

EXECUTIVE GUIDE

Connectivity Cloud for Banking:

A new model for connecting, protecting,
and accelerating banking



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Trends and challenges in banking today

The banking sector is transforming like never before. The drive for sustainability, and burgeoning new technologies, including AI, digitalisation and cloud computing, are reshaping the landscape, while mobile banking has become central to the customer experience.

To remain competitive in a market also impacted by geopolitical uncertainties and societal changes, such as the shift to hybrid working, your bank must innovate and remain agile. This is the key to adaptation, at pace – but it has to happen without increasing risk.

You need to cut complexity, too, bringing together distributed workforces, devices, clouds, systems, applications and networks. And it is essential to realise the value of your technology investments.

The answer is a single, unified banking ecosystem – simpler, faster, more flexible and secure.

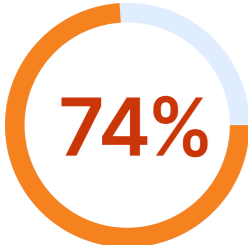
Trends and challenges in banking today



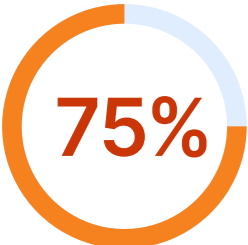
Higher costs

\$1.7M

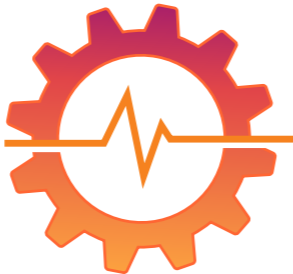
Organisations [lose](#) an average of \$1.7 million/year in productivity, due to IT team meetings with the business (12.5 hours/week) searching for causes/solutions to problems¹



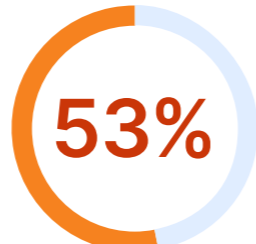
74% of CIOs [say](#) they are “fed up” with having to piece together data from multiple tools to assess the impact of IT investments²



75% of CIOs say their inability to identify “wasted SaaS spend” is a threat to their company’s success³



Increased risk



53% of banking sector executives identify cyberattack as posing the greatest risk to their organisation⁴



Analysts [predict](#) by 2025, 99% of cloud breaches will be traced back to preventable misconfigurations or end-user mistakes⁵



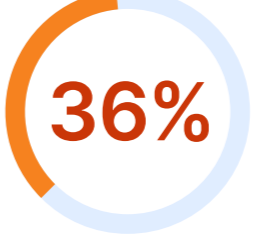
89% of CISOs/CSOs [say](#) the rapid deployment of digital services has generated unforeseen risks to securing data⁶



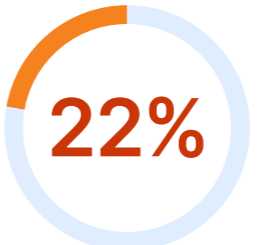
Less visibility



40% of organisations agree or strongly agree that they are losing control over their IT and security environments⁷



36% of CIOs and IT decision-makers say integrating siloed apps and data is their biggest digital transformation challenge⁵



22% of banking sector executives rate their organisation as falling behind in meeting its digital transformation initiatives and goals⁴

A new approach to solving modern IT, security, and development challenges

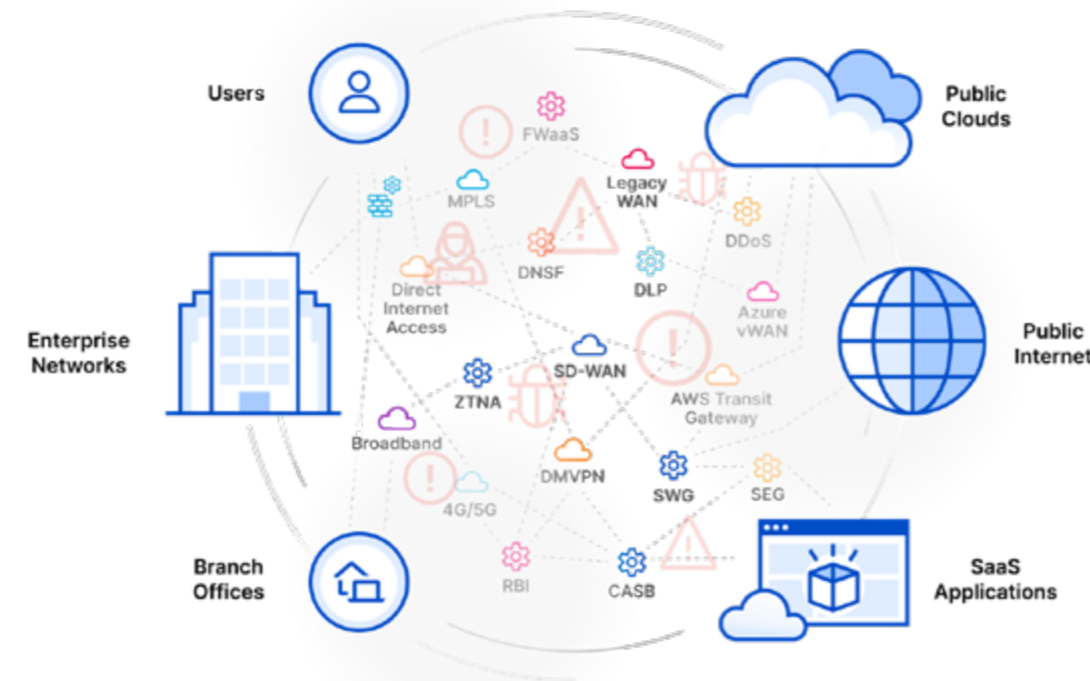
Until now, banks have tried to meet the demands of an 'everywhere world' through a complex combination of multiple clouds, point products, on-prem hardware, and vendors of all shapes and sizes.

To regain control, IT and security leaders need a **new cloud model**. One that is not yet another complex tool to integrate. One that delivers **unified visibility** and control across every domain they are responsible for.

Introducing: the connectivity cloud.

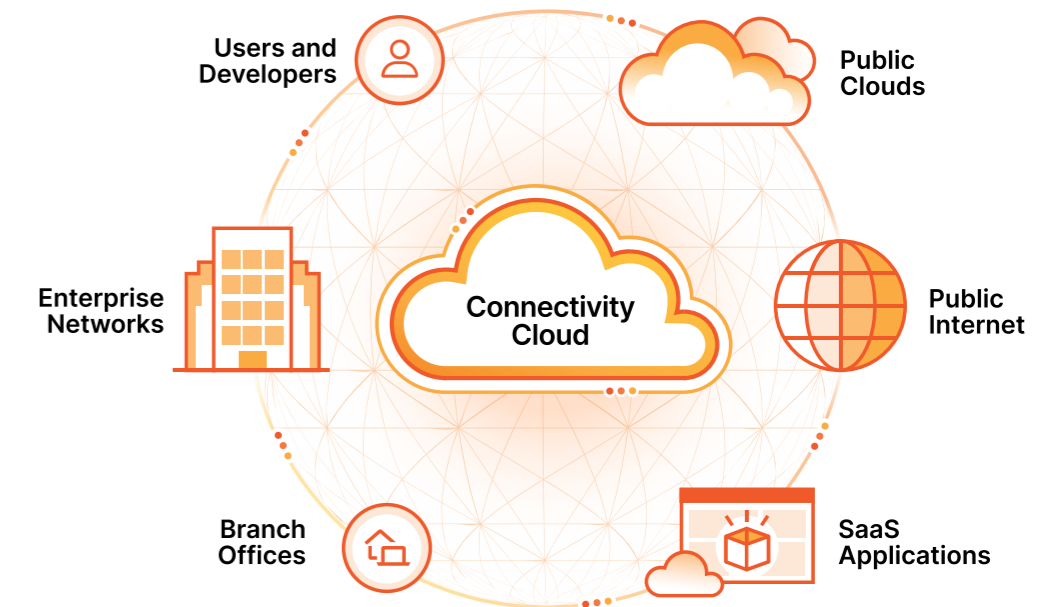
FROM

A connectivity cloud transforms fragmented and low-control, high-risk IT environments from this:



TO

To one that maintains consistent control, and offers a new way to connect, protect, and accelerate business:



Make your organisation more nimble

The current situation:

IT and security teams are now tasked to remain productive and compliant while managing an increasingly complex landscape. If not adequately addressed, these challenges can have a direct impact on the customer experience, productivity, and a bank's competitive advantage.

The complexity of IT and siloed solutions exposes banks to **new internal and external threats to their data, apps, networks, and infrastructure**. Data localisation and compliance challenges also increase.

Those that move faster, win. However, many banks have technical debt, convoluted infrastructure requirements, and complex, opaque systems that **hamper digital service use and delivery**.



With a connectivity cloud:

Connect



A connectivity cloud makes it possible to **secure and connect all corporate resources on a single platform — without spending time on complex integrations and workarounds**.

Simplify operations while connecting your current and future IT environment (employees, developers, customers, devices or systems, compute or storage resources, legacy and modern technology), end-to-end.

Protect



A connectivity cloud provides built-in security, privacy, compliance, and development functions, plus cross-functional intelligence to **stay ahead of the threat and regulatory landscape**.

And, it provides clearer visibility across all areas, so you can **more accurately assess, monitor, and mitigate risk from a single control plane**.

Accelerate



Radically change the way your people, technology, and networks connect across all domains. A connectivity cloud makes it **easier and faster for teams to work, build, and deliver innovative apps, everywhere**.

Key components of a connectivity cloud

A connectivity cloud's architectural components serve and connect employees, developers, customers, partners, multi-cloud environments, and all network types:

Composable and programmable architecture

- Limitless interoperability
- Customisable networking

Integration with all networks, enterprise, and Internet

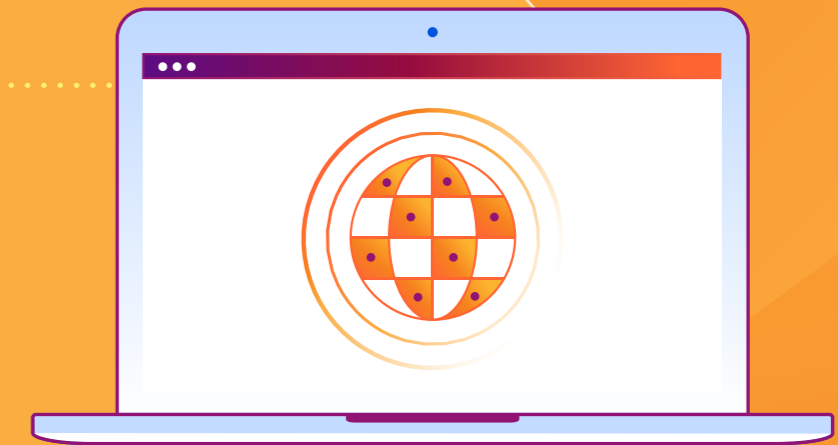
- Complete control of a request from source to destination
- Infinitely scalable network connectivity
- Services always available from every server

Platform intelligence

- Built-in security, performance, privacy, and compliance
- Cross-functional network intelligence and threat intelligence

Unified and simplified interface

- One unified management interface across an integrated product platform
- Consolidated logging
- Bridges different architectures while moving to fully Internet-native networking





Cloudflare's connectivity cloud



Composable, Programmable Architecture



Integration with All Networks



Platform Intelligence & Innovations



Simple, Unified Interface



Simple, Secure Access



Secure, Fast Apps & Infrastructure



Agile Developer Services

Inline Proxy • App & API Controls • Edge Dev Services • CDN-WAN-Network Integration • Multi-Cloud (SaaS/IaaS)
Compliance & Privacy • Risk Analytics • Data Protection • Threat Defense

Cloudflare Programmable Global Network



Artificial Intelligence/
Machine Learning



Threat, Network
Intelligence

Global Services & Support



Developing an integrated international open banking platform



A key player in global Financial Services, Investec offers international banking, investment and wealth management services to private, institutional and corporate clients. Its two principal markets are South Africa and the UK.

Known for its exceptional client service – enabling a ‘high tech, high touch’ experience – Investec puts a strong focus on tech innovation. As part of its commitment to open banking, it partnered with Cloudflare to develop a new solution.



The Challenge

Enhancing architecture by moving solutions to the network edge – securely

Expanding strategically into digital banking channels, Investec’s primary concern was securing and connecting its online services to an international user base. It needed to ensure clients’ peace of mind while looking for efficient ways to build out its digital strategy.



The Solution

Mitigating sophisticated cybercriminal threats to safeguard users’ financial data

With Cloudflare Zero Trust connecting and securing its users and data, Investec is able to anticipate and counter attacks, deflect ransomware attempts, phishing, zero-day vulnerability exploits, and more. Cloudflare L7 security tools further secure Investec websites and apps improved IT visibility and protection.



Key Results

- Secured user banking products and financial data against online attacks
- Improved CX by powering development of industry-first user-programmable tools
- Reduced development efforts and time-to-market for product innovation
- Simplified both long-term strategic development and security planning

▶ [Read the full case study here.](#)

Choose Cloudflare to connect, protect, and accelerate your bank

“We quickly recognised that we could reduce our operational complexity with Cloudflare. By putting everything in Cloudflare’s connectivity cloud, we streamlined service management and improved security by limiting the potential for human error.”

Kristian Petersen
SRE Team Lead, EQT

“Access provides us with Zero Trust user authentication, granular control over user access, and complete visibility into user activity. This is key to Zero Trust, which recognises that threats can be internal as well as external.”

Christian Trummer
CTO and Co-Founder, Bitpanda

“Cloudflare is built by developers for developers. It is a deeply technical and sophisticated system wrapped in a smooth experience, the way enterprise offerings ought to be.”

Dr. Kailash Nadh
Chief Technology Officer, Zerodha

“Cloudflare Workers has been a game-changer for LendingTree. We can run JavaScript asynchronously within or alongside a client session, manipulate data and make decisions – without impacting performance or availability. No other solution offers this functionality.”

John Turner
Application Security Lead, LendingTree

“The Cloudflare Zero Trust platform lets us give every employee least privilege access to the applications they need to do their job.”

Edward Fretwell
Engineering Director, Moneybox

Learn more about the world’s first connectivity cloud here.



1. Grabner, Andreas. "Study: Silos Are the Chief Impediment to IT and Business Value." The New Stack, 5 Feb 2021. <https://thenewstack.io/study-silos-are-chief-impediment-to-it-and-business-value/>
2. "New research shows CIOs need greater cross-team collaboration to drive digital transformation." Dynatrace, 19 January 2021. <https://www.dynatrace.com/news/press-release/new-research-shows-cios-need-greater-cross-team-collaboration-to-drive-digital-transformation/>
3. "Gartner Survey Reveals 47% of Digital Workers Struggle to Find the Information Needed to Effectively Perform their Jobs." Gartner.com, 10 May 2023. <https://www.gartner.com/en/newsroom/press-releases/2023-05-10-gartner-survey-reveals-47-percent-of-digital-workers-struggle-to-find-the-information-needed-to-effectively-perform-their-jobs>
4. "The Economist Impact, sponsored by SAS, an in-depth survey conducted on more than 500 banking sector executives in March 2022. <https://impact-stage.economist.com/impact/banking-in-2035-global-banking-survey-report>
5. "Gartner Unveils Top Eight Cybersecurity Predictions for 2023-2024." Gartner.com, 28 March 2023. <https://www.gartner.com/en/newsroom/press-releases/2023-03-28-gartner-unveils-top-8-cybersecurity-predictions-for-2023-2024>
6. "55% Digital-first economy introduces unforeseen risks for 89% of CISOs." Security Magazine, 20 June 2023. <https://www.securitymagazine.com/articles/99528-digital-first-economy-introduces-unforeseen-risks-for-89-of-cisos>
7. In September 2023, Cloudflare commissioned Forrester Consulting to evaluate the IT and security ecosystem. Forrester conducted an online survey with 449 IT decision makers across North America, Europe, APAC, and Latin America.



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