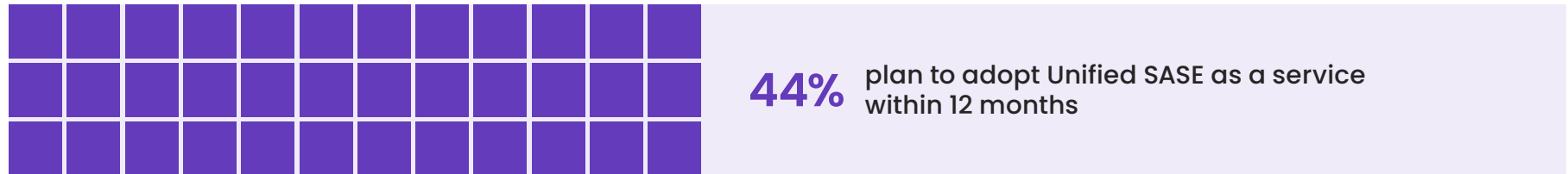


Poor visibility into app-layer activity

Implication: Proactive observability and traffic shaping are essential for GenAI success.

Convergence: A Path Forward

The push for performance and simplification is converging networking and security toward Secure Access Service Edge (SASE).



➤ Main perceived benefits:



Unified security and network policy enforcement



Improved user experience across SaaS and cloud



Reduced burden on internal IT teams

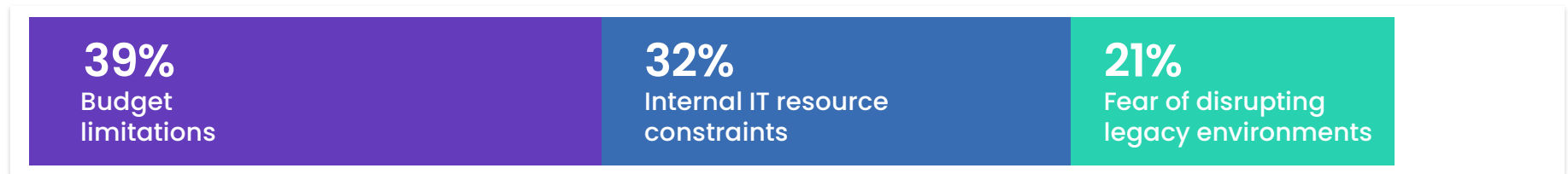
Implication: However, adoption is not without barriers...



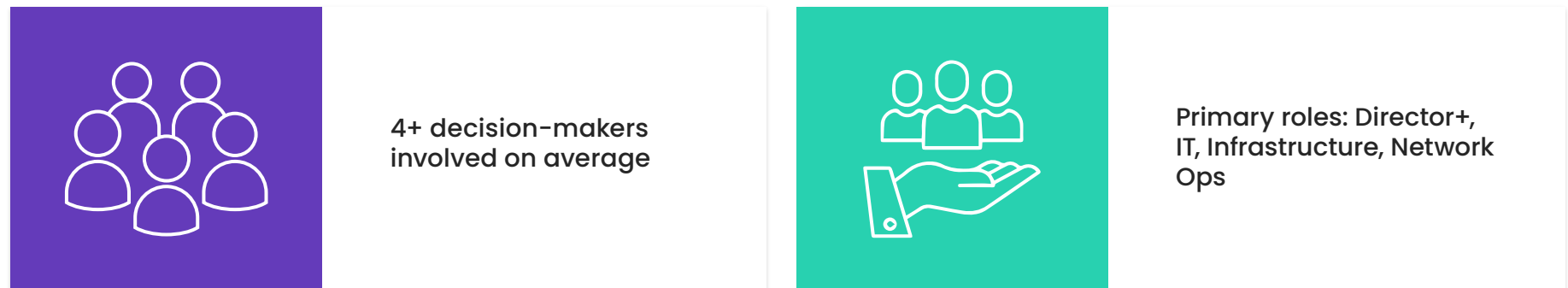
Buyer Reality: Budget, Bandwidth & Bureaucracy

Key blockers to Network & Security modernization:

➤ Top Barriers:



➤ Buying Landscape:



Takeaway: Winning business services requires showing quick time-to-value, reduced operational strain, and safe legacy integration.



Industry Comparison: Where Business Services Stands

Metric	Business Services	Manufacturing	Transportation & Logistics
Cloud Migration in Progress	65%	52%	53%
GenAI Preparedness (Deploying or Evaluating)	34%	22%	28%
Edge Security Viewed as Mission-Critical	38%	40%	40%
Planning SASE Rollout (12 months)	44%	24%	30%

Interpretation: Business Services is more advanced in cloud and GenAI evolution, but must elevate its edge security posture to match.

Customer Spotlight: Kleinfelder



Industry

Engineering, Environmental Consulting
& Business Services



Use Case

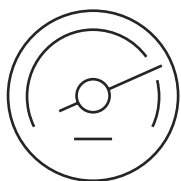
Multi-Cloud SaaS Acceleration &
Global Workforce Enablement



The Challenge

Kleinfelder grew from 1,000 to 3,000+ users through M&A, creating network strain across global offices. SaaS performance dipped, and IT was overwhelmed by growing support demand.

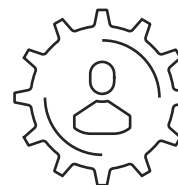
The Aryaka Solution



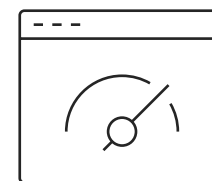
Unified SASE
deployment with TCP
optimization



Direct cloud onramps
for Microsoft 365 and
Azure



Fully managed
delivery offloaded
IT tasks



SmartLink and WAN
acceleration ensured
app consistency



The Results



Seamless app
performance across
global users



Enhanced IT
focus on strategic
initiatives



Higher employee
satisfaction and
productivity



[Read Full Case Study >>](#)

Strategic Recommendations

To stay competitive and secure in a fast-evolving landscape, Business Services leaders should:

✓ Advance Observability Across Cloud, SaaS, and AI

- Detect issues before they impact service delivery
- Enable real-time, policy-driven remediation

✓ Secure the Edge with Zero Trust Controls

- Extend protection to devices, branches, SaaS edges
- Deploy ZTNA, SWG, and NGFW as a unified fabric

✓ Converge with Unified SASE as a Service

- Simplify operations with integrated networking + security
- Deliver better experiences while cutting vendor sprawl

✓ Adopt Flexible Delivery Models

- Choose from self-, co-, or fully-managed service
- Scale securely without overburdening internal IT

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



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