

5 Steps to Modernize Your Network: A Guide for U.S. Federal Agencies



Your IT infrastructure can be either a roadblock or a stepping stone to success.

Legacy IT systems hold you back. They're costly, risky, slow, inefficient, and often leave you stuck at slower speeds.

When you modernize, you'll save money, enhance security, improve productivity, adapt to evolving workloads, foster innovation, scale without worry, decrease downtime, and comply with industry regulations.

Here are the five steps to take as you embark on your IT modernization journey.



1. Consolidate data centers

Running multiple data centers can be overly complex, costly, inefficient, and insecure. Plan, assess, and understand how your data is stored, transferred, accessed, and protected. **Data center virtualization and migration to the Cloud are part of this critical first step.**



2. Understand your IT investments

Track and manage your IT spending on assets, systems, and applications. Which tools are essential and which are unnecessarily costly? **Finding out what you spend money on now will enable you to better plan for the future.**



3. Align your IT projects with your strategy and goals

This is where IT leadership comes in to **enhance governance, establish review boards, and improve oversight** – all while aligning IT projects and strategy by using the network as an asset.



4. Modernize legacy IT systems and adopt agile practices

Don't let legacy IT systems hold you back. **Adopt the right agile practices to give yourself the tools to pivot in the face of disruption.** Explore network automation, just-in-time implementation, and visibility as well as "as a service" tools in software, firewall, Internet, and cloud connectivity.



5. Implement continuous cyber monitoring and security tools

Keep your network protected from top to bottom with tools like DDoS protection, SASE, and Zero Trust access options. Protecting your network also means **building a strong foundation with ample network diversity to ensure your network stays up** – even in the face of disruption.



Check out our guide to modernization for U.S. federal agencies for more information, and to learn how Zayo can help, every step of the way.

zayo[®]