

Cloud Gateway XNet

What is it?



XNet is a separate production stack allowing our customers to securely connect themselves and third party suppliers to the Cloud Gateway infrastructure. Traffic is routed to and from customer sites or cloud service providers via XNet, and not the core Cloud Gateway stack. Access rules are set by the customer, but configured and managed by Cloud Gateway.

How does it work?

In traditional network environments, there is often a business need for Out of Band (OOB) management, allowing customers or third party providers access to certain sites for testing and updates. Whether it's small scale 'trickles' of data, or bulkier patch updates, an isolated path is necessary to prevent this traffic from flowing through a live production stack.

To achieve this, we provide a separate virtual stack connected by site-to-site VPN tunnels, or OpenVPN RAS. Management traffic is directed away from the core Cloud Gateway stack in a secure way, with full control and visibility.

Key benefits

-  **Reduced risk** - XNet is an OOB management stack that serves to protect a live client's production environment. By segregating management and third party traffic from the rest of the network, the risk of affecting larger component parts of live production is dramatically reduced.
-  **Division of traffic** - It is good practice to keep patches, regulatory updates and other management functions away from core processes. XNet avoids conflict by isolating these types of traffic to their own connection.
-  **Simple costing model** - XNet segregates traffic, but aggregates bandwidth usage as part of the monthly cost for the core Cloud Gateway PaaS. XNet itself is charged an inexpensive annual fee.
-  **Full control and visibility** - XNet provides customers with full control over who can access and manage site components. This granular level of visibility ensures there are no concerns about which external parties have accessed certain sites, applications or services.
-  **Security** - XNet includes a lightweight version of the SEC component found within the main Cloud Gateway stack. All traffic is filtered, monitored and logged.

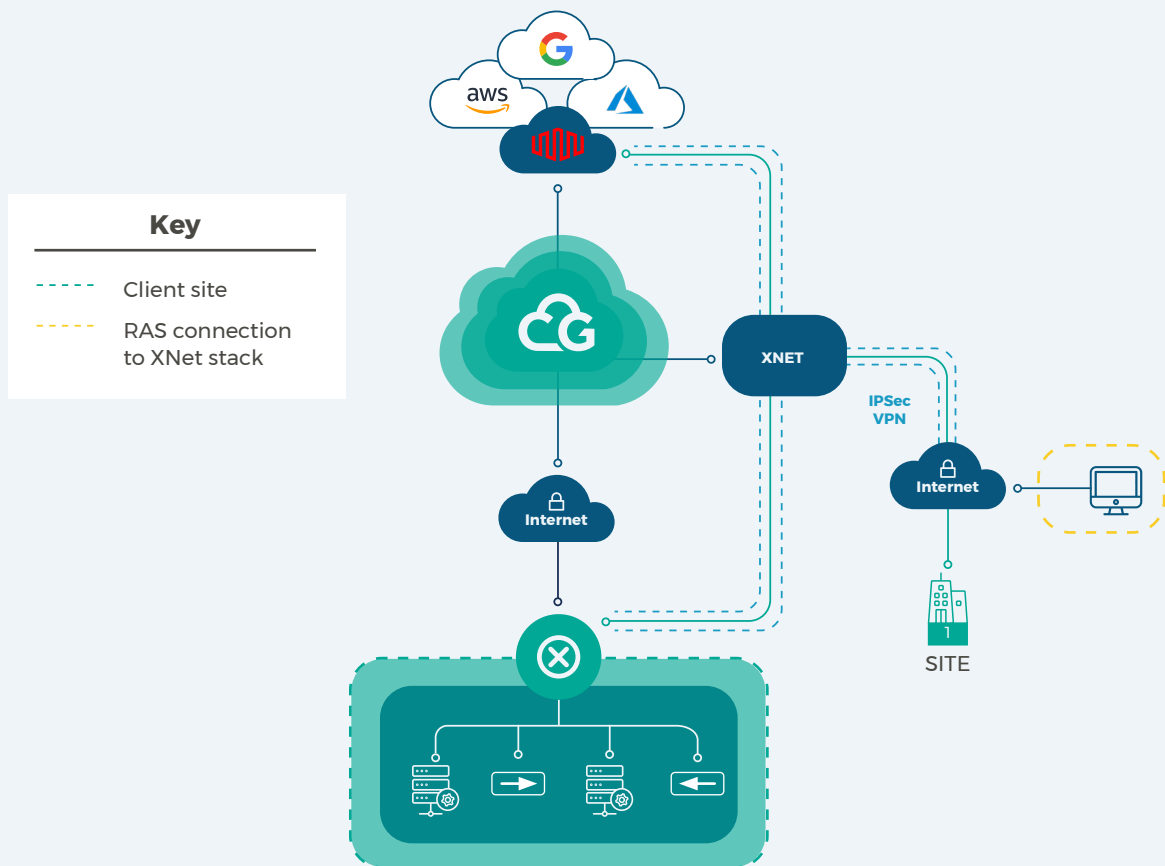
Onboarding

XNet is configured to supply exactly the type of connections required, depending on the clients' specific ecosystem. This could be a connection to a cloud-based service, an office site, or a specific component within a particular branch. The combination of connections and direction of traffic is fully configurable and adjustable. We require 5 working days to provision XNet from receipt of a valid purchase order.

Use case

There is often a requirement for Cloud Gateway customers to provide their own suppliers with access to certain sites, services or applications on their network, including those hosted in the cloud. These partners connect to the XNet stack using IPSec VPNs over the internet. Onward connectivity is only provided to those parts of the network for which the supplier has permission. Cloud Gateway is responsible for configuring the XNet stack and then managing onward connectivity once the credentials of the user have been checked and approved.

XNet provides Cloud Gateway customers with the flexibility and freedom to manage third party access in a granular fashion. Some suppliers will require access to multiple sites, applications or services across the network, while others may only need connectivity to a single component within a single environment. XNet affords customers the ability to set and manage these access rules centrally and with complete visibility.



About Cloud Gateway

Cloud Gateway provides unique cloud-native innovation for fully agnostic hybrid cloud and multicloud connectivity. Securely connect your estate with multiple cloud service providers, the PSN, the HSCN and the internet.

Organisations of any size can harness the power and flexibility of hybrid cloud and multicloud but with greater control, pace and visibility. Cloud Gateway secures all your internet and network traffic, with rapid deployment and government grade security. Built-in flexibility ensures continuous change is future-proofed and reduces operating costs. By centralising connectivity, organisations have a single, timely and accurate source of truth, ensuring regulatory compliance and protection from cyber threats.

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