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How direct-routed network models transform zero trust for government

Zero trust is a must for government agencies and Appgate is using direct-routed models to keep mission-critical information secure.

Zero trust access has become a central concern for federal civilian agencies due to its pivotal role in crafting resilient and robust security strategies. Organizations recognize the pressing need for a comprehensive approach that aligns with zero trust best practices, particularly in the face of a constantly evolving threat landscape.

During a recent Zero Trust Workshop with GovExec, government and industry leaders explored critical aspects of resilience against cyber threats and explored the transformative potential of zero trust in fortifying agencies amid the challenges of today's dynamic cybersecurity environment. In a session with Appgate, CEO and President Leo Taddeo explored the significance of adopting a zero trust model and illuminated how Appgate's distinctive direct-routed architecture enhances flexibility, scalability and streamlined network management.

**Appgate's zero trust model: A paradigm shift in cybersecurity**
In an era where cyberattacks are constantly evolving, and the digital infrastructure of government agencies is becoming increasingly complex, the need for robust cybersecurity measures is paramount. One innovative approach gaining traction is the adoption of direct-routing models within the framework of zero trust architecture.

Traditionally, government agencies have leaned on cloud-centric zero trust models. While these models offer certain advantages, such as ease of management and scalability, they come with inherent drawbacks.

Taddeo argued that relying on external cloud services compromises the essence of zero trust, particularly in government applications. Multi-tenancy, hidden charges and potential vulnerabilities within external cloud infrastructures raise concerns when dealing with sensitive federal applications and data.

Unlike cloud-centric counterparts, Appgate's differentiation lies in its commitment to a direct-route for network traffic, ensuring data remains within the agency's walls, minimizing the risk of exposure to third-party vendors.

Direct-routing models present a compelling alternative for government agencies seeking heightened control and security over their network traffic. This approach prevents external entities from accessing, routing or examining sensitive government data.
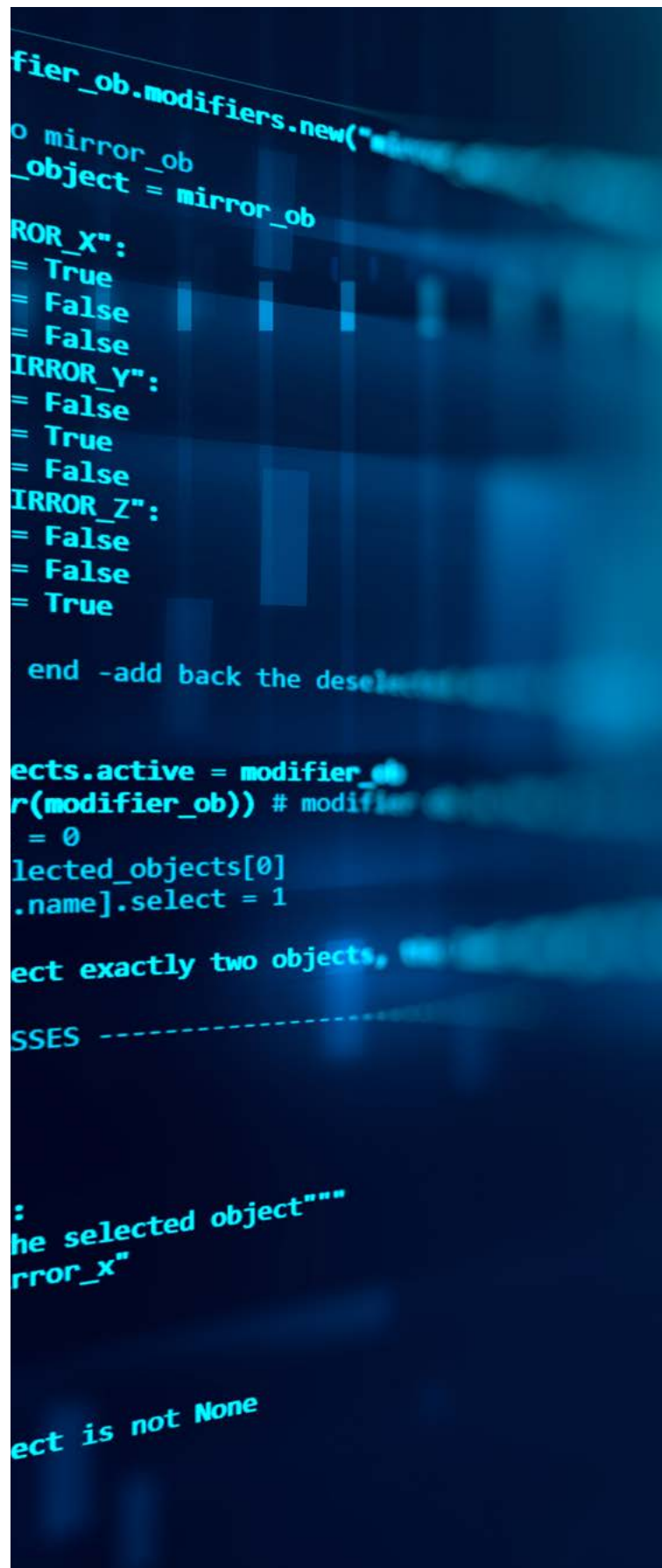
According to Taddeo, direct-routing empowers government agencies to maintain full control over their network traffic, reducing the risk of unauthorized access and potential breaches. And by avoiding the detour through external cloud infrastructures, direct-routing models significantly reduce latency, ensuring a seamless and efficient user experience.

"Appgate's direct-routed model does not route the government's traffic through our cloud but rather through your infrastructure," Taddeo noted. "We have an encrypted tunnel from the endpoint to the application and to the protected resources so the government maintains full control over the network traffic, lowers latency and creates a better user experience."

The shift toward direct-routing models for zero trust represents a strategic move for government agencies aiming to fortify their cybersecurity posture. By prioritizing control, security and adaptability, direct-routing aligns seamlessly with the unique needs of government applications. As cybersecurity remains a top priority, embracing direct-routing models emerges as a proactive step in safeguarding sensitive government data in an ever-evolving digital landscape.

Additionally, Taddeo noted that numerous government agencies have already embraced direct-routing models and reported tangible benefits. Notable reductions in security incidents, tools required for on-premise access management, network connectivity costs and staff needed to manage tools demonstrate the efficacy of this approach.

"We're not for everybody and we're certainly not for those of you who want to push the easy button," said Taddeo. "We are a dedicated best-of-breed [zero-trust network access] platform that will allow an agency to maintain control of its environment, reduce costs and get closer to that zero trust maturity model."

2024 Zero Trust Workshop >
Session | Safeguarding Tomorrow: An Exploration into
Direct-Routed Network Architecture and Why it Matters
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