

Softcat

SECURE YOUR NETWORK



With digital transformation also comes an evolving threat landscape and increasing complexity of network security.

As technology continues redefining network boundaries, safeguarding the network edge, maintaining secure traffic in your internal network and instilling best practice management of your cloud networking have become crucial to ensure robust and resilient networks in an interconnected world.

NETWORK EDGE

Wireless networks, whether in the home, office, or on the move, represent a significant attack surface due to their pervasive nature. It's crucial to consider not only who is on these networks but also those associated with them, including guest networks, as they can potentially introduce vulnerabilities.

The network edge, where local networks and devices interface with the internet, is a vital entry point for communication. Securing this boundary is of utmost importance, as it's where data protection begins to safeguard sensitive information.

To do this, we can help you in these key areas:



AUTHENTICATION

Our approach to authentication is to always verify the identity of users and devices accessing your network to guard against potential threats, including malicious actors and unauthorised users lacking the required knowledge to prevent unintentional data breaches.

How can we help?

Softcat can architect topologies from the ground up, building in security intrinsically, following through from High-Level Design, all the way to deployment and steady state.

We understand that sometimes networks require security enhancements so our security team can take you from a concept through to realising your technology roadmap, whether that be zero-trust, network access control, or continuous asset discovery within your IT or OT environment.



SEGMENTATION

Segmentation is vital for network edge security, as employing software-defined boundaries can reduce the blast radius and control access. This includes macro-level segmentation using firewalls and micro-segmentation for fine-grained control over access and containment.

Whether it's for compliance reasons or design aspirations, we encourage segmentation as best practice for all of our customers.

The challenge is, how do you segment LAN, WAN, WLAN, directory services, authentication, on-premise and cloud infrastructure?

How can we help?

Softcat endeavours to help you with this challenge with not only technology expertise covering various methods of segmentation, including workload level micro-segmentation and network micro-segmentation, but verticalised approaches across different industries too. All in the name of limiting blast radius and helping achieve progress towards a zero-trust architecture.

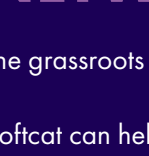


DETECT, MONITOR AND RESPOND

Effective Network Detection and Response (NDR) capabilities are crucial for securing your network edge. Organisations need to be ready to quickly identify anomalies and vulnerabilities in network configurations to ensure a rapid response and utilise automated threat response where possible to enable swift action when threats are detected.

How can we help?

We can help you leverage Software Defined Network (SDN) technologies such as Security Information and Event Management (SIEM), Extended Detection and Response (XDR) and NDR to ensure a proactive and adaptive defence strategy.



NETWORK SERVICES

The grassroots of any network is the protocols you leverage across it.

Softcat can help with designing and implementing new approaches around Secure Services Edge (SSE) to enable network and security teams to collaborate in transforming infrastructure, and enabling hybrid work.

Reducing your attack surface within critical services such as Domain Name System (DNS) and SaaS applications remains a priority. Softcat can ensure your organisation selects the right technology for the long term.

How can we help?

With our assessment and architecture services, Softcat can offer independent, customer-specific advice on what is the right fit around SSE and securing your critical network services.

Not only that, we can implement and integrate these into your security operations as well. With security scaling and changing rapidly, allow us to ensure you are taking advantage of the technology you already have, whilst building a platform to assure long-term strategy.

RELATED SOFTCAT SERVICES

- **Managed Firewall Service** - Offers continuous monitoring, updates, and technical support for your devices, to reduce cyber risk by managing and securing your network.
- **Wired Network Assessment** - Helping build a point-in-time picture of your wired network to troubleshoot issues and recommend improvements.
- **Wireless Network Assessment** - Provides wireless/Wi-Fi LAN site surveys to identify RF and performance issues and improve network understanding.

CONNECTIVITY

It is just as important to look at the internal aspects of your network when trying to ensure it is secure.

A network that facilitates connectivity has continuous traffic flowing through it that needs to be able to get to the right places. This also means that you must be able to detect abnormal or suspicious network traffic, and if there is a threat, respond promptly to mitigate it.

The important areas of connectivity to consider when securing your network are:

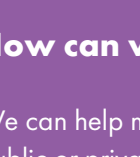


VISIBILITY

Having visibility of your network traffic flows is essential to see that the right data is getting to the right destination at the right time and that there is no unauthorised access occurring or any potential threats.

How can we help?

Combining our knowledge and expertise in network and security operations, we can provide services to ensure the correct selection of technology like NDR, Managed Detection & Response (MDR), and Observability solutions that not only work across the network, but integrate and operate seamlessly within your security operation as well as manage that within our Managed SIEM and MDR services.



FIREWALLS

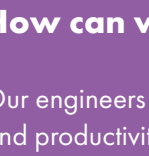
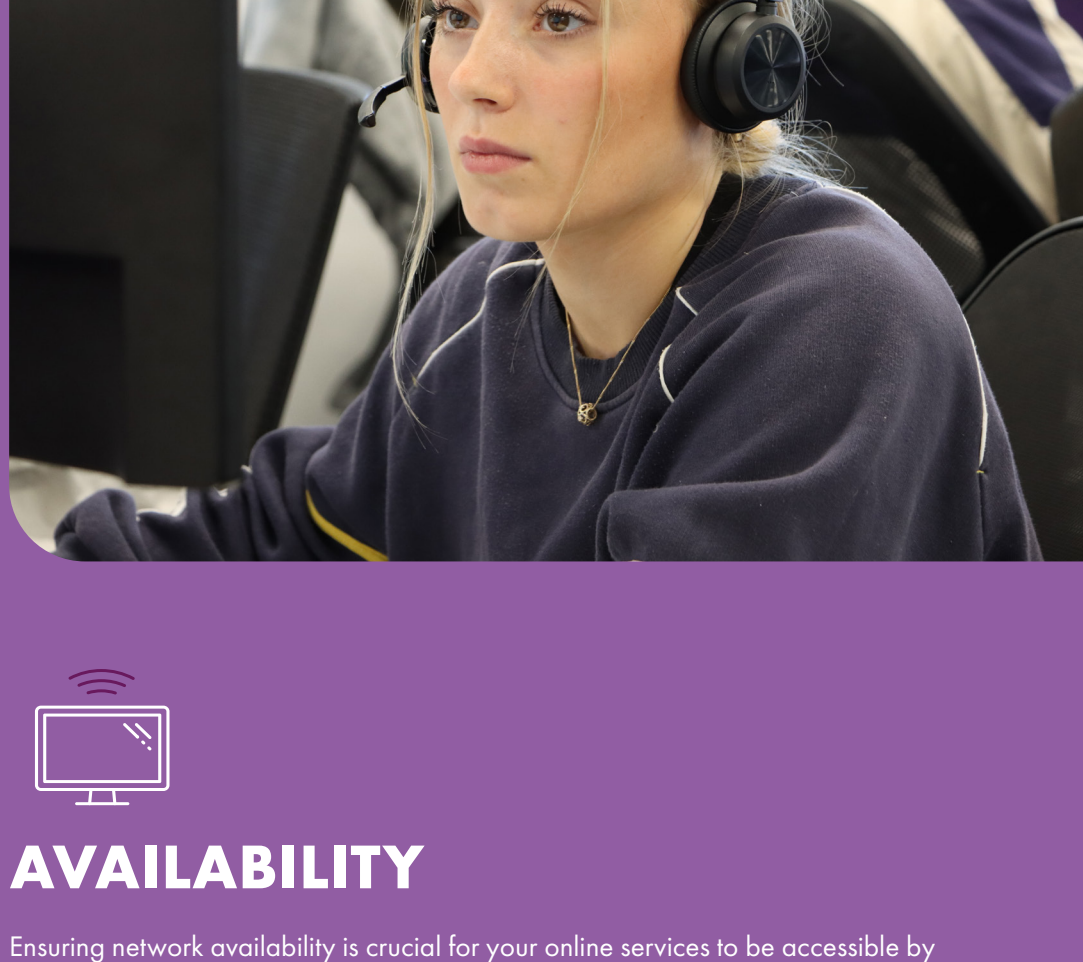
Firewalls are a vital tool for network security, as they filter incoming and outgoing traffic, preventing harmful data from accessing the network and maintaining your data integrity.

How can we help?

We can help manage your firewall infrastructure, whether on-premise or in a public or private cloud, so that you can access real-time insights into how they are performing and have a team on standby to step in as soon as a problem is reported to ensure minimal disruption.

RELATED SOFTCAT SERVICES

- **Managed Firewall** - Minimises downtime by providing continuous monitoring, updates, and technical support for your devices, and efficiently resolve issues.
- **Managed SIEM** - Collects, normalises, and contextualises millions of logs from diverse IT, cloud, and SaaS sources through a Managed SIEM platform.
- **Managed Sentinel** - Proactively defends against threats, collecting data from various sources and analysing it using machine learning techniques to establish and maintain a secure and compliant environment.
- **Managed Detection and Response Service** - Enhances threat visibility by deploying a cross-platform agent to proactively monitor endpoints, enabling swift intervention and remediation to bolster cyber resilience.
- **WAN Solutions and Network Edge Security** - To securely connect your team externally through the public internet, the cloud, another site, or a SIP exchange.



AVAILABILITY

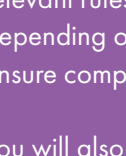
Ensuring network availability is crucial for your online services to be accessible by customers, which includes protecting against Distributed Denial of Service (DDoS) attacks that flood your network with traffic and make it unavailable to users.

How can we help?

Our engineers can work with you to provide an understanding of the availability and productivity of your networking estate and assist in troubleshooting and solving any issues.

Availability of network infrastructure has never been under more imminent threat from cyber incidents and Softcat can help provide more assurance that you have the right mechanisms in place to protect your internet-facing assets through Content Delivery Network (CDN), DDoS mitigation, Botnet and API.

We can build hybrid solutions with cloud-native tools, or plan and implement solutions around leading technology providers in this space.



GOVERNANCE

When looking at the security of your network traffic, it's essential to consider the relevant rules and industry regulations. The required level of availability varies depending on your specific sector, so regular monitoring is essential to ensure compliance.

You will also likely need to separate specific data on your network, providing extra protection for sensitive information to ensure your customers trust that their data is protected and avoid legal repercussions.

How can we help?

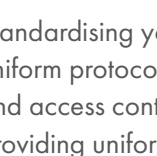
Softcat works with major entities within Healthcare, Central Government, Critical National Infrastructure, and Finance, who all have typically highly regulated network environments with regard to segregation, data security, and classified information.

Employing Governance, Risk & Compliance as a function in all advisory and architecture work allows us to conform to and ensure regulatory requirements as a priority, not to mention having the expertise to advise you on regulations such as DSPT, GovAssure & CAF, DORA, Joint Service Publications and many more.

CLOUD NETWORKING

It's essential to have a standardised, scalable and adaptable approach when deploying your cloud networks.

This helps secure your network, as maintaining consistency and following best practices reduces the likelihood of security issues and ensures you are prepared for any challenges that present themselves.



STANDARDISE

Standardising your cloud networking approach is key for network security. Using uniform protocols ensures consistent security policy deployment, monitoring, and access control. This simplifies your security management across networks, providing uniform visibility and control while enabling consistent security process implementation.

How do we help?

We can review your network, and Softcat can work with both your DevOps and Security teams to integrate with your IaC, CaC and Cloud Edge Networking technologies, ensuring no bottlenecks in your cloud adoption.

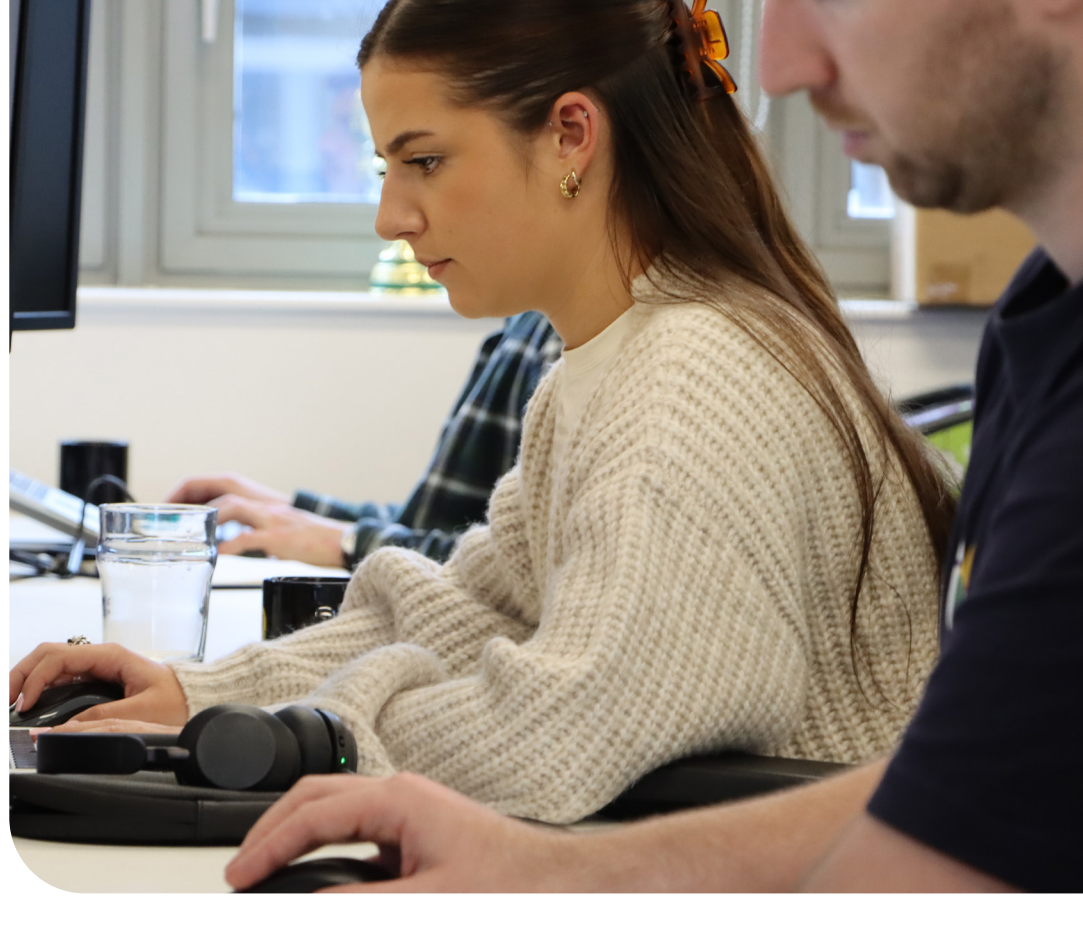


SCALE

Cloud deployments can dynamically expand with automation and low-code deployments, which means that security controls need to be able to expand to align with this scalability and be adopted by DevOps teams to ensure protection and monitoring can keep up with the network growth.

How do we help?

Scaling cloud network topologies without making them flat and compromising segmentation is a challenge, but Softcat can work with both your DevOps and Security teams to integrate with your IaC, CaC and Cloud Edge Networking technologies, ensuring no bottlenecks in your cloud adoption.



ADAPT

Your cloud networking security should be adaptable to evolving traffic types like APIs and safeguard interconnected platforms such as SaaS, PaaS, and IaaS. Additionally, monitoring complex multi-cloud and hybrid cloud topologies is essential to ensure comprehensive network security in dynamic cloud environments.

How do we help?

A common challenge we hear from customers is how to move at the same pace as the business in adopting new ways of delivering applications.

Softcat can assist you in evaluating, architecting, and implementing innovative ways of maintaining visibility across SaaS, including permissions, entitlements and threats. This provides assurance on cloud workloads, storage accounts and resources and ensures compliance within your on-premise storage networks for anti-malware and integrating your internet edge services such as WAF within a broader scope into API security and visibility.

WHY SOFTCAT?



Some of the reasons our customers choose to partner with Softcat in their cyber security efforts include:

Expertise – With decades of combined experience in engineering, technical, security operations, executive leadership, governance, and development security, our team comes from diverse backgrounds, including the armed forces, healthcare, central government, financial services, managed security service providers, manufacturing, and more. We deeply understand customer needs and partner objectives at a highly detailed level.

Customer experience – We take a customer-led approach. We understand that your security needs are unique, and we're here to listen and provide customised support to ensure you get the best protection possible.

Empathy – With a diverse team boasting extensive backgrounds and expertise in various aspects of cyber security, including breach management, auditing, recovery, and more, we approach your cyber concerns with empathy and a strong commitment deeply ingrained in our company culture.

Actionable data and insights – Softcat dedicates various business functions to collaborating with vendors and partners, optimising our market approach. The combination of our broad array of customers, our partnerships among major security vendors worldwide and our enduring customer relationships means we excel in providing unparalleled product analysis and market trend insights.

PARTNER ECOSYSTEM

Within our ecosystem of trusted vendors and partners, we've fostered strong relationships. These connections empower us to access the most fitting, best-in-class expertise and solutions to safeguard your organisation.



TAKE THE NEXT STEP

If you would like to find out more about how Softcat can support you on your cyber security journey, please contact your Softcat Account Manager today.