

Modernizing your IT stack is the first step in providing seamless digital experiences.



Modernizing Your Network

Local governments want to deliver services to residents more efficiently and effectively, streamline processes, boost security, and take on new technologies – all while remaining in-budget. It's a daunting task, but one that can be made simpler with the right approach.

And it all starts with modernizing your network and IT stack. Connectivity solutions are critical to ensure government organizations are prepared for today's and tomorrow's needs, including:

- ✓ Enhanced citizen experiences
- ✓ Better internal collaboration and communication
- ✓ Cost savings and efficiencies
- ✓ Data-driven decision-making
- ✓ Improved security
- ✓ The scalability to take advantage of new technologies

"The expectations on government have changed dramatically, but the underlying infrastructure hasn't always kept pace," says Jason Taylor, Senior Vice-President of Public Sector Sales at Zayo, a leading network connectivity services provider. "Modernizing the network is what makes it possible to meet those expectations without overburdening already stretched teams."



Here are the key steps for successful network modernization that will transform your agency's ability to meet your mission.

1. Lay the right foundation.

Every successful modernization effort begins with a strong network foundation. Without it, initiatives like cloud adoption, real-time data analytics and digital service delivery will struggle to perform at scale.

At the core of that foundation is **fiber-based infrastructure**. Fiber networks provide the high-capacity, low-latency connectivity required to support today's data-intensive workloads — from video-enabled services to AI-driven applications.

- ➔ **Fiber offers virtually unlimited bandwidth potential, enabling agencies to scale quickly as demand grows without constant reinvestment in underlying infrastructure.**

Performance is only part of the equation. A modern fiber network must also be designed for **resilience and reliability**.

- ➔ **Diverse routing paths, fully underground infrastructure where possible and geographically distributed network design help ensure continuity of operations even during outages or disruptions.**

Equally important is **network reach and accessibility**. A strong foundation connects not only core data centers and major facilities, but also extends into communities — supporting both middle-mile and last-mile connectivity.

- ➔ **This is particularly important for advancing digital equity initiatives and ensuring that rural and underserved areas can fully participate in digital services.**

Modern fiber networks should also be built with **flexibility and simplicity in mind**. Scalable architectures allow agencies to tailor connectivity to a wide range of environments — from dense urban deployments to distributed field locations — without unnecessary complexity.

- ➔ **This adaptability enables agencies to evolve their network alongside changing mission needs.**

Finally, agencies should prioritize **visibility and intelligent network operations**.

- ➔ **Advanced monitoring, analytics and automation tools provide real-time insight into network health and performance, allowing IT teams to proactively identify issues, optimize traffic flows and align network performance with organizational priorities.**

2. Adopt an edge-core-cloud architecture.

As agencies modernize their networks, traditional centralized models are no longer sufficient. Today's distributed services, remote users and cloud-based applications require a more flexible approach — one that seamlessly connects users, data and systems wherever they reside.

An **edge-core-cloud architecture** distributes connectivity and computing across three layers.

- **The edge**

Is where data is created and consumed — in offices, schools and field environments.

- **The core**

Provides high-capacity transport between locations.

- **The cloud**

Delivers scalable compute and storage for applications and services.

This approach enables **faster, more responsive performance** by processing data closer to the source, reducing latency for real-time applications. It also supports **greater flexibility and resilience**, allowing agencies to operate across hybrid and multi-cloud environments while avoiding single points of failure.

Security is strengthened as well, with protections embedded throughout the network rather than confined to a single perimeter. At the same time, centralized visibility and management tools help agencies monitor performance, enforce policies and optimize operations across the entire environment.



By adopting an edge-core-cloud architecture, agencies can better support modern applications, improve user experiences and **build a more agile, future-ready network.**

3. Manage your data.

Your agency is home to a wealth of data – including demographic, geospatial, health, financial, transportation, public safety, and environmental information – that can be used to derive valuable insights for informed decisions. However, without the right standards and procedures in place for collecting, managing, accessing, sharing, and securing data, those valuable insights can't be leveraged.

The first step in managing your data is to ensure your data is logged consistently and accurately. Standardize data collection, storage, organization, sharing, and use. Break down the silos separating databases, hindering your ability to tap into the value of your data.

Establish roles, responsibilities, and guidelines for data access and use. Classify data based on sensitivity and enforce security, encryption, and access guidelines accordingly.

Encourage greater transparency and accountability with open data portals, providing the public with access to data around government operations, performance metrics, spending, and KPIs, empowering citizens to monitor activities in real-time, track progress on initiatives, and become active participants.



Managing your data is the first step in maximizing its potential. With the proper guidelines in place, you can begin to leverage data analytics to make informed decisions and take on technologies.

4. Find the Right Partner.

As state and local agencies evaluate potential modernization partners, the focus should be less on specific products and more on the capabilities and approach a provider brings to the table.

- **Look for flexibility in both technology and procurement.**

Government environments are complex, with evolving needs, constrained budgets and strict requirements. The right partner should offer flexible, scalable solutions that align with agency goals while navigating funding realities and procurement pathways.

- **Prioritize a strong, scalable network foundation.**

Reliable, high-capacity connectivity is essential. Agencies should seek partners with infrastructure that can support high-bandwidth applications, real-time data and expanding digital services — while also helping extend connectivity to underserved areas.

- **Ensure seamless cloud integration.**

As cloud adoption accelerates, secure, high-performance connectivity is critical. Look for partners that simplify multi-cloud access, reduce latency and optimize performance for mission-critical workloads.

- **Evaluate the breadth of connectivity options.**

A strong partner should offer a range of solutions — from private networks to dedicated internet and high-capacity transport — enabling agencies to tailor infrastructure to their specific needs.

- **Make security a foundational element.**

Security should be built into the network, not layered on. Capabilities such as encryption, DDoS protection, Zero-Trust access and SASE frameworks help protect distributed environments without sacrificing performance.

- **Assess experience supporting digital equity initiatives.**

Partners with experience leveraging public funding to expand connectivity in underserved areas can help agencies advance digital inclusion goals.

- **Look for a collaborative, outcome-driven approach.**

The most effective partners act as collaborators, working closely with agencies to align solutions with mission priorities and deliver measurable improvements in services and operations.

5. Embrace digital transformation.

With the cloud, networking infrastructure, cybersecurity tools and data best practices in place, you can confidently take on new tools and technologies and establish digital-first processes to improve government operations and collaboration.

There are several digital initiatives your organization can take on, but here are a few places you can start:



Digitize processes:

Digitize forms, documents, and approvals to streamline administrative processes. Accelerate processes like permit applications, licensing, and procurement by moving them fully online and offering digital options.



Citizen engagement platforms:

Enhance the citizen experience by creating online platforms and applications for citizens to conveniently access government services, receive alerts and pertinent information, provide feedback, and submit requests.



Communication and collaboration tools:

Facilitate communication and collaboration among employees and stakeholders with cloud-based tools like video conferencing, phone and voice systems, chat applications, and project management platforms.



Data analytics and insights tools:

Analyze and derive insights from your data and detect patterns and trends to make better decisions around service delivery, resource allocation, and policymaking.

Conclusion

Network modernization is foundational to delivering the reliable, accessible, responsive services that today's constituents expect.

From enabling cloud adoption and data-driven decision-making to strengthening cybersecurity and expanding digital equity, a modern network underpins every aspect of a digitally enabled government.

Finding the right partner is essential. Work with a provider that brings not only technical expertise, but also flexibility, funding knowledge, and a collaborative, outcome-focused approach.

Ultimately, modernization is about preparing for what's next — and ensuring agencies have the resilience, scalability and insight to meet it head-on.

“At the end of the day, this is about helping people,” Taylor says. “When networks are resilient and adaptable, agencies can respond faster and make sure their communities get what they need.”

About Zayo

For more than 15 years, Zayo has empowered some of the world's largest and most innovative organizations to connect what's next for their business.

Zayo's future-ready network spans over 19.9 million fiber miles and 148,000 route miles. Zayo's tailored connectivity and edge solutions enable agencies to deliver exceptional experiences, from edge to core to cloud.



Discover how Zayo connects what's next



Learn more about Zayo's broad portfolio of services at zayo.com

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