

# An Identity-First Strategy for IT Modernization

The modernization of IT has become an exercise in doing more with less. IT teams know they need to streamline the technology stack while mitigating security threats.

At the same time, empowering the workforce is one of the most critical functions of modern IT. Employees enjoy seamless digital experiences through their personal apps and now expect the same ease, access, and security from the organizations they work for.

Is there a way to support a best-of-breed ecosystem without complicating access, security, and user management? That's the ultimate question. And identity is the ultimate answer.

## Key elements of an identity-centric strategy

- Facilitate secure, flexible work for employees by extending access management across both cloud and on-prem applications and integrating tools that enable productivity.
- Facilitate efficient, scalable operations by consolidating your view of all users, groups, and devices in the organization, centralizing policy management, and automating redundant processes.
- Enhance security without compromising employee experience by providing intelligent access to resources that monitor the context of every login request, ushering in verified traffic and stepping up authentication for suspicious attempts.

## The top 3 challenges when modernizing IT



### 1. Maintaining agility while migrating legacy infrastructure

While moving to the cloud unlocks enormous opportunities, it's not always easy—or possible—to decommission existing on-prem resources. There's a balancing act to building a hybrid cloud environment that serves all the needs of the business and its employees, without creating needless complexity, siloed data stores, or new security vulnerabilities.



### 2. Facilitating employee productivity in a dynamic work environment

Flexible work environments are expected by today's talent. Providing a fully-equipped office space while supporting remote collaboration is all part of what we call dynamic work, but if it's not effectively managed, shadow IT—technologies used by staff without the approval of the IT team—can rapidly accumulate.



### 3. Reducing the attack surface without adding user friction

Security has never been more top-of-mind, yet many decision makers lack the resources to address the suite of complex challenges they face. They may maintain a perimeter-focused mindset, trusting a firewall to protect their organization's data—when in fact, users are the new perimeter. Security therefore revolves around identity-based access controls, and activating them in a way that maximizes their impact while minimizing user disruption.

## T-Mobile

When [T-Mobile](#), one of the top wireless services providers in the U.S., adopted the Okta Identity Cloud, the intention was to liberate employees.

Due to legacy identity systems and databases, sales representatives had to authenticate up to 70 times per day. But Okta took that figure down to 10 or less.

T-Mobile’s teams now use Okta to authenticate into everything—gaining seamless access to over 220 apps in one click. They’ve even started to eliminate passwords altogether.



[FedEx](#) ranks among the nation’s largest transportation and delivery services, and its team realized they could leverage identity to build out their Zero Trust framework and create an IT model that put the employee experience first.

The Okta Identity Cloud enabled them to integrate hundreds of SaaS, on-prem, and cloud native apps.

It took only 36 hours to move 7 siloed systems to Okta: Workday, Office 365, Webex, ServiceNow, Salesforce, Check Point VPN, and Zoom.

## How Okta is driving IT modernization

Identity helps IT leaders solve for today while building for tomorrow.



**Okta is neutral:** Enabling a truly best-of-breed technology ecosystem requires a platform that’s compatible with a broad range of vendors. Okta works with all your tech as an independent, neutral solution with over 7,000 integrations.



**Okta is customizable:** Need to have new functions or integrations added? Okta’s all-in-one solution is comprehensive and constantly evolving, enabling tailored solutions and experiences for your workforce and customers alike.



**Okta is easy to use:** We built Okta for the people who use it every day—developers, employees, partners, customers, and everyone in between. Whether you’re embedding security into apps or automating processes with identity orchestration, simplicity is Okta’s priority.



**Okta is reliable:** At a time when employees demand access to tools whenever and wherever, Okta has them covered. This platform promises 99.99% uptime—and it consistently delivers.

The workforce is increasingly dynamic, and employees expect the same delightful access experiences as customers, even while new security risks encroach on their valuable data. This is the moment to modernize IT, and to do it with identity.

### About Okta

Okta is the leading independent identity provider. The Okta Identity Cloud enables organizations to securely connect the right people to the right technologies at the right time. We provide simple and secure access to people and organizations everywhere, giving them the confidence to reach their full potential. To learn more, visit [okta.com](https://okta.com)