



The AHEAD Network Modernization Checklist

The Network Lifecycle Management Checklist

While removing technical debt that is simultaneously holding back the business, we look to streamline network refresh installations and reduce wasted OPEX:

- ☐ How many of your devices are soon to be end of support or end of life? How do you currently track that data?
- ☐ How do you tactically decide which devices to update?
- ☐ Are you simply replacing aging routers with recommended OEM replacements, or do you modernize with SD-WAN?
- ☐ Are your projects driven by 'the old fashioned' way, e.g. using excel sheets and tracking numbers?
- ☒ Are you using [Hatch](#) to track your network procurements and disposition in real time?
- ☒ Have you prepared for quick and painless on-site install with rack integration from [Forge](#)?
- ☒ Have you uploaded warranty and maintenance info into Hatch so your next network refresh practically plans itself?

The Network Security Checklist

Security is a process, not just products. Here's what we look for to help clients modernize while achieving true Zero Trust in their network architecture:

- ☐ What security vendors and products are currently deployed, and how do you navigate introducing SASE and Zero Trust into your road warriors, branch locations, and data centers?
- ☐ How do all of those operate with each other to efficiently avoid hurdles and potholes?
- ☐ How certain are you that these implementations are symbiotic and will propel the business to its vision?
- ☐ How far along are you in your quest for adopting Zero Trust as an organizational lifestyle?

The Multi-Cloud Networking Checklist

Here's a few of the top items we identify to create a highly available, secure, and fault-tolerant network that supports multi-cloud infrastructure and harmonization:

- ☐ Are you currently using a hybrid model or a fully utilized cloud/multi-cloud environment?
- ☐ Does your current cloud environment align with business changes and requirements?
- ☐ How are deployed resources being managed for cost-tracking? Are instances that are being spun up wasteful?
- ☐ How do you implement architecture consistency across multi-cloud environments?
- ☐ How do you obtain visibility into your private and public cloud environments to manage and decide security standardizations?

The Network Automation Checklist

Here's how we assess how far along the path you are in the network automation journey:

- ☐ How are your current automation practices aligned with your business objectives?
- ☐ How do you approach the integration of new automation tools within your existing processes? What factors influence your decision-making in this area?
- ☐ How do you measure the success of your automation initiatives? What metrics or KPIs do you use?
- ☐ What repeatable tasks consume most of your engineers' time?
- ☐ What are the biggest challenges you face in scaling automation across different departments or teams?