Definitive guide to **Software-Defined Perimeter**



Guide Contents

Today's Network Security Reality	3
The Problem with Traditional Network Security	5
Time for an Identity-Centric Approach	6
Technical Architecture	8
AppGate SDP	14
Case Study: Secure AWS Resources	20
Case Study: Dramatically Reduce the Attack Surface	21
Conclusion	
About AppGate	

THIS DEFINITIVE GUIDE TO SOFTWARE-DEFINED PERIMETER IS INTENDED FOR A CIO, HEAD OF IT OR NETWORK SECURITY PROFESSIONAL.

Today's Network Security Reality

IT has never been more diverse and distributed. Enterprise IT has entered a period of hybridization and diversification – IT is running in more locations, on more platforms and with more diversity of models than ever before.



IDC FutureScape: Worldwide Cloud 2020 Predictions, Oct 2019 - Doc # US44640719

Yesterday's security technologies have not kept pace with today's evolved security challenges. Twenty years ago, organizations had centralized IT with a physical perimeter.

Today, it is almost impossible to secure corporate infrastructure using technologies that have not fundamentally improved for more than two decades. Historically, organizations built hardened perimeters with firewalls, VPNs and NACs to protect their internal networks however, these antiquated tools are complex and expensive to operate.

Firewall rules are binary and static. They simply ask, "Should this IP have access to this network(Y/N)?" And that's not enough.



Today's IT showcases a disparity between users and network resources. Applications are in globally-distributed public clouds, running on third-party managed hosting platforms, collocated in data centers, and corporate data centers. Yet users are mobile and distributed, connecting to business systems from home offices and airport lounges on personal and corporate devices. And these users aren't just employees.

We live in a connected, hybrid world, where our systems and users need simple – and secure – methods of connecting and interacting with customers, partners and vendors.

The perimeter doesn't exist. It's gone. Perimeter security must begin elsewhere, namely with users.

Legacy, perimeterbased security models are ineffective against attacks. Security and risk pros must make security ubiquitous throughout the ecosystem.

- Forrester

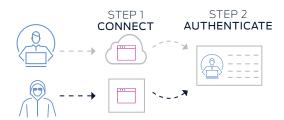
The Problem with Traditional **Network Security**

Traditional network security approaches are failing to adequately protect organizations today. Trust is presumed and misplaced. It's an outdated model predicated on obsolete isolation of users and networks.

The fundamental reason is that TCP/IP is based on implicit trust, with a "connect first, authenticate second" approach. In today's hyper-connected and highly adversarial threat landscape, this approach puts organizations at risk, and has enabled far too many successful breaches.

Traditional TCP/IP - based on "implicit trust"

"Connect First. Authenticate Second"



Not Identity Centric – Allows Anyone Access

The TCP/IP approach results in:

- Servers exposed to reconnaissance scans
- Unauthenticated users able to exploit servers
- · DDoS attack vulnerabilities
- Unauthorized users consuming unauthorized server resources
- Inherent over-entitlement
- · Broad lateral attack surface

TCP/IP IMPLICIT TRUST IS AKIN TO SOMEONE KNOCKING ON THE FRONT DOOR OF A HOUSE, LETTING THE PERSON IN THROUGH THE FRONT DOOR, AND ONLY AFTER THEY ARE INSIDE ASKING THE PERSON WHO THEY ARE AND WHAT THEY NEED.

Time for an Identity-Centric Approach

Today's IT reality requires flexible and adaptive security, one centered on a user's identity instead of the various networks that they consume. This approach is called a Software-Defined Perimeter (SDP).

A Software-Defined Perimeter dynamically creates one-to-one network connections between users and the data they access. It addresses the perimeterless enterprise.

A Software-Defined Perimeter is built on three core principles:

1. Identity-centric

It is designed around the user, addressing the perimeter-less enterprise. Users are authenticated BEFORE they are allowed to connect to a network.

2. Zero-Trust

It enforces the "Zero Trust" model so that anyone attempting to access a resource must authenticate first. All unauthorized resources are invisible. This applies the principle of least privilege to the network and completely reduces the attack surface.

By default, users are not allowed to connect to anything – this is the opposite of traditional corporate networks, where once a user is given an IP address, they have access to everything in the network. Instead, Zero Trust ensures that once proper access criteria are met, a dynamic one-to-one connection is generated from the user's machine to the specific resource needed. Everything else is completely invisible.

3. Cloud-centric

The Software-Defined Perimeter is built for the cloud, and like the cloud. It has no centralized network chokepoint. It's completely distributed and as scalable as the internet itself. A Software-Defined Perimeter is engineered to operate natively in cloud networks. It's not simply a modified perimeter-based device that's been placed into a virtual machine. Plus, it's completely compatible with existing corporate networks.



By 2021, 60% of enterprises will phase out network VPNs for digital business communications in favor of softwaredefined perimeters.

Gartner, It's Time to Isolate Your Services from the Internet Cesspool

"Authenticate-First, Connect Second"

The basic premises of a Software–Defined Perimeter is built on an "authenticate first, connect second" approach. Unlike a traditional network that connects various roles or groups to a network segment and then relies on application level permissions for authorization, a Software–Defined Perimeter creates individualized perimeters for each user, allowing for much more fine grained access control.

Software-Defined Perimeter based on "A Zero-Trust Approach"

"Authenticate First, Connect Second"



Identity-Centric - Only Authorized Users

Software-Defined Perimeters control access to network resources that are across hybrid environments – in a corporate datacenter or in the cloud – meaning that consistent access policies can be enforced.

SDP uses Single Packet Authorization (SPA) technology, a sophisticated version of port knocking, to enforce the "authenticate-first, connect second" approach. SPA cloaks infrastructure so that it is invisible to port scans. It ensures that only authorized users can connect to network resources. This reduces the attack surface and significantly improves security:

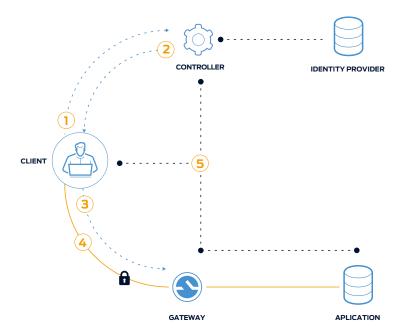
- All resources are invisible to potentially dangerous reconnaissance
- Only authenticated users can connect
- · DDoS attacks are ineffective
- · Unauthorized users cannot impact servers

USING THE FRONT DOOR EXAMPLE, THE SDP ZERO TRUST APPROACH TAKES THE PERSON KNOCKING ON THE FRONT DOOR, CONFIRMS WHO THE PERSON IS AND WHAT IT IS THAT THEY NEED, THEN OPENS THE DOOR TO LET THEM INSIDE OF THE HOUSE. ONCE INSIDE, THEY CAN ONLY ACCESS ROOMS THAT THEY NEED, AND NOTHING ELSE.

Technical Architecture

A Software-Defined Perimeter (SDP) architecture is made up of three main components:

- A Client runs on each user's device
- A Controller where users authenticate, policy is applied, and users are evaluated. The Controller issues tokens granting each user their individualized network entitlements
- A set of Gateways brokers access to protected resources



- 1. Using Single-Packet Authorization (SPA), client makes access request to controller. Client devices authenticate to the Controller, which evaluates credentials, and applies access policies (based on the person, environment and infrastructure).
- **2. Controller checks context, passes Live Entitlement to client.** The Controller returns a cryptographically signed token back to the Client, which contains the authorized set of network resources.
- **3.** Using SPA, client uploads Live Entitlement, which the gateway uses to discover applications matching the user's context. When the user attempts to access a resource for example by opening a web page on a protected server the network driver forwards the token to the appropriate cloaked Gateway, which then applies additional policies in real time for example, to control access based on network location, device attributes, or time of day. The Gateway may permit access, deny access, or require an additional action from the user, such as prompting for a one-time password.
- **4. Dynamic Segment of One network is built for this session.** Once granted, all access to the resource travels from the Client across a secure, encrypted network tunnel, and through the Gateway to the server. Access is logged through the LogServer, ensuring that there's a permanent, auditable record of user access.
- **5.** Continuously monitors for any context changes, adapts Segment of One accordingly.

SECURE CLOUD ACCESS

Securing access to public cloud workloads isn't easy. Static IP-based firewalls aren't working. They don't provide granular access control to cloud resources. Access control with static IP addresses and port mapping simply doesn't scale.

SDP provides consistent security across hybrid and multi-cloud environments. On-premise, colocation and public cloud instances can all have the same consistent identity-centric security policies and processes reducing complexity and ensuring adherence to all the security controls for the enterprise. SDP is much more advanced than using direct connect, which enables an entire internal IP range to access cloud networks and extends vulnerabilities that already exist.

SDP is better equipped to deal with an elastic environment by dynamically adjusting to new cloud server instances. The Cloud Security Alliance (CSA) says that "SDP is the right way for enterprises to meet their security goals in today's complex environments."



"Most organizations will have a complex and heterogeneous IT environment for the foreseeable future. Rather than looking at this as a problem to be eliminated, security teams need to embrace this richness —and its associated complexity — as a part of doing business."

Cloud Security Alliance (CSA), "Software defined perimeter for infrastructure as a service"

Why Select SDP as a Security Solution

Businesses are constantly evaluating their security vision and strategy, based on numerous factors. Companies should consider a Software-Defined Perimeter solution as part of their overall security strategy to address the following.

1. Zero Trust Security Model

Many enterprises are revising their corporate security strategy to reflect the Zero Trust model. A SDP solution implements the key concepts of Zero Trust in a single solution, which according to Forrester, there are three that are fundamental:

- Ensure all resources are accessed securely regardless of location
- Adopt a least privilege strategy and strictly enforce access control
- Inspect and log all traffic

A Software-Defined Perimeter solution addresses these concepts by securing access to all workloads, providing granular access based on identity-centric policies, and logging all access and traffic on protected networks.

2. Identity-Centric Security

The Software-Defined Perimeter security model is based on the individual user, instead of the more traditional IP addresses and devices. A SDP solution can be used at the foundation of shifting an enterprise's security strategy to an identity-centric model, replacing antiquated models that center primarily on device security or IP source destinations. It can also align processes - many of which are user/employee based with the company's security infrastructure. This can lead to increased business agility and growth without compromising the company's security.

3. Migration to the Cloud

For enterprises looking to migrate workloads to a cloud environment, a Software-Defined Perimeter solution provides a controlled path to migration. Enterprises are not forced to choose between an "all-or-nothing" approach, as Software-Defined Perimeters allow the organization to cherry pick which workloads to migrate and which ones to keep internal. After an evaluation period, moving high value or protected workloads becomes very easy and is seamless to the end user. All the while, the security administrators are able to maintain a single set of security policies – before, during and after the migration – ensuring those workloads maintain their security.

4. Remote Access & Third-Party

Virtual workers and third-party contractors need access to your network from anywhere on any device. Treating all connections the same leads to a security strategy that is highly vulnerable due to over-privileged users, making your network systems susceptible to data breaches. A Software-Defined Perimeter eliminates the dangers posed by over-privileged, remote and third-party access by enforcing identity-centric policies and permissions. SDP solutions can provide micro-segmentation capabilities for more granular controls based on the device they are using, their location, time of day, and other data, in order to determine whether to grant, challenge, or deny access.

5. Simplifying Security Operations

Today's ever-changing cloud environments require a security solution that is flexible to address constant change while maintaining a consistent level of security. A Software-Defined Perimeter solution can dynamically adjust as the enterprise environment changes, while maintaining constant, user-based security and access. SDP solutions also can automate many of the changes that are required with a changing environment without security administrator intervention. Simplifying security operations with a SDP solution can allow for the rapid changes that come with business transformation, without sacrificing security and compliance goals.

6. Augment Existing Security Solutions

One of the key capabilities with the Software-Defined Perimeter specification is the ability to integrate and enhance the existing processes and tools used by the enterprise for networking and security. Many solutions are all-or-nothing, often defined as "replace," requiring the enterprise to uproot existing installations in favor of the new solution. A SDP solution is different – the specification calls for the ability to integrate with most types of enterprise class security and networking APIs. It can also consume calls and logs from existing solutions to increase security processes and functions.

7. Compliance Considerations

A Software-Defined Perimeter solution will address many of the common controls enterprises are trying to address. Software-Defined Perimeters are ideal for reducing the scope of an audit by limiting the visibility of systems on networks outside of the protected network. Reducing the scope of an audit will often decrease the overall cost and complexity of the engagement as there are fewer systems to evaluate. An SDP also provides for a set of unified security policies and controls across the various on-premises and public environments. This decreases the management workload and decreases the audit variables that need to be tested and evaluated.

HISTORY OF A SOFTWARE-DEFINED PERIMETER

THE FOUNDATION OF A SOFTWARE-DEFINED PERIMETER ORIGINATED WITHIN THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE (DOD) WHEN SIMILAR NETWORK ARCHITECTURES WERE DEVISED BASED ON AUTHENTICATION AND AUTHORIZATION PRIOR TO ACCESSING CLASSIFIED NETWORKS. TODAY, SDP'S LEVERAGE THE SAME LOGICAL MODEL USED IN CLASSIFIED NETWORKS AND INCORPORATES IT INTO STANDARD WORKFLOWS.

"An SDP deployment can be a catalyst for changing how network security is accomplished across the entire enterprise — both on-premises and cloud".

- Cloud Security Alliance (CSA)

AppGate SDP

AppGate's Software-Defined Perimeter solution is AppGate SDP. It is the most comprehensive SDP solution providing an adaptive, identity-centric full network platform built for the hybrid enterprise. AppGate SDP is cloud agnostic and hybrid native, deeply integrates with business systems, resilient and massively scalable. Its segment of one is designed to reduce the attack surface and audit scope. The benefit is improved security that aligns access controls with your business and substantially reduces cost and complexity.



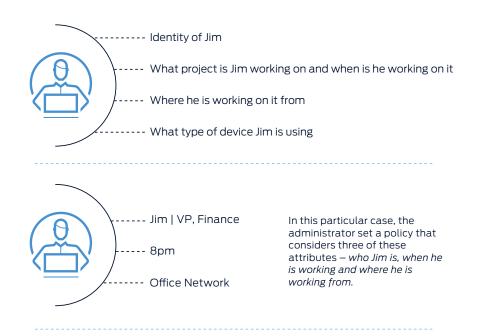
MEET JIM

SHOULD JIM HAVE ACCESS TO THE PRODUCTION SAP DATABASE SERVER?

LIVE ENTITLEMENTS

AppGate SDP replaces static access rules with Live Entitlements. Live Entitlements are dynamic, context-aware security attributes that confirm user identity while providing the flexibility necessary to adjust to changing variables, such as environmental/infrastructure changes, user location, time of day, and workload sensitivity. Live Entitlements maintain security without manual interactions, often needed when modifying traditional static firewall rules. In AppGate SDP, Live Entitlements automatically update based on monitoring changes to the user context (such as an opened service ticket) or changes associated with the dynamic nature of a public or hybrid cloud environment. Further, Live Entitlements are extensible and scriptable. As hybrid IT environments change, this feature helps to remove human error.

Live Entitlements evaluate whether Jim can access the production SAP server database based on a variety of criteria, such as:



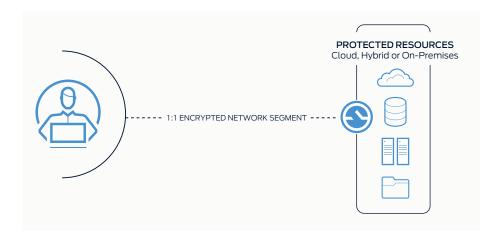


AppGate SDP determines what network resources Jim can access based on those attributes. AppGate SDP "learns" what resources exist in the network. It does this by importing a fixed list of IP addresses, using the auto-resolver or APIs.

AppGate SDP automatically determines what resources Jim can access based on those attributes. After Jim has been authenticated based on time, location and device, he gains access to the SAP database using dynamic Live Entitlements.

SEGMENT OF ONE

Unlike a traditional network – that connects various roles or groups to a network segment, and then relies on application level permissions for authorization – AppGate SDP creates individualized perimeters for each user, allowing for much more fine-grained access control and giving individual users access to only what they need to do their jobs. AppGate SDP provides this access control with a real-time understanding of policy.



AppGate SDP ensures that all endpoints attempting to access a given infrastructure are authenticated and authorized prior to being able to access any resources. Once the user initiates a session with an authorized resource, AppGate SDP creates an encrypted tunnel, allowing traffic to flow only from the user device to the protected resource. This creates a segment of one and makes the rest of the network completely invisible to the user – including the system itself. All resources, including AppGate SDP, are completely dark to all unauthorized users. Gateways and controllers are completely cloaked so they cannot be probed, scanned, or attacked. With this capability, a port scan of the system would show NO open ports, reducing the network attack surface by preventing network reconnaissance and limiting lateral movement inside the network.

Even while the session is open, Live Entitlements can detect changes in the posture of the user, his or her environment and infrastructure, including changes in the cloud, and automatically adjust access privileges in near real-time. AppGate SDP may then force a step-up authentication or terminate the session completely, based on this newly detected change in posture or context.

APPGATE SDP OVERCOMES TRADITIONAL NETWORK SECURITY CHALLENGES

AppGate SDP overcomes the problems many traditional network security solutions face, including firewalls, VPNs, and Network Access Control (NAC).

Firewalls are static and inflexible

Firewalls are configured and forgotten because once set up, IT administrators do not want to change the firewall as it usually involves a significant change ticket. They also look at port and addresses, not users. They're not designed to address specific users, which is why admins add exceptions or poke holes for access. AppGate SDP is identity-centric, adapting to the context of the user – where they are, what device they are on, etc. – so it overcomes the static and inflexible nature of firewalls.

VPNs extend vulnerabilities across hybrid environments

VPNs authenticate to everything, are static and unintelligent, and provide overentitled access. Companies often attempt to control access by having remote employees VPN into the office network, and then access hybrid resources. However, this approach effectively extends all the vulnerabilities across hybrid environments, allowing malicious users to move laterally on-premise or in the cloud, causing damage along the way.

In the past, credential theft of enterprise VPN access has led to data loss at many organizations. Since VPNs typically grant users broad access to an entire network, it is one of the weakest points of failure with respect to weak credential management.

In contrast, AppGate SDP does not allow broad network access and limits the access to only those hosts explicitly allowed. This limits the threat in the event of credential theft, making the security architecture much more resilient towards weak identity, credential and access management.

NAC solutions do not provide fine-grained access control over specific resources and don't extend to the cloud

NAC is a method of bolstering network security by restricting the availability of network resources to endpoint devices. But NAC was designed to work inside the perimeter – build a perimeter around the internal network, verify users, and once in the door users gain full access to the network or at least a large portion of it.

AppGate SDP offers an individualized, dynamically adjusted network segments for each user and user session – a segment of one to secure enterprise networks with fine-grained control and extend over hybrid environments.

APPGATE SDP ADDRESSES CYBER ATTACKS, COMPLIANCE AND MIGRATION TO CLOUD

SDP also overcomes challenges around specific types of cyber attacks, compliance and scope reduction.

Data breaches

AppGate SDP helps by reducing the attack surface of publicly exposed hosts by adding a layer of pre-authentication and pre-authorization. This ensures a "least privileged access" model of security for servers and networks and thereby reduces many attack vectors of data breaches.

Third party credential theft

OneLogin is an example where hackers obtained a set of AWS keys to gain access to AWS APIs. Hackers then created several instances for additional reconnaissance and gained access to databases containing user information, including user keys. AppGate SDP uses dynamic and contextual condition checking for multifactor authentication, and integrates with existing enterprise SIEM solutions to provide immediate security when changes occur – user location, time of day, device hygiene, etc. It therefore can prevent data breaches resulting from third party credential theft.

Malicious insiders

AppGate SDP will limit the ability of a malicious insider to cause damage. A properly configured SDP system will have access policies that limit users to only those resources required to perform their business function. Therefore, all other resources will be hidden.

Compliance

AppGate SDP offers auditable, uniform policy enforcement across hybrid systems and dramatically reduces audit-preparation time: no need to correlate IP addresses to users.

Scope reduction

Compliance costs continue to rise, and one of the simplest ways to reduce the cost of compliance is by reducing the number of systems and instances that are considered in the scope of an audit. AppGate SDP can dramatically reduce audit scope by removing entire networks – and the systems connected to them – from being seen by audit analysis tools. When those systems are removed from the scope of the audit, the level of effort significantly decreases, and generally the cost of the audit evaluation will decrease.

APPGATE: DEFINITIVE GUIDE TO SOFTWARE-DEFINED PERIMETER

DDoS attacks

DDoS attacks are one of the most common forms of cyber attack, with the number of global DDoS attacks increasing. AppGate SDP eliminates DDoS attacks by making network resources invisible, preventing bad actors from seeing anything to attack.

Micro-segmentation

AppGate SDP provides for micro-segmentation through assigning fine grained security policies to individualized users or groups that are authorized to gain access to the workload or protected resource. Micro-segmented networks are becoming a common regulatory compliance requirement, and implementing the network security design of AppGate SDP satisfies and exceeds most of these requirements.

Cloud migration and integration

AppGate SDP creates a controlled migration path for organizations migrating their protected workloads to a cloud environment. AppGate SDP applies consistent security policies across the organization's various environments – from onpremises to cloud-based workloads and infrastructure.

Case Studies

CASE STUDY: SECURE AWS RESOURCES

One financial services regulatory agency, that analyzes massive volumes of financial data across multiple markets to detect potential fraud, oversees up to 75 billion market transactions every day.

This organization, which performs its massive big data analysis on AWS, needed to ensure secure access and compliance to these resources. It required a solution that automated DevOps user access to an AWS deployment without breaking compliance, while reducing compliance data collection, report preparation, and isolating development, QA and production environments.

The organization built an automated framework with a user-facing portal — connected with their Identity Management system — which the DevOps team used to instantiate new AWS EC2 instances. From a security and compliance perspective, they required that the portal generate a unique SSH key for each instance. They also required that each user's network access be restricted to just those resources for which they had valid credentials — a challenge that traditional network security solutions were unable to meet.

AppGate SDP enabled the organization to adopt a Software-Defined Perimeter that delivered:

Identity-centric, highly granular access control

Using AppGate SDP, the organization gained an identity-centric, highly granular access control solution. Every user obtains a dynamically adjusted network perimeter that's individualized based on their specific requirements and entitlements. This ensures that the context of the user and the device is evaluated in real-time before AppGate SDP provides network access to the user-authenticated instances and services in the AWS environment.

Real-time access changes

With simple policies in place, network access automatically adapts in real-time to changing conditions on the client side as well as on the cloud infrastructure side. Every new instance that is added or removed is automatically traced and added or removed from the user's access entitlements, without needing to change policies. AppGate SDP was easily integrated with their portal, automatically adjusting each user's network access when new instances were created. This simplified and enhanced security, while ensuring development teams could be highly productive.

With AppGate SDP, their network system was automated, driven by simple rules, and logged for compliance and audit purposes.

Full audit trail for compliance

AppGate SDP also overcame the organization's compliance challenges. It applies policy enforcement to all instances when deployed, solving their SSH key management issue. Policies are automatically adjusted based on user attributes. AppGate SDP provides detailed logging of user access and activities to efficiently feed audit request data needs and reduces audit scope.

CASE STUDY: DRAMATICALLY REDUCE THE ATTACK SURFACE

AppGate SDP can have a dramatic and immediate effect on an organization's security posture.

A NYC based hedge fund had its IT environment spread across its own data center and a managed hosting provider. As many companies do, its network security was based on traditional, perimeter based technologies like firewalls and VPNs. The new CISO wanted an outside baseline assessment to determine the firm's vulnerabilities.

A security consultant was given a single VPN credential, allowing them to connect to the corporate network. From there they were able to do a simple port scan, and what was visible to them would be a cause for concern for any CISO. Based on scanning the network while connected as an everyday VPN user, the consultant was able to see an astounding 4,300 network services across their internal and Wi-Fi networks. They were also able to see network services — both theirs and other customers' — inside the hosting provider's network. This massive attack surface quickly became the number one priority for the CISO to correct. And while not as urgent, the CISO wanted to report on what users accessed what systems — a challenge with future audits.

To quickly address the security risk, the firm implemented AppGate SDP. AppGate SDP integrates into existing identity stores, and leverages simple, common logic policies allowing the hedge fund to fully deploy AppGate SDP in less than three weeks. Once implemented, the consultants ran the same port scans as an individual user – and were now only able to see a single network service.

AppGate SDP dynamically created a secure segment of one to reduce visibility inside the network. In this case, it was able to reduce the network attack surface from 4,300 to just one! Based on AppGate SDP's user centric approach and enforced logging capabilities, the firm was able to eliminate their audit shortcomings as well.

Conclusion

It's time to move away from traditional security solutions and look to a Software–Defined Perimeter. By implementing it throughout hybrid environments, organizations will have an identity-centric, Zero Trust hybrid cloud solution.

This definitive guide outlines the benefits of a Software-Defined Perimeter alongside details into the market leading solution, AppGate SDP, an identity-centric security solution built for today's hybrid enterprise. AppGate SDP protects critical data from internal and external threats, while significantly lowering costs.

About AppGate

AppGate brings together a set of differentiated cloud- and hybrid-ready security and analytics products and services. These include AppGate SDP, the industry's leading software defined perimeter solution, the Total Fraud Protection suite of risk-based authentication and digital threat protection capabilities. The company also possesses a range of innovative threat management and analytics offerings, including the Brainspace digital investigations platform, and the Immunity offense-oriented software and adversary simulation services. Today, these products secure more than 1,000 organizations in 40 countries.

Test-Drive AppGate SDP

Our hands-on, 20-minute guided experience allows you to test AppGate SDP's unique features and capabilities.

Talk With An Expert

We are here to help answer your questions, provide a custom demo or get you pricing.

