

5 SIMPLE RULES FOR BUILDING A BETTER NETWORK



Follow these 5 simple rules to make sure you have an intelligent, dependable, and secure cloud-based network that can keep your business in business.



1. MAKE MANAGEMENT FLEXIBLE, SCALABLE, AND SIMPLE

Cloud-managed networking gives you options to easily scale resources as your business grows. You should also leverage web and mobile solutions that enable you to easily centralize or distribute management tasks as needed. This keeps you from being locked into a single management system that limits flexibility and the ability to add the advanced functionality that a growing network requires. Also, be sure to take advantage of machine learning tools that can identify network problems and optimize performance.



2. ENSURE ENOUGH CAPACITY AND COVERAGE

How fast is your existing network growing? How much availability will you need in the future? Today, most people use multiple devices, often at the same time. As the number of users and amount of traffic continues to grow, so will the number of Access Points (APs) needed to keep every user connected on every device. While APs can support 200+ devices per radio, be prepared to handle this capacity by having at least 60 active clients per radio to ensure a seamless user experience for everyone on the network.

Identify areas with heavy device density, as well as dead zones. Learn where and how to optimize your network to benefit from higher throughput delivered through additional APs. Provision Wi-Fi coverage to support where your users are today, as well as where access will be needed in the future. And plan ahead for how you'll cover challenging areas, such as locations where W-Fi 6 APs may be required to support high-density, high-demand communities.

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3. PROVIDE SECURITY THAT PROTECTS FOR TODAY AND TOMORROW

Malicious attackers get more sophisticated every day. That's why you need to be prepared not just for what they'll do today, but also for how they may threaten your network in the future. Intrusion detection tools are a must for identifying and stopping unauthorized users and malware attacks.

Utilize security measures such as Advanced Encryption Standard (AES), a Layer 7 firewall, and wireless intrusion protection to protect against penetration of financial transactions, healthcare data, and government institutions. Look for security solutions with automated controls and integrated enforcement that can become more effective as your network evolves, such as Network Access Control (NAC) to protect the rapidly growing number of IoT devices.



4. SUPPORT APPLICATIONS CUSTOMERS NEED AND SLAs THEY CAN COUNT ON

Customers always expect more from their providers, whether it's increased bandwidth for better streaming video or more comprehensive collaboration tools. The one common thread to these expectations is easy access to new and better applications. Your network needs to offer the visibility and management capabilities required to support and enhance next-generation applications. That support needs to be backed up with SLAs that ensure customers get the performance and protection they expect, whether it's bandwidth on demand or proactive troubleshooting to resolve issues before users even notice them.



5. KEEP DOWNTIME MINIMAL WITH A FULLY REDUNDANT NETWORK

If downtime occurs, no one should notice it except your administrators. And they should only know after the network has already self-corrected the issue. With the redundancy solutions available today, there is no longer any excuse for disruptive downtime. The key is to build mission-critical capabilities into your network that maintain connectivity in spite of any switch, link, or access point failure.

By following these five simple rules, you'll be well on your way to establishing a future-proof network that's built for the now. Need a solution that's simple, smart, and secure? We should talk. [Reach out to Aruba today.](#)