

MACCS Replaces MPLS with Zscaler Zero Trust

Mauritius Cargo Community Service provides services to the Mauritian logistics community. A facilitator for many stakeholders such as Customs, the port authority, the port terminal, the container freight station, freight forwarders, importers, exporters, customs brokers and shipping agents.

Unlike their European and American counterparts, Mauritian companies are comparably conservative when considering Cloud adoption opting instead to host applications onsite. With no hyperscale's in Mauritius and questions around application performance and latency, the main issue of trust relates to security and whether Cloud offers comparable levels of data protection.

However after extensive research into platform and data security, MACCS chose to move key business applications into Cloud on two continents, taking advantage of the scalability and inherent resilience offered by Microsoft Azure and AWS.

“Cloud was the right choice, but drove up network cost and routing complexity” Sehzaad - IT

“Adopting Cloud application delivery has been positive for MACCS as we are able to build and scale applications faster than in the past. However, moving to Cloud has driven up network cost and routing complexity” says Sehzaad , MACCS Network and Security Engineer.

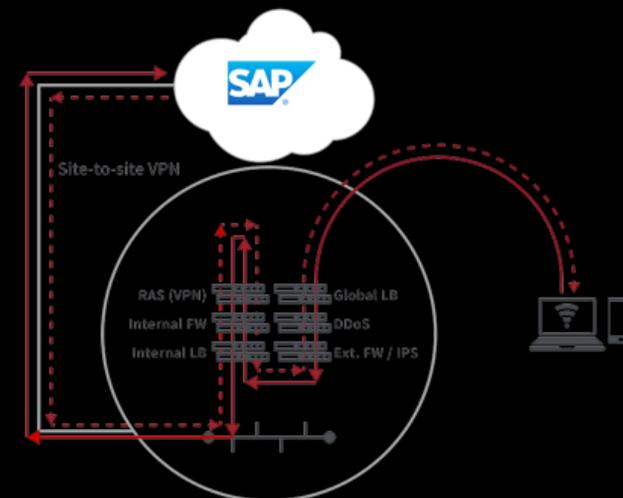
Cloud network costs escalated to \$68 000 while deployment challenges included complex firewall policies when adopting new cloud services and high configuration and management overhead to segregate applications to strengthen security.

Covid 19 changed our access requirements

In March 2020, Covid 19 forced Mauritius to implement lock down controls to curb the spread of the virus. While MACCS had a remote VPN solution, users struggled with slow application performance forced to route manual application requests via the company DC and FW as opposed to going direct to applications in Cloud.

“There had to be a better performing and more secure way of connecting users to applications without being tied to the DC. After researching options, we contacted Accelerate networks, Zscaler’s partner in Africa” adds, Nushreen, MACCS Network Engineer

VPN challenges during Covid 19



Moving to ZPA and embracing Zero Trust

Within day's MACCS had completed an end-to-end installation of ZPA. This included deploying end-point client connectors for user's, Zscaler application connectors in DC and in AWS and Azure and the ZPA Cloud policy broker for seamless application access.

The resulting benefit for users and IT where immediate. Application performance improved three-fold as user requests went direct to Cloud removing all network and FW bottlenecks and friction. IT support requests reduced, users enjoyed the same seamless access to applications they had in the office and the overall company security posture improved. Sehzaad and Nushreen realized further benefits created by ZPA in improved security, cost and scalability. "Zero trust has several big benefits. We reduced cost by eliminating MPLS and cloud specific networks, improved application performance in office and home, and simplified our network by eliminating complex FW routing and segmentation, while improving security by taking our applications dark"

"50% cost reduction, faster user experience, more control and improved security" Sehzaad - IT

Network management simplified with the removal of specific policy-based routing on the MACCS firewall as ZPA inherently dealt with routing based on their multi-cloud support. Users now automatically route directly to the applications they need whether they reside in Azure, AWS or the company DC.

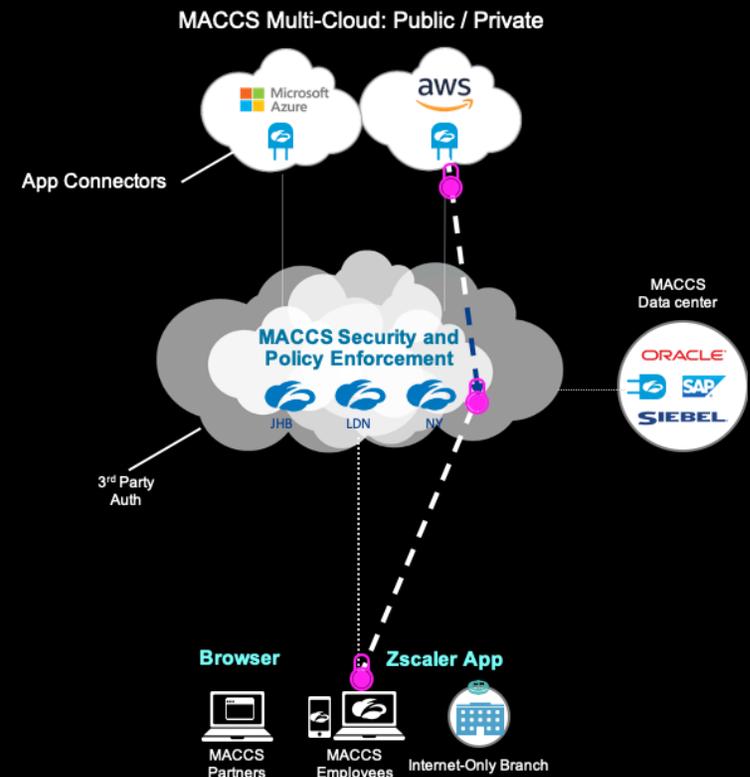
Native app segmentation provides MACCS an ability to drive application access policies for users eliminating complex segmentation on their firewalls. ZPA simplifies cloud specific firewall rules as ZPA only requires a single outbound firewall rule in AWS and Azure, resulting in all Cloud applications going dark eliminating the network attack surface.

Covid 19 changed our access requirements

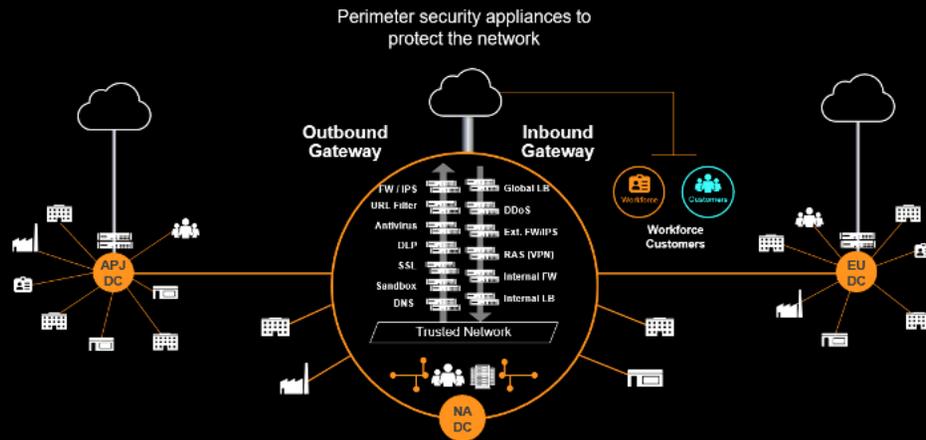
"Moving away from dedicated Cloud infrastructure and MPLS has resulted in 50% network savings and future plans include no longer needing a network firewall as all security and application access will be initiated from the end-point with security being applied in the Zscaler Cloud" adds Sehzaad and Nushreen

"Rather than being reliant on legacy VPN applications located in a corporate data center, staff can enjoy the reliability, performance, and usability delivered by ZPA"

Zscaler Private Access – Cloud-Native Security

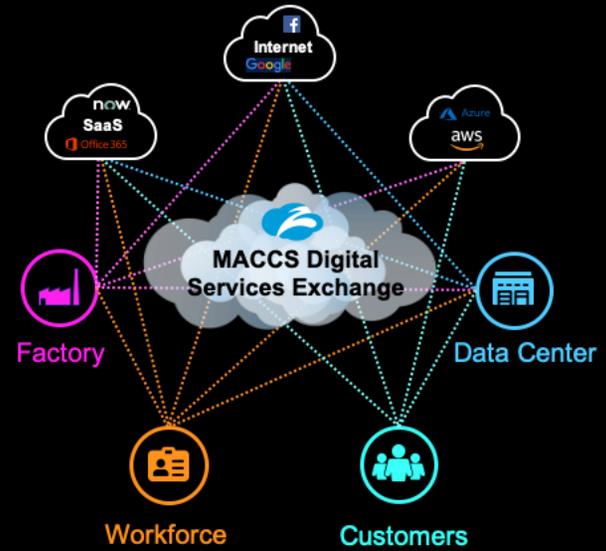


MACCS's Old Network



Data center is the center of the gravity
Hub-and-spoke WAN (backhaul to DC)
Castle-and-moat network security
Users connect to the network for app access (trusted)

MACCS's New Network



Cloud is the new data center
Internet is the new network (direct access)
Business policies connect apps, devices, and users
Users connect to an app, not the network

MACCS Network Team

Thank you to Sehzaad Bye Ahmad Abdul and Nushreen Banon Lallmamode, a visionary network team able to see past the constraints and inefficiencies of traditional network architecture and embrace a Cloud first approach with Zero Trust and Zscaler.



Accelerate Networks

Delivering the future network security and access, and proud 10-year partner for Zscaler on the African continent. Find out how Zero Trust helps organisations move into Cloud, mobility and work-from-home while improving performance, management, security and cost.

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