



# City & Guilds Group

## Company Profile

**Industry:**

Global Skills Development

**Company Size:**

1,000-5,000 Employees

**Headquarters:** London, UK

*“Our colleagues around the world were able to load their files to SharePoint three times faster, we experienced a 200x reduction in the time to open 10MB SharePoint files, and saw three times improvement in the time taken to upload 10MB files to OneDrive. We look at Aryaka as the only SD-WAN for Office 365.”*

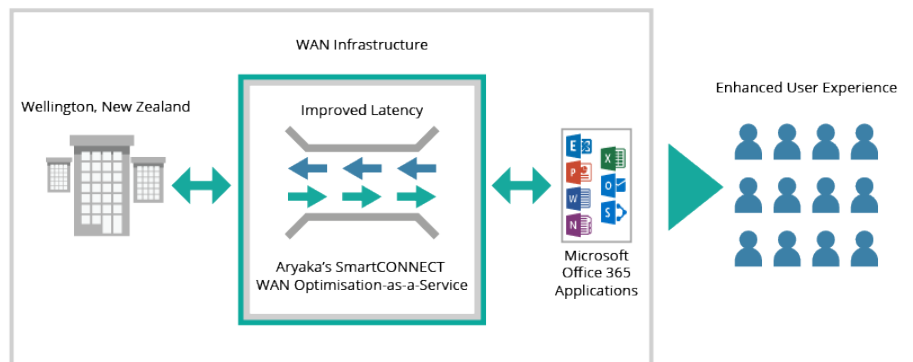
**Alan Crawford,**  
CIO, City & Guilds Group

## City & Guilds Accelerates Office 365 Performance with Aryaka SmartCONNECT

### The Challenge

The City & Guilds Group is a leader in global skills development, working with education providers, employers and governments in over 100 countries to help shape skills systems and support employee development. When their users started to have connectivity and access issues with Office365 applications, delays started to impact global productivity

The City & Guilds Group’s initial reaction was to reach out to its networking provider, who deployed their secure and private connection to the Microsoft Cloud via Azure Express Route. It was critical to resolve the issue as access times and latency were clearly impacting Office 365’s ability to support collaboration worldwide. Recommended fixes such as geo-replication and moving data physically closer to New Zealand were not practical – particularly as the core issue faced was network performance. The Group couldn’t afford to wait, so they needed to find a solution quickly to accelerate their applications globally



*City & Guilds Group enhances Office 365 user experience with Aryaka’s SmartCONNECT*







# City & Guilds Accelerates Office 365 Performance with Aryaka SmartCONNECT

## The Solution

After considering Internet-based SD-WAN offerings the City & Guilds Group opted for Aryaka's SmartCONNECT, which delivers application acceleration to any device and any application through Aryaka's global private network with built-in WAN Optimization and SD-WAN technology. Compared to MPLS that can take weeks or even months to deploy, Aryaka's network was deployed and activated within days.

Aryaka impressed the City & Guilds Group its initial responsiveness - shipping a pre-configured, turnkey solution to the group's Wellington, New Zealand office for rapid deployment. Immediate benefits included the ability to load files to SharePoint 3x faster, a 200x reduction in the time needed to open 10MB SharePoint files, as well as being able to upload 10MB files to OneDrive 3x faster. For New Zealand the user, experience improved significantly, removing previous Office365 performance issues, and encouraging collaboration.

Some examples of the application performance improvements they experienced are listed below:

Office 365 Application Performance	Legacy Network Infrastructure	Aryaka Global SD-WAN
Load 10MB file to SharePoint 	37.31 seconds	12.88 seconds
Open 10MB SharePoint file 	9.87 seconds	0.05 seconds
Upload 10MB file to OneDrive 	36.72 seconds	12.30 seconds
Send 1MB Email attachment 	28.16 seconds	03.74 seconds
Send 10MB Email attachment 	23.71 seconds	08.11 seconds
Open Shared Calendar 	05.24 seconds	01.91 seconds

## RESULTS



**300% Faster Uploads**  
to Office365 OneDrive



**200x Reduction Opening**  
SharePoint Files



**Faster File Sharing 3X Quicker Access**  
to Shared Calendars and Collaboration Tools

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### About Aryaka Networks

Aryaka is transforming how global enterprises connect sites and users worldwide, and use mission-critical applications to support modern business execution demands. Aryaka's Global SD-WAN combines a purpose-built private network, SD-WAN, optimization and acceleration techniques, connectivity to cloud platforms, and network visibility in a single solution that is delivered as a service.

# Packet Fusion

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**PACKETFUSION**



Connecting the Dots to the Cloud