Evolution Platform

Digital infrastructure for the cloud age

orange™ Business

Introduction

As enterprises become cloud-first businesses, they're transforming how they operate and, ultimately, how they realize and deliver value. They're becoming more distributed, connected, and agile, demanding reliable, fast data access. They're also exposed to new security threats, and the digital infrastructure they require to transform is increasingly more complex.

However, the service providers they're relying on to connect and protect data don't always have the answers. Despite many infrastructure solutions claiming plug-and-play capabilities, many enterprises still need large teams to manage cloud, connectivity and security. These workforces are not necessarily readily available, putting additional strain on already stretched teams.

What's the solution? Enterprises need a secure platform that allows them to manage and deploy connectivity and security services. They need digital infrastructure aligning with how they procure cloud, without overloading scarce resources.

We explore what that looks like, why it is needed and how you can acquire it. Once you've read it, get in touch to get more detail on how we can help you build the digital infrastructure for your needs.

The current situation: complexity, uncertainty, gaps

Enterprises have more choice than ever when it comes to picking the solutions to support their objectives. Yet that choice can be bewildering, create complexity and overwhelm already stretched teams.

On the surface, enterprises have never had it so good when acquiring technology. They have a choice in everything from developing applications and services to the supporting environments and the network that connects it all. Key to success is an agile way to design, build, and operate the network-related services they need to connect the cloud, applications and users.

To meet that need are a variety of vendors, all developing more solutions specifically aimed at enterprises. The theory goes that these solutions should be plug-and-play, with little need for intermediaries to install them – much like the cloud services enterprises are used to procuring.

Interoperability challenges

Yet the apparent simplicity of these network solutions often causes more complexity. Few enterprises only use one vendor, so ensuring interoperability between different services and meeting the needs of specific customers is challenging. Then there are rapidly accelerating upgrade cycles to contend with – no service is future-proofed, which means that it needs to be upgraded and patched as required to maintain its effectiveness and security.

Plus, while choice is generally positive, it can also be overwhelming for organizations to determine what is best to meet their strategic objectives. A state-of-the-art infrastructure twenty years ago involved one or two services; now, even the simplest will draw on upwards of 25 or 30.

Varied service quality

Then, there is the question of connectivity. It is easy to fall into the trap of assuming that connectivity is the same across the world, but just because someone is online doesn't mean that the service they have, the price they pay, and the provider they engage with is similar to what someone in another part of the world experiences.

For multinational companies, identifying local internet service providers that meet their needs is only the first in several complex steps: they also need to manage installation, security, troubleshooting, and support, and do so in a way that is in line with how the rest of the organization receives connectivity services.

Importance of the edge

Finally, there is the gap between the edge and the cloud. Moving IT to the cloud, consuming cloud services, and transitioning away from legacy, on-premises systems is critical to enabling the digital models enterprises are developing.

Yet, services are still required at the edge outside of cloud environments. It might be sensors, SD-WAN boxes, routers, or local firewalls, and they might be in factories, shops, or regional offices. Whatever and wherever it is, these edge-based technologies need to be maintained locally. Furthermore, enterprises need to be able to rely on the connection between cloud and edge.

Bridging a growing gap

For enterprises to realize their transformation ambitions, they need to find a way to bridge the growing gap between their goals and their constantly evolving digital infrastructure, managing rapid technological advancements and ever-increasing user demands.

It is clear enterprises face a gap – between their strategic objectives and what they can achieve with their existing infrastructure. Many know and understand that their ability to act agilely, deploy digital business models, and deliver the expected experience levels means transforming legacy systems. Yet fewer grasp that this does not just involve applications and their cloud environments but also includes the connectivity necessary to link them to the enterprise and all end-points.

As more and more enterprises become used to procuring and provisioning IT services via cloud or as-a-service models, they struggle with how networks have traditionally been deployed.

What's needed is a way to bridge that gap – to deliver the cloud, connectivity and network infrastructure reliably and securely that doesn't increase the burden on stretched enterprise teams and that aligns with the need for more agile provisioning.

"Enterprises face a gap between their strategic objectives and what they can achieve with their existing infrastructure"

What's needed

This bridge needs to deliver several things.

First, it needs to deliver a truly composable provisioning experience that aligns with how cloud providers and hyperscalers provide services to enterprises. It needs to have this to meet the needs of current technology procurement practices and the broader business requirements for agility, scalability, and flexibility.

Second, it must support, not restrict, technology choices for customers globally. Enterprises all have different goals, meaning their network requirements will differ. So, they need to access the solutions that work for them in the locations they need. This bridging platform must provide an open environment to procure and deploy a network infrastructure that aligns with their objectives.

Third, it has to be secure. Cybercriminals are constantly looking for the easiest way into enterprises; as IT security becomes more sophisticated, they are increasingly looking at areas such as the network and the edge. So, any overarching bridge must provide the means to secure the network end-to-end.

A digital infrastructure that delivers

Finding a way to bridge that gap with a network platform that is agile, open, and secure could enable enterprises to:

- Grow an ability to launch or expand new digital business offerings.
- Reduce the time it takes to deploy or update critical applications.
- Assure global governance of IT and regulatory compliance in every country.
- Drive employee satisfaction with better digital experiences.
- Strengthen business continuity plans.
- Detect and respond to cyberattacks faster and more effectively.
- Manage and control digital infrastructure and cloud services costs.
- Improve operational efficiency of corporate IT.

Introducing the Evolution Platform

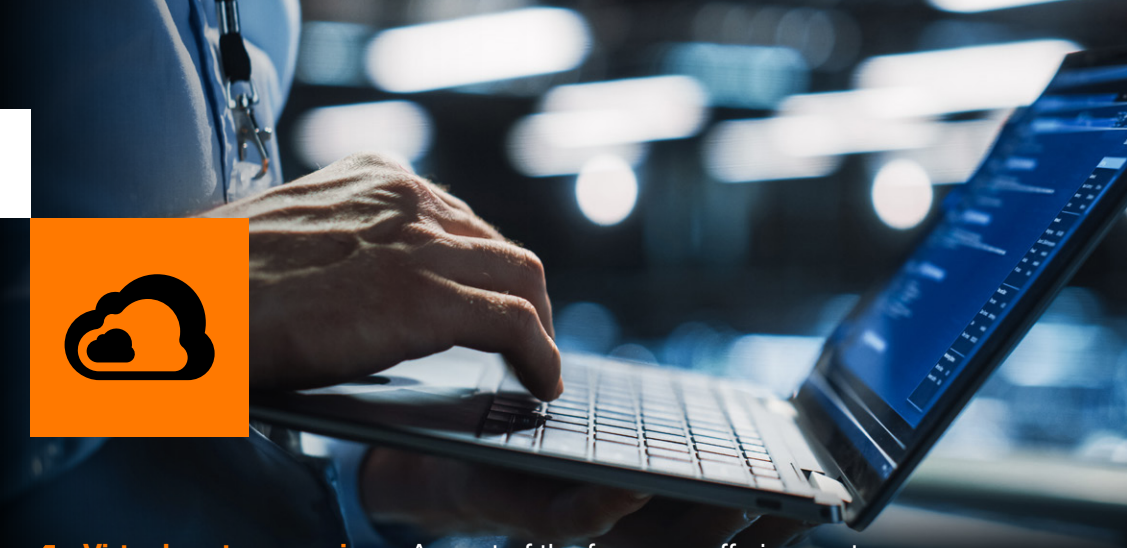
Evolution Platform delivers the solutions enterprises are looking for, in the same cloud-like experience they've grown used to when consuming technology services.

With these requirements in mind, Orange Business has developed Evolution Platform, a composable and adaptable network infrastructure to deliver a complete, end-to-end service. It combines the cloud-like experience of network-as-a-service with an open ecosystem that allows customers to access the solutions that fit their needs – all underpinned by performance-focused SLAs.

Evolution Platform's core focus is rapidly integrating partner technologies, including updates, new releases, and patches, all accessed through a native portal. As part of this, we deliver service integration combined with end-to-end availability and performance. And we harness a cloud-native experience to build, deploy, and operate services from the platform.

At the core of Evolution Platform are four composable components that can be combined into an as-a-service model, underpinned by end-to-end service level agreements:

1. **An international network backbone:** combining the capacity, resilience, and bandwidths of Orange's global networks, now merged to offer more points of presence (PoP), greater service performance, and improved quality across different network traffic.
2. **Next-generation PoPs:** Software-defined network points of presence (SDN PoP) combine the ability to support traffic from network to cloud providers by deploying virtualized services. SD-WAN, security, and cloud networking are all deployed on the network backbone to increase performance by reducing the access time between the user and the application.
3. **Global orchestration:** Supporting service delivery automation, global orchestration is at the heart of operating the network like a cloud.



4. **Virtual partner services:** As part of the focus on offering customers a broad choice of technology, virtual network functions (VNF), such as SD-WAN Gateway, Security Service Edge, and Session Border Controller, are available on Evolution Platform, with additional services from a variety of vendors available in the future.

How Evolution Platform supports digital transformation

Ultimately, Evolution Platform is about enabling your wider digital and cloud transformation. No matter where you are on your journey, we offer support to help you take the next step towards achieving your long-term strategic goals. Evolution Platform does this through:

- **Digital consulting:** develop a clear strategy aligning with infrastructure needs and business goals to secure better outcomes.
- **Multi-cloud optimization:** harness the potential of being a cloud-first organization by getting maximum value from data while controlling spending.
- **Cloud networking:** combine cloud and connectivity to increase productivity and agility while reducing costs.
- **Secure Access Service Edge (SASE):** empower your people to work together from anywhere with a secure distributed network designed to meet the needs of decentralized teams.

How we deliver Evolution Platform

Digital-first business models fundamentally reinvent how enterprises like yours operate and deliver value.

Evolution Platform combines our global cloud, connectivity, and cybersecurity capabilities to support every step of your transformation journey. We bring together the right tools, operating models, in-house experts, and world-class partners to match your business goals.

In doing so, we can plan, architect, implement, and operate every part of your platform so you can adapt, unlock business value, and thrive. Evolution Platform incorporates:

1. **Our telco heritage.** As a long-term networking solutions provider, we have built up a deep understanding of the different types of service providers globally. Our customers know that when looking for local support, they can turn to us to understand where they can access the required reliability, coverage and connectivity capabilities. In addition to drawing upon that knowledge, they can rely on our integration capabilities.

2. **Cloud competency.** Our experience working with major hyperscalers and cloud providers, coupled with our knowledge of provisioning cloud environments, puts us in a position to create a custom multicloud solution. This extends to the cloud edge, delivering performance and sustainability for your business. And through continuous optimization of your cloud infrastructure, we help you stay on top of costs.

3. **Support where you need it most.** You might be getting more and more of your services from hyperscalers and cloud providers, but you can't move everything into the cloud. Your edge devices also need support, and you may find that many of your providers have neither the scale nor inclination to provide that local, on-premises support. Thanks to our telco heritage and network of local ISPs, we can support you globally and locally. So whether it's understanding what's happened to your central network or recalibrating local routers in a factory, we can deliver the support you need where you need it most.

4. **Complete security.** Drawing on the expertise of Orange Cyberdefense, we embed security into everything we do. So, your network infrastructure is no longer the weak link in your defenses but protected by a leading, ever-evolving cybersecurity organization that understands the need to keep critical data and services safe while not restricting the user experience.

On top of this, we count among our employees:

- 700+ consultants to help you align your business and digital strategies
- 2,600 experts in migrating, optimizing, and managing your cloud
- 2,600 cybersecurity specialists to protect your organization
- 5,500 SD-WAN experts to help upgrade your network

Find out more

Visit https://www.orange-business.com/en/business-needs/scalable-responsive-secure-digital-infrastructure to find out more about our digital infrastructure services.

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