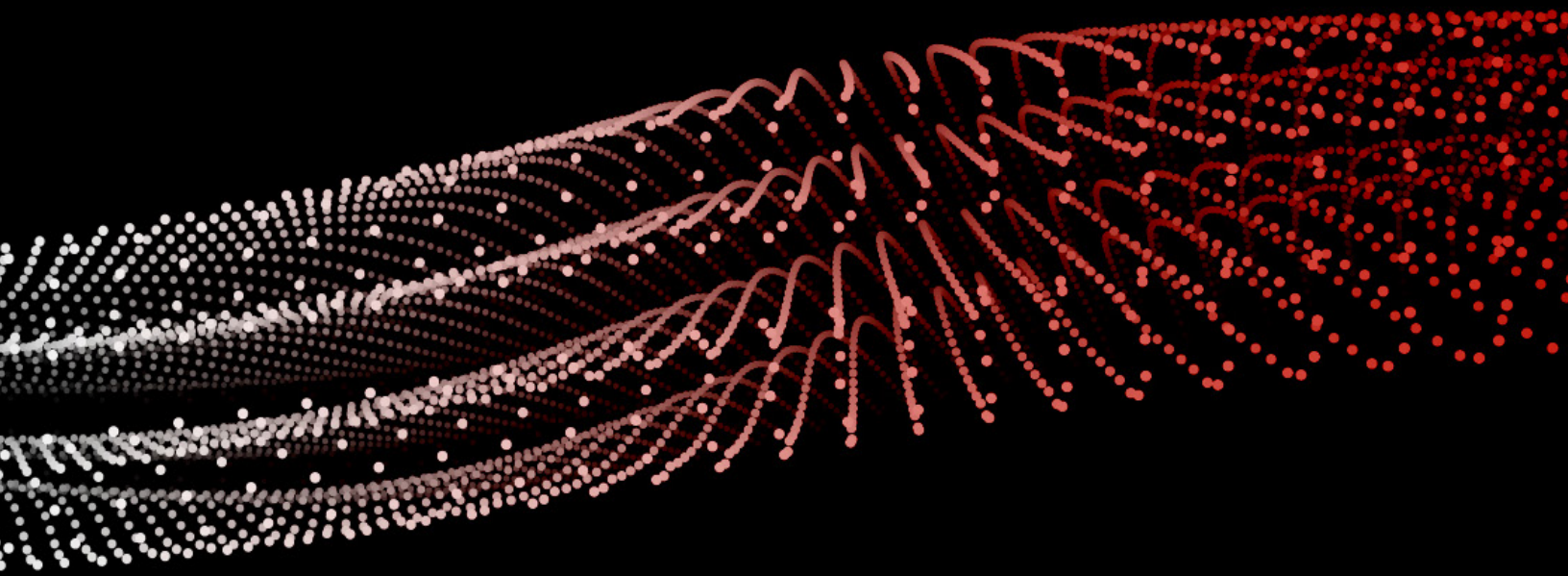


Getting your enterprise ready: A roadmap to digital empowerment



What makes a business ready for the future?

Is it an efficient operating model? Reliable connectivity? Today's most innovative organizations understand that readiness is not determined by any one thing at any one time. All teams need tools that allow them to innovate freely. They need sophisticated defenses that neutralize threats before they become serious. Sensors and software should not only collect and analyze data, but help forecast and operationalize decision-making. Customer service needs to be frictionless, memorable and secure – over and over again.

Readiness is fluid, and creating it is a project that far-sighted enterprises never finish. They do, however, start somewhere.



By one recent study, 68% of surveyed businesses said their digital transformation efforts have yielded positive ROI.¹ But while companies recognize the case for digital transformation, its value goes beyond a one-time expenditure. Treating digital transformation as a continuous journey helps leadership not only drive change within their enterprises, but across their entire industry.

70%

of global employees worked remotely at least one day a week

42.5%

of the global workforce is estimated to be mobile by 2022

Gartner forecasts that 14.2 billion connected things will be in use in 2019, and that the total will reach 25 billion by 2021.² With so many points of connection, and with 5G's unprecedented network speed and throughput, new business models will take flight, new customer experiences will emerge and new threats will proliferate alongside them. The task is to look at your organization and envision where you want to be in five or 10 years, and ensure you are laying the foundation to get there. Getting ready is not a "someday" task. It is today's.

Technology providers tend to forget that getting ready requires different tactics from different enterprises. And whereas many full-stack providers will offer similar solutions, few can make those pieces talk to one another – fewer still over America's most reliable network.³ And now with 5G Ultra Wideband, the most powerful 5G experience for America is rolling out.

Organizations of all sizes need to keep up with the breathtaking pace of change. Today, readiness touches every part of your enterprise, at every millisecond. Preparing for an always-on business environment is complicated, but with the right roadmap and partner, deep, meaningful digital transformation is possible, and can be a major competitive advantage. Organizations can feel they not only can keep up with, but outpace, the changes, challenges and competition to come.

In this paper you will learn...

- Why continuous digital transformation is critical for enterprise success
- How digital-savvy organizations approach getting ready
- Why digital transformation is a play in five acts
- Why your organization must prepare for 5G
- The next steps in your digital journey

¹ Constellation Research, 2018 Digital Transformation Study.

² Gartner Press Release, Gartner Identifies Top 10 Strategic IoT Technologies and Trends, November 7, 2018.

³ Based on RootMetrics® by IHS Markit RootScore® Reports: 1H 2019. Tested with best commercially available smartphones on four national mobile networks across all available network types. Experiences may vary. RootMetrics awards are not an endorsement of Verizon.



The rationale for Ready

The case for digital transformation emerges from profound shifts in corporate practice and society at large.

Intelligence on the move

The mobile digital workforce is exploding. In 2018, 70% of global employees worked remotely at least one day a week,⁴ and by 2023, it is estimated that 43.3% of the global workforce will be mobile.⁵ As more team members and contractors log on remotely, a growing percentage of CIOs' waking hours will be spent trying to keep sensitive, proprietary information secure.

Cloud migration

Additionally, enterprises are migrating from inefficient data centers to the cloud. By some estimates 84% of enterprises have a multi-cloud strategy.⁶ Such shifts indicate a growing level of comfort with offsite storage solutions, but with adoption comes risk.

Security

To bad actors, an explosion in the points of digital connection represents an explosion in opportunities. With distributed applications spreading across digital ecosystems, the surface area for cyber attacks is growing. In 2018 Verizon analyzed 41,686 security incidents, of which 2,013 were confirmed data breaches spanning 86 countries.⁷ Poorly configured servers practically invite bad actors inside.

⁴ IWG, Global Workspace Survey, 2018.

⁵ Strategy Analytics, Global Mobile Workforce Forecast Update 2017-2023, 2018.

⁶ RightScale, 2019 State of the Cloud Report, by Flexera.

⁷ Verizon, Global Workspace Survey, 2018.

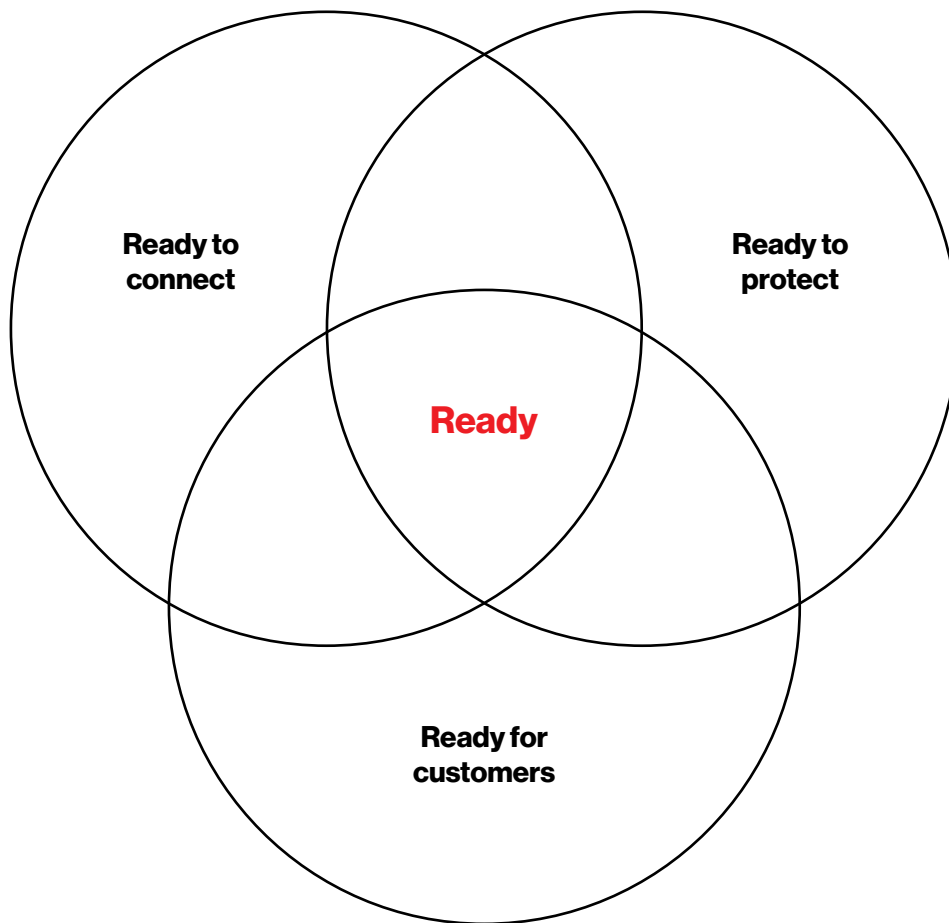
CX

Customers, too, are demanding more advanced experiences from the companies they support. By one study 56% of customers actively sought to buy from the most innovative companies, and a full 80% of customers said the experience a company provides is as important as its products and services.⁸

Fortunately, technologies are now widely available to innovate and develop new business models. Enterprises should be looking at digital solutions that allow them to grow and stretch to achieve things they never could before. Again, it's not whether these shifts are coming, but whether you're ready for them.

Approaching Ready

Organizations that successfully tackle the essential work of digital transformation view their enterprises through three lenses: Connection, Protection and Customer Experience.



⁸Salesforce, State of the Connected Customer, 2019.

Connect

Being ready to connect goes beyond Wi-Fi and WAN. It's a contextual reset around what it means to meet the world beyond your walls – both physical and virtual. Whether you're migrating your databases to the cloud or exploring how mobile edge computing can help power new, immersive customer experiences, being ready to connect is being ready to react.

Protect

Readiness to protect is top of mind across the C-suite. In a telling shift, CEOs increasingly hold direct budgetary oversight over cybersecurity spending, rather than CIOs.⁹ Enterprises have realized – at times painfully – that the reputational hazard of a data breach is far too great for security to be treated as just a line item on a budget. The breakneck pace of the digital economy requires organizations to think about securing their enterprises in bold new ways that extend far beyond the firewall.

Customers

Being ready for customers is perhaps the most challenging and exciting work of all. Offering a valuable service is table stakes. Taking that service to market with a strategy backed by sound, actionable intelligence – and with the ability to adjust both the strategy and even the offering in near-real time – will separate the innovators from the imitators. And when organizations harness the power of 5G, opportunities for CX differentiation will expand exponentially.

5G is more than the next generation of wireless connectivity. It's the seed of a revolution with the potential to transform both society and numerous industries in remarkable ways. From augmented and virtual reality to self-driving cars, remote telemedicine to a fully realized Internet of Things, the viability of these life-changing technologies will depend on the ultra-low latency and lightning-fast speeds of 5G. Its wide-scale adoption will upend old business models and drive previously unimaginable innovations. The doors that 5G will open for the enterprise and the customer are predicted to be so profound that this network technology has been called the key ingredient for the [Fourth Industrial Revolution](#).

The power to act

In anticipation of this massive digital shift, leadership must start questioning their enterprises through the lenses of Connection, Protection and Customer Experience. Only then will they be prepared to start asking some challenging but tantalizing questions of their organizations.

How might you rethink your supply chain if fleet telematics could help speed goods to market? How might your CX strategy evolve if you could serve up targeted promotions in mixed reality, quickly and efficiently? How might a well-deployed army of IoT sensors unlock new paths to fulfillment and procurement?

⁹ [Accenture](#), Gaining Ground on the Cyber Attacker: 2018 State of Cyber Resilience.

Anyone can consider these questions, but not everyone is prepared to act on them. That's why digital transformation must be treated as a strategic journey, with clearly defined steps, states and milestones. Being ready means having the right insights – and the right partner – to help you strengthen operations, deepen customer relationships and safeguard your position.

The five states of Ready



Ready to start



Ready to adapt



Ready to elevate



Ready to innovate



Ready to disrupt



Ready to start

The first step of digital transformation is to start – but where?

Migrating from copper wireline to fiber is just the first step for enterprises at this state. The second is migrating data to the cloud, where software-defined networking in a wide area network, or SD WAN, can bring together distant and disparate assets more efficiently. Since management is centralized, orchestration of an entire network is easier – from provisioning to maintenance to upgrades.

The rise of cloud and mobile technologies, however, is driving the demand for a better-performing WAN. As your organization races to deliver experiences to more people in more places on more devices, the need for bandwidth on demand is skyrocketing. Traditional WANs – typically built on aging protocols, rigid routes and racks of hardware-intensive appliances – are simply not flexible enough to keep up.

An SD WAN solution helps enterprises quickly connect their people to the data they need, when and where they need it – while keeping OPEX and CAPEX in check.

The takeaway is that legacy businesses must shift, quickly and carefully, to using cloud-based apps and services.

Product spotlight: Verizon Risk Report

Protecting your infrastructure – and, by extension, your customers' data – is a critical obligation. The Verizon Risk Report is a customized assessment tool that measures and benchmarks your business's security posture, no matter where you are on your digital transformation journey. Verizon tracks more than 61 billion incidents per year and assesses 47 unique risk vectors. Using quantified scoring algorithms, detailed dark web findings and proprietary data from a robust threat intelligence library, the Verizon Risk Report provides the insight your enterprise needs to develop a comprehensive, 360-degree plan, leading to smarter spending and greater peace of mind.



Ready to adapt

The second state of digital transformation involves being ready to adapt. This is the kind of behind-the-scenes work that may never be noticed by customers – and that is precisely the point. The changes at this stage help enterprises make their IT more agile and efficient, driving value at every level of the business.

With an SD WAN in place, your teams shouldn't be burdened with ongoing network maintenance. A suite of Managed Network Services can help your network adapt on the fly to changing service levels and bandwidth demands using software-defined policies. Layering on top a smart suite of WAN optimization services can help improve the performance of the most demanding apps, whether in-house, externally hosted or in the cloud.



Ready to elevate

The third state of digital transformation is being ready to elevate. Technology can radically enhance business interactions both internally and with end-users and customers. For enterprises that must consider supply chains and shipping logistics, a next-generation fleet telematics solution can drive better efficiency, increased productivity and improved safety for vehicles and drivers. Sophisticated telematics can help produce significant efficiencies at the pump and on the road.

Product spotlight:

Deception-as-a-service

As digital gateways proliferate, so, too, do points of vulnerability. Verizon believes that cyber resiliency must extend across the software-defined network – and the enterprise as a whole. To that end, Verizon's security experts have deployed a subterfuge tool that entices and lures bad actors into attacking a decoy. Armed with the attacker's IP, Verizon then can report the incident to the proper authorities. Through deception, Verizon protects the digital perimeter of its customers' enterprises – and the vital innovations being created within.



For retailers, manufacturers and suppliers, establishing a secure chain of custody is crucial to combatting wastage, limiting costly write-downs and delivering products to customers on time and in good condition. A truly intelligent supply chain is one that reduces blindspots at every plot point and accounts for every set of hands the inventory passes through along the way. Insight from IoT sensors can capture crucial data, powering decisions that drive more on-time deliveries and more efficient shipping schedules, and with 5G-powered computer vision, these processes will become even more precise and scalable.



Ready to innovate

The fourth state of digital transformation is about being ready to innovate. This goes beyond improving operations. To safeguard your market position, this step prescribes deploying value-added, innovative solutions that will drive your business forward.

As their enterprise evolves and as they move along their journey, leadership will be better equipped to determine what their customer values most, and orient their digital transformation around that north star.

Increasingly, category leadership will be determined not by how well an organization reacts to customers' needs, but how well it anticipates and addresses them before they're even expressed. Without the proper AI, data mapping and machine learning, a well-meaning team may create more problems than they solve.

An intelligent chatbot such as Virtual Agent uses natural language processing to better address inquiries and enable consistent, personalized conversations between brand and client. Similarly, tools like Knowledge Assist further use AI to empower contact center agents with accurate, relevant information in real time, while Social Engagement employs trend analysis software to harness the power of social and inform brand strategy. Ultimately, these and other Verizon CX solutions help you deliver an improved digital customer experience without sacrificing a critical human touch.



Ready to disrupt

The fifth and final state of digital transformation is being ready to disrupt. Enterprises at this stage will begin to adopt the latest technologies to design truly revolutionary experiences. For these organizations, feeling ready is a false summit. The objective at this state is to both defend *and* disrupt.

As 5G paves the way for an all-new era of business, new tools like augmented and virtual reality (AR/VR) can become more accessible to organizations of all sizes, changing the way they approach everything from forecasting

The MEC advantage

5G will enable seamless, fluid augmented and virtual reality (AR/VR) experiences. Devices will also run cooler, battery life will improve significantly and form factors are expected to shrink, meaning VR goggles can be sleeker and more comfortable to wear for longer periods of time. A key enabler of these potential breakthroughs will be mobile edge computing, or MEC. Edge computing involves performing complex functions closer to the user, and away from decentralized servers. Think of edge computing as a means of pulling the cloud closer. By shortening the distance that heavyweight data must travel, network latency can be greatly reduced. Ultimately, MEC will enable businesses to better manage expenditures and to rapidly deploy 5G-powered innovations that rely on low latency and near-real time execution.

to inventory management. In retail settings, an employee could scan the stockroom without leaving the sales floor, or a customer could call up advanced product information on the fly. Immersive experiences could help blur the lines of physical and digital retail by creating lifelike interactions for home shoppers, whether that's a personal stylist surveying a closet to make recommendations or a skilled expert assisting with the set-up of a smart appliance.

In other industries, AR and VR may streamline employee training, modernize record keeping and supercharge robotics applications from the manufacturing stage to shipping. Across the board, donning an AR headset could fundamentally change the way you view your operations.

Customer service will be poised to reach new levels, from uniquely tailored promotions and recommendations to virtual assistants that react to emotions and infer intent. And in a 5G-powered business environment, CX solutions will provide unique client insight, free up employees to engage in higher-touch tasks and empower the organization to evolve and keep pace with the shifting needs of customers like never before.

Starting your journey

Clearly, digital transformation doesn't happen in a vacuum, and enterprises who undertake it should not have to go it alone. The work demands the expertise and objectivity of a nimble partner – one who can make a quick, pragmatic assessment of the landscape, apply solutions and, critically, stay on board to see them through.

This work requires data-derived intelligence and deep knowledge of multiple business verticals. Powerful applications must simplify processes, not complicate them. Next-gen networking has to connect an enterprise's IoT solutions. The traditional security model must be updated to meet tomorrow's challenges. Enterprises need threat intelligence and industry research to be gathered and presented in a way that puts their organizations on proactive footing.

Ultimately, businesses need a partner that not only knows the network, but that is the network.

Why Verizon to empower your enterprise?

Verizon works relentlessly to understand customers' needs. We reach across divisions and silos, helping organizations at every step to apply tomorrow's technology solutions to today's most pressing challenges.

We live for this – teaming with organizations of all types and sizes to deliver transformative change, and make innovation an integral part of doing business. Working collaboratively with our clients and their teams across functions, we help to efficiently and securely integrate digital into clients' operations.

At Verizon, our goal is to deliver the promise of the digital world by enabling people, businesses and society to innovate and drive positive change. When our mission aligns with our client's mission, amazing things happen.

Enterprises choose to partner with Verizon because we possess the right technology and expertise to transform their practices, helping them move from legacy analog organizations to category-leading, digital disruptors.

People think of us as a phone company. Our customers think of us as a partner. Let us show you why.

Let's talk.

Enterprise sales

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