

Modernizing Technology Networks: Exiting the Colocation Era

Delivering a network operating model for secure, resilient connectivity across engineering sites, clouds, data centers, and partners, without colo hubs.

Executive Overview

Technology companies run on continuous change. Engineering teams spin up new environments daily. Platforms expand across regions. Partner ecosystems, customer integrations, and AI data pipelines increase east-west traffic and security complexity.

Many technology networks still depend on colocation hubs and hardware-bound designs that were built to aggregate connectivity and enforce controls. That model struggles with modern traffic patterns, multi-cloud sprawl, and the pace of DevOps change. Teams face colo renewals, hardware refresh cycles, and fragmented policy that slows releases and increases risk.

This solution brief outlines an alternative approach. Reduce or replace colocation hub dependence with **Network Infrastructure-as-a-Service (NlaaS)**, a cloud-delivered operating model that scales connectivity across clouds, sites, and partners while keeping segmentation and governance consistent.



The Technology Network Problem: Colo-Era Hubs Cannot Keep Up

Technology environments have distinct constraints: rapid delivery cadence, global user experience, strong tenant and environment isolation, and constant introduction of new services and partners. Colo-centric architectures introduce structural friction:

- ✓ **High fixed costs and refresh cycles:** cages, cross-connect fees, power and cooling, hardware lifecycle planning, and capacity expansion projects.
- ✓ **Slow change velocity:** new cloud regions, VPCs, and partner connections require multi-vendor coordination and long lead times.
- ✓ **Operational fragmentation:** separate tooling and per-environment configuration patterns create drift, higher change risk, and slower troubleshooting.
- ✓ **Inconsistent segmentation and policy enforcement:** device-by-device controls and overlay complexity create gaps as traffic shifts to cloud-to-cloud and partner-heavy flows.
- ✓ **AI and data pipelines are distributed:** training, inference, and analytics traffic increasingly moves cloud-to-cloud, on-prem-to-cloud, and region-to-region, making hub hairpinning a latency and cost tax.

What Modern Technology Networks Require

To support global platforms, AI adoption, and partner ecosystems, technology companies need an operating model that can deliver:



Any-to-any connectivity across engineering sites, data centers, and multiple clouds, with consistent performance across regions.



Consistent segmentation for production, staging, and development, and for multi-tenant or customer-isolated workloads across hybrid and multi-cloud environments.



Fast onboarding for partners, customer integrations, new regions, and acquisitions without redesigning the network each time.



Centralized policy and visibility to reduce change risk and operational toil, and to support repeatable delivery workflows.



Resilient multi-region architectures aligned to availability objectives and incident response practices.



Predictable consumption economics that align with growth, seasonal demand, and experimentation.

How Alkira Fits: Network Infrastructure for Technology Companies

The Alkira Platform delivers NlaaS as a cloud-delivered network fabric operated through a centralized control plane. Technology companies can use the platform to connect sites, data centers, clouds, and partners in a unified topology with consistent segmentation and governance. This shifts network operations away from hardware refresh cycles and manual change workflows toward on-demand connectivity, standardized policy, and centralized control.

Core capabilities



Cloud-delivered fabric with global reach

Deploy connectivity where you need it without standing up new colo hubs or re-architecting per region.



Connect sites, data centers, clouds, and partners in a unified topology

Support cloud-to-cloud and hybrid traffic flows without forcing traffic to hairpin through centralized hubs.



Central policy, segmentation, and governance

Define segmentation intent once and apply it consistently across environments to reduce drift and gaps.



Operational simplicity with a single control plane (console + API)

Standardize provisioning, change management, and visibility. Integrate with existing WAN and SD-WAN designs without a forklift replacement.



On-demand consumption model

Shift from fixed, hardware-tied capacity planning to scalable service consumption that aligns with real utilization and business priorities.

Outcomes that Matter for AI-Driven Technology Enterprises

Technology leaders evaluate networking by release velocity, availability, security posture, and the ability to scale globally without growing operational burden. It is no longer just bandwidth.

- ✓ **Accelerate site and service rollout**
Bring new cloud environments, regions, and services online faster by provisioning connectivity through software rather than physical hub expansion.
- ✓ **Improve segmentation consistency for tenant, environment, and data-sensitive flows**
Reduce policy drift across clouds and sites by centralizing segmentation and governance.
- ✓ **Reduce operational overhead and change risk**
Consolidate control, visibility, and configuration patterns to cut manual effort and reduce inconsistent configurations across environments.
- ✓ **Support AI and data-intensive workloads**
Enable high-volume east-west data movement across clouds and regions with connectivity patterns aligned to modern distributed compute and pipelines.
- ✓ **Scale partner and customer connectivity with stronger controls**
Onboard integrations, marketplaces, and third parties faster with standardized segmentation and least-privilege access patterns.

Representative Technology Use Cases

1. **Multi-cloud application delivery:** Connect production environments across clouds and regions with consistent routing, segmentation, and visibility.
2. **AI training and inference pipelines:** Move high-volume data between compute, storage, and services across regions and clouds without hub-induced latency.
3. **Tenant and environment isolation:** Standardize segmentation for customer workloads and for dev, staging, and prod environments across hybrid and multi-cloud footprints.
4. **Partner ecosystems and customer integrations:** Provide controlled access to specific APIs, services, and shared data zones without one-off VPN designs.
5. **M&A integration and rapid expansion:** Connect acquired teams, environments, and clouds faster using repeatable network and segmentation patterns.

Next Steps

If you are approaching colo renewals, hardware end-of-life, accelerating multi-cloud or AI initiatives, or scaling partner connectivity, Alkira can help you modernize the network operating model without inheriting more hubs, appliances, and fragmented operations.

Visit alkira.com to learn more about the Alkira Platform.

