Enterprises are replacing their legacy remote access VPN for SDP.

**Better User Experience**
SDP delivers faster application access and single sign-on verification, keeping users happy and productive.

**Less Complexity**
Switching to a simplified software-based approach eliminates the need to have complex and costly security stacks across all locations.

**Increased Security**
Applications only connect out to the users who are authorized to access them. Users are never placed on-net and IP address is never exposed.

The Software-defined perimeter (SDP) is a modern approach to providing secure access to internal applications. Below you’ll find the four most common reasons why enterprises are replacing legacy remote access with SDP.

### Top Software-Defined Perimeter Use Cases

1. **VPN RETIREMENT**
   Enterprises are replacing their legacy remote access VPN for SDP.

2. **REMOTE TO CLOUD ACCESS**
   As enterprises move internal applications to the cloud, the modern cloud-first approach to remote access is being pursued.

3. **MERGERS & ACQUISITIONS**
   There were 50,000 M&As in 2017. SDPs simplify network security processes by no longer requiring the consolidation of networks and IP addresses during an M&A.

   - **Better Experience**
     The direct-to-cloud approach creates a seamless user experience for developers and end users. The experience is the same for any application type, any device or any location.

   - **Better Scale**
     Since SDP is software-based, it is highly agile and scalable whereas appliances can’t scale beyond their limited capacity.

   - **Zero-Trust Access**
     By providing access based on granular policies, SDP delivers secure remote access on a “need to know” basis.

   - **Less complexity**
   - **Accelerated M&A timeline**
   - **Standardized security across all entities**

4. **THIRD-PARTY ACCESS**
   Enterprises use SDP to enable third parties to deliver secure remote access to only the applications they need. All other applications remain invisible to them.

   - **Reduced risk**
     SDP allows IT Admins to limit third-party access to only permissioned applications. This effectively eliminates unwanted lateral movement from users within the network.

   - **Better third-party experience**
     Third party partners no longer need to log into VPN gateways. Happy partners leads to better business.

By 2021, 60% of enterprises will phase out network VPNs for digital business communications in favor of software-defined perimeters up from less than 1% in 2016.

---

By Steve Riley, Neil MacDonald, and Greg Young, Refreshed 17 November 2017, Published 30 September 2016

"It's Time to Isolate Your Services From the Internet Cesspool," Steve Riley, Neil MacDonald, and Greg Young, Refreshed 17 November 2017, Published 30 September 2016

This Gartner document is available upon request from Zscaler.

---

GARTNER is a registered trademark and service mark of Gartner, Inc. and/or its affiliates in the U.S. and internationally, and is used here in with permission. All rights reserved.

Zscaler ™ is a trademark or registered trademark of Zscaler, Inc. in the United States and/or other countries. All other trademarks are the property of their respective owners.