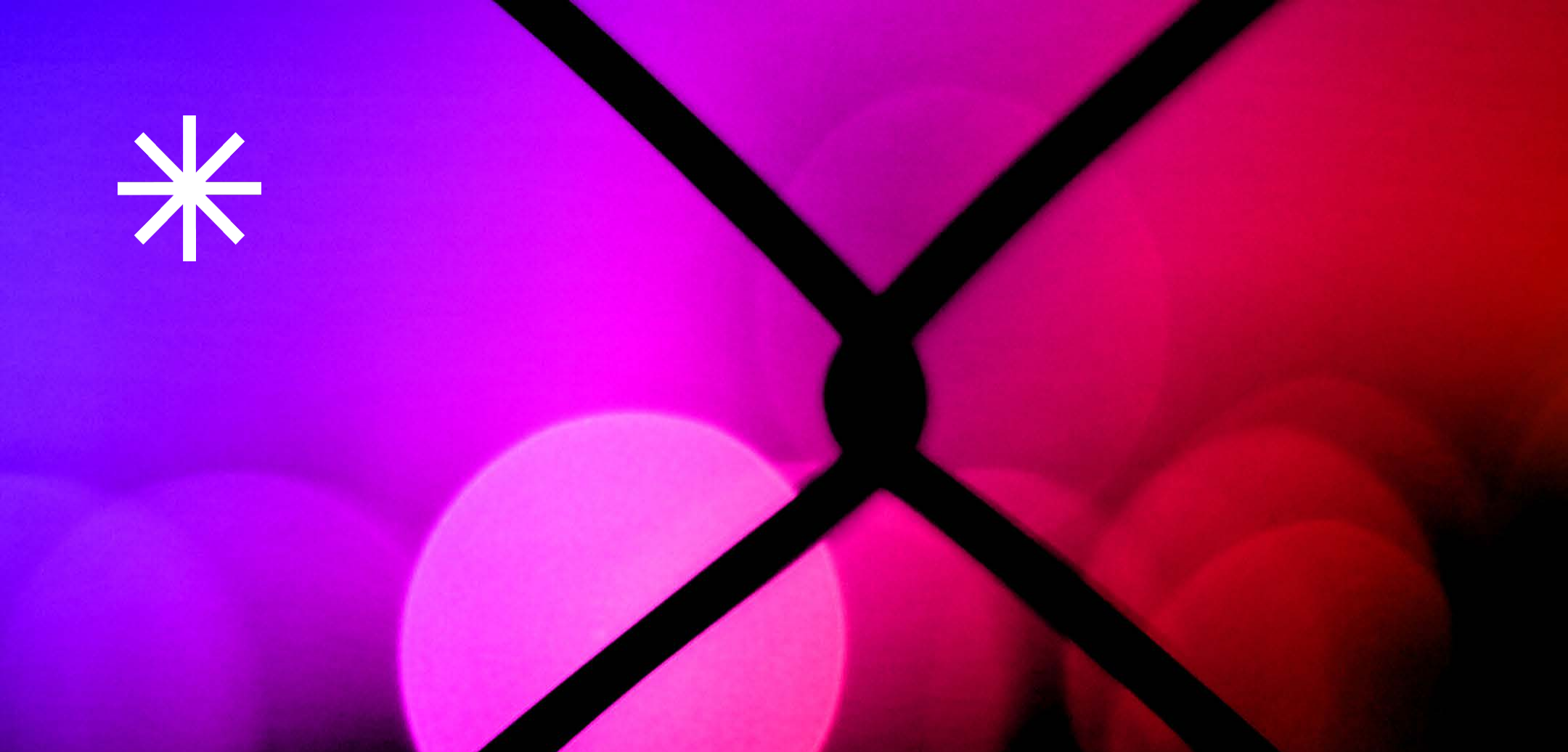
Arelion

Network trust: The buyer's proof checklist

5 important checks to make before you commit to an enterprise network provider.



Trust is easier to assess when every claim is tied to evidence. Use this checklist during an RFP, renewal or provider review.

For each check, document what a provider can prove – not simply what it promises.

Map ownership end-to-end

1.

Check

Know who controls each critical path your data travels.

Evidence to request

A route-level view covering fiber paths, backbone routing, operations and incident response — with clear ownership at every stage.

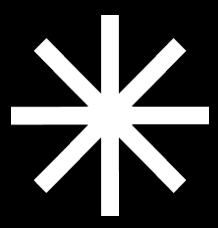
Test the evidence 2.

Check

Look beyond the SLA.

Evidence to request

Recent resilience and detection metrics, incident learnings, customer satisfaction data and examples of improvements made after disruption has occurred.



Expose third-party dependencies

3.

Check

Find the hidden hand-offs.

Evidence to request

A list of leased capacity, network subcontractors and unmanaged hops, plus who is accountable when an issue crosses provider boundaries.



Validate AI-era readiness

4.

Check

Pressure-test future demand.

Evidence to request

Capacity plans, latency baselines, traffic engineering polices and detection timelines for higher-volume, more distributed AI workloads.

Clarify data movement

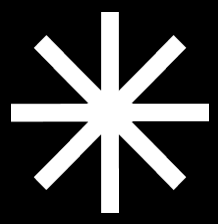
5.

Check

Check the route, not just the storage.

Evidence to request

Documented transit routes, applicable jurisdictions and compliance evidence for data in motion as well as data at rest.



A useful decision rule

If ownership, accountability or evidence becomes unclear, treat that uncertainty as a risk to resolve before signing. A credible provider should be able to show exactly how the network works, where dependencies lie, and what happens under pressure.

Put your current provider to the test

Use these five checks in your next network review — or ask Arelion to help you identify where proof is strong and where risks may still be hiding.



Why Arelion

Arelion helps enterprises close the trust gap by making trust easier to prove. We own and operate our own global backbone, ranked the world's number one IP network, rather than relying on a patchwork of leased capacity. That means fewer third-party dependencies, clearer accountability and greater transparency into how data moves.

For enterprises scaling AI, strengthening security, managing compliance or expanding into new markets, network trust can no longer stay assumed. It needs to be tested, evidenced and designed into the infrastructure behind the SLA.

Arelion

Learn more insights and
read the full report here