VIAVI

2027

State of the Network Study

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Strategic Initiatives to Drive Security and Resilience Across the Modern Network

Research and analysis conducted in conjunction with:

Omdia by informa techtarget

VIAVI delivers industry-leading enterprise network performance management, security and pre-deployment test solutions. The Observer Platform provides end-to-end visibility and forensic evidence with shared investigation context to help teams troubleshoot faster, validate compliance, and support post-incident investigations across the live network. The CyberFlood Platform delivers a highly scalable, easy-to-use test solution that generates realistic application workloads and threat vectors to validate the performance, scalability and security effectiveness of network security controls, application delivery, and AI inference systems. These strategic solutions strengthen network reliability and help organizations optimize application delivery across complex digital environments.

Key Findings

Convergence: The Continued Rise of NetSecOps

Bringing NetOps and SecOps together is becoming increasingly popular for a range of reasons. See which improved operational and security outcomes are proving this a worthy effort.

Testing as a Strategic Advantage

Everyone has testing as a standard part of the process toolkit, but it turns out that when organizations test is perhaps as or more important than if they test. Learn how these choices can deliver better results against both network and security objectives.

82% have either implemented or are currently implementing a fully converged NetSecOps framework

Organizations with NetSecOps are **2.7x** more likely to report significant improvements in MTTD

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Omdia proudly presents the findings of the 2026/27 State of the Network study, commissioned by VIAVI Solutions. This study focuses on current drivers and best practices for network performance and security, seeking insights into priorities and outcomes. The research was conducted using surveys of 750 networking and security personnel spanning seven countries, including Brazil, Canada, France, Germany, Mexico, the United Kingdom, and the United States. Participants represented different levels within IT, from leadership to management, across a wide range of organization sizes and industry verticals.

This eBook summarizes key trends and findings across network security, performance and protection, NetSecOps convergence, structured testing, and the evolving technology landscape. As complex hybrid environments make network and security monitoring increasingly difficult, organizations are seeking more effective ways to improve performance without compromising protection. The findings show that aligning NetOps and SecOps can strengthen collaboration, increase operational consistency, and help teams manage competing priorities. Proactive testing supports better outcomes by accelerating threat detection and reducing operational risks. Finally, managing the tools stack continues to present challenges; however, opportunities exist to leverage convergence strategies to improve consistency, exemplified by the discovered values of bringing packet-based analytics together with forensic insights.

Finding the Balance

Security vs. performance. Protecting the network and the users and applications it connects is paramount, but there is a price. Adequate application performance and user experience must also be maintained. Find out how organizations are coping.

The Tool Sprawl Challenge and Opportunity

Almost everyone has too many tools on hand. Convergence provides an opportunity to re-assess and simplify. Discover how one technique, packet data analysis, is showing outsized values versus other approaches.

52% use testing for pre-deployment validation of new technologies such as PQC, AI security, SASE, and cloud networking

Organizations testing weekly see **2.3x** improvement in MTTD rates

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