From Next-Gen to What's Next

How Network Intelligence and SD-WAN are Reshaping the Future

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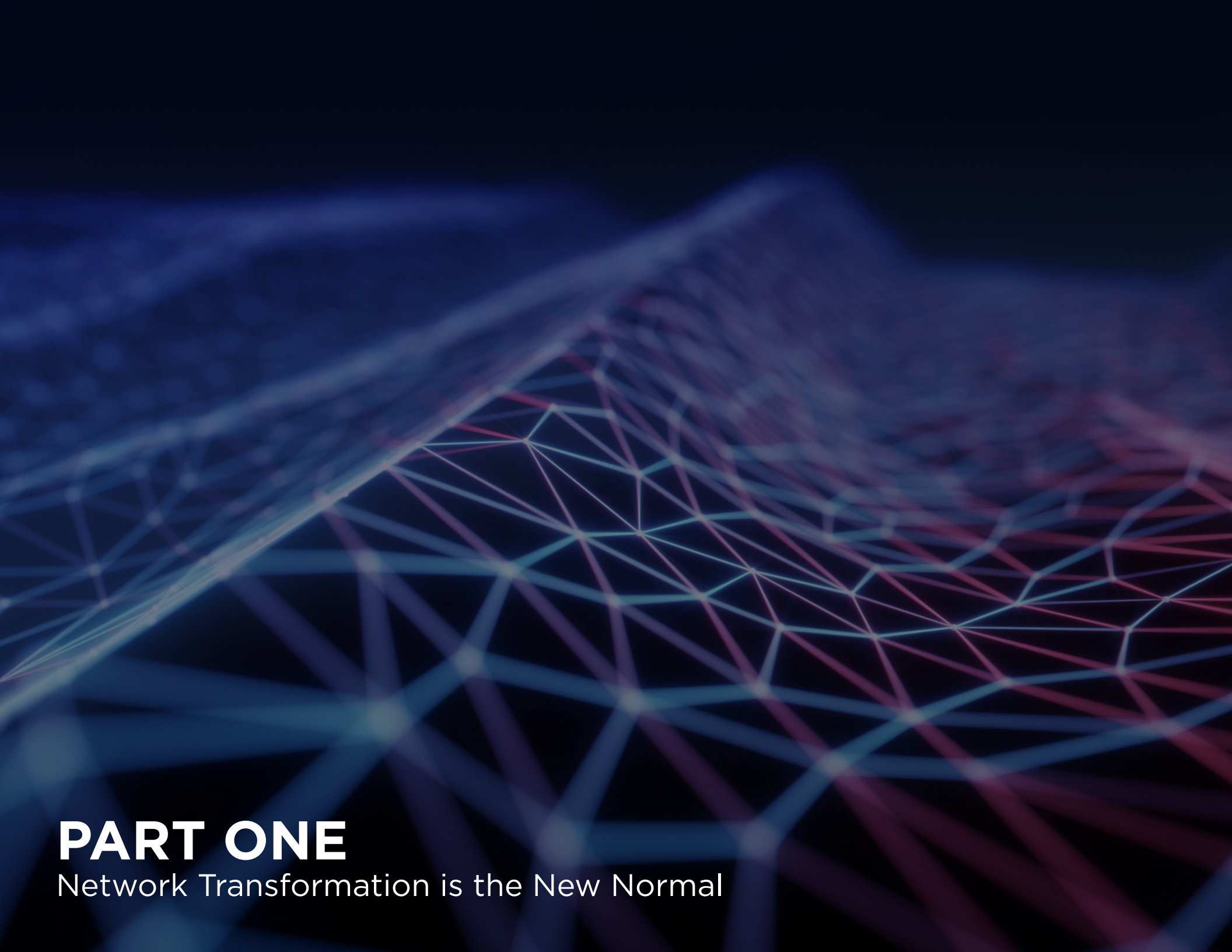

PART ONE

Network Transformation is the New Normal

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Technology whiplash. That's how consulting firm McKinsey & Company describes the last few years. Companies have been forced to press the turbo button on their digital transformation because of the cloud, because of Covid, and because of competition from a new breed of market disruptors. Nowhere has that transformation been more transformative than in networks. The centralized data centers of the past have given way to decentralized clouds and regional data centers that must now connect a globally distributed workforce while meeting ever-increasing demands for data, communication, collaboration, and security.

And, *brace yourself*, it's about to get even bumpier for network managers.

Multi-access edge computing, hybrid cloud environments, and 5G are just some of the new technologies that will have a transformative impact on network topologies. While these technologies will enable companies to get more value from their networks, it won't matter if companies can't afford and manage them. And the reality is that, right now, networks are evolving faster than companies can keep up with them, resulting in lower performance, less security, and higher investments in costly (e.g., MPLS) infrastructure.

So, how do you manage and grow your network for the future? With seamless network intelligence and near-infinite scale. If that sounds like wishful thinking, think again. Both are attainable, right now, with Extreme Networks. In the following pages, we'll explain how.

PART TWO

Exponentially Increase Your Operational Efficiency

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The data center has historically been viewed as the "brain" of the network because it was where most of the business intelligence resided. Today, however, the network brain looks a lot more like the Borg from Star Trek, with intelligence spread out across regional networks, edge servers, multiple clouds, and potentially millions of devices. As a result of all this division, network administrators spend a lot of time and energy collecting network intelligence—and it still doesn't add up to much more than generalized insights.

ExtremeCloud IQ (XIQ) has built-in intelligence to help you optimize your network performance, because every network environment is unique. This enables you to make decisions faster and with more confidence. You can improve services based on historical performance benchmarks, remediation recommendations, and seamless technical support integrations.

Your network operations becomes more efficient as you gain end-to-end visibility and management of wired, wireless, and routing devices at multiple sites and network types. Instead of managing multiple disparate dashboards, XIQ simplifies network operations by providing you with an intuitive all-inclusive interface for informed decision making,. Built on a robust cloud infrastructure with security certifications, you get added flexibility to host across multiple deployment types — think public, private, and on-premises, for optimizing for data governance.

"It's just so easy to go to one tool and have everything we need there that gives us a great vantage point into our network. We can pop in and out of (devices), everything is easy to find within the interface, and it's very easy for us to make any policy changes, network changes, and everything else." said Scott Rogers, Infrastructure and Platform Services Manager for the City of Littleton, Colorado.

"I would absolutely recommend XIQ due to all of the benefits that it brings to the table — simple and fast onboarding of infrastructure devices, rich client data that provides insight into the health of the infrastructure and the clients connected to that infrastructure, simple licensing, simplified troubleshooting with enhanced client troubleshooting tools, flexible deployment options, nerd nobs that allow for a very simple and streamlined policy creation/deployment or the ability to go deep under the covers and tweak every possible wireless setting available.", said Dennis Tobias, Manager of Networking and Security at Cambria.

PART THREE

Explore Infinite Possibilities

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In the last several years, businesses have been under pressure to extend their network capabilities with whatever technology was at hand: Wi-Fi, 4G/LTE, broadband Internet, traditional routers/switches, MPLS circuits, and the cloud. As a result, the wide area network (WAN) for many businesses looks a lot more like the wild area network, with multiple vendors, separate network management tools, and inherent complexity at every turn. Not surprisingly, network administrators are feeling overburdened and burned out as they try to tame a digital jungle of devices, vendors, and technologies.

Software-defined networks promise a solution. SD-WAN technology allows businesses to place a single, logical overlay on top of their existing network infrastructure, effectively decoupling the data transport plane from the control plane. With an SD-WAN solution, businesses can centralize management and control of their network traffic to provide a consistent, high-quality, and highly secure network experience to every user, virtually anywhere in the world, regardless of the underlying technology.

ExtremeCloud SD-WAN delivers a powerful SD-WAN solution that simplifies network management, strengthens network security, improves network performance, and provides business continuity across your entire network. ExtremeCloud SD-WAN unifies your network, whether it resides on physical infrastructure or in the cloud, to give you infinite control over connectivity, communication, collaboration, and security.

PART FOUR

ExtremeCloud IQ + SD-WAN: Expect More from Your Network

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It's not enough to manage your network for the day to day. Businesses need to manage their networks for the changes that tomorrow will bring, from 5G-powered smart factories to virtual reality meetings. With ExtremeCloud IQ and SD-WAN, businesses can meet the network demands of the future without driving up costs, driving down performance, or sacrificing security.

Maybe you're already using ExtremeCloud IQ and you're wondering if SD-WAN is the smart next step for your network. If you're mixing physical network infrastructure with the cloud, committed to delivering business continuity and high performance to every branch office, or simply looking to simplify your network operations so you can spend less time troubleshooting and more time revenue-generating, the answer is a resounding Yes! ExtremeCloud SD-WAN and IQ together can reduce network costs by 20% while delivering better network intelligence, security, and continuity across your entire organization.

The time has come to put away the multivendor management tools and unify your network. Whether your applications are running in the cloud or in a data center, over a private 5G network or the public Internet, businesses need to manage their networks as a single, connected, scalable entity. Networks are only going to become bigger in the years ahead. ExtremeCloud IQ and SD-WAN together help you grow with confidence.

PART FIVE

What's Next is Up to You

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If data is the lifeblood of your business, then your network is the heart. For the last few years, however, network strategies have focused primarily on avoiding a "heart attack" as traffic demands have increased. Now that businesses have begun to catch up with digital transformation, they need to move from a reactive to a proactive network strategy that allows them to efficiently grow, scale, improve, and evolve their network capabilities.

While no one can predict the future, we do know what network challenges will look like in the coming years: more devices, more traffic, new security threats, and new opportunities with 5G and IoT. If you plan to meet those challenges with the network technology you have today, you'll likely end up spending more money on legacy infrastructure and spending more time managing a complex multivendor ecosystem. A better plan is to build your network forward as a single entity through shared intelligence and a central point of control.

ExtremeCloud IQ and SD-WAN are designed to give businesses a flexible path forward for network management and analytics. It's a path that leads away from heavy capex and opex investments and toward an easily manageable, infinitely scalable, automated, and intelligent network. Yes, the future can be a scary place, but take heart: Extreme Networks is here to help.


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