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[NETWORK SECURITY]

POINT OF VIEW

CORERO NETWORK SECURITY · 2026

The Network's Growing Job Description

And why the ISPs who survive it won't be the ones with the biggest teams.

ISP OPERATIONS

COMPLIANCE

DDOS DEFENSE

AUTOMATION

"Nobody's going to break your network. They're going to break your team."

CORERO NETWORK SECURITY

CHAPTER 01

Nobody's Going to Break Your Network

They're going to break your team. Not with a single regulation. Not with a single incident. With the slow, compounding weight of everything your network is now expected to do that it was never designed for.

- **Battery Backup Mandates**
  Because the energy sector can't guarantee continuity
- **Content Filtering**
  Because social media platforms won't police themselves
- **Lawful Intercept**
  Another sector's requirement, your infrastructure
- **Age Verification**
  UK Online Safety framework pushing enforcement onto ISPs
- **Data Retention**
  Regulatory compliance with growing audit trails
- **VPN Restrictions**
  Parental control enforcement at the network edge

> *"Every one of these started as someone else's failure. Every one of them ended up on your operations team's desk."*

Here's what makes that dangerous. It's not the mandates themselves. It's what they're quietly stealing from you: the attention your team needs to actually protect the network.

While your engineers are documenting compliance, configuring filtering tools, and preparing for the next audit cycle, something else is getting less attention — traffic anomaly analysis, behavioral pattern detection, the slow subtle signals that something isn't right.

CHAPTER 02

The Staffing Math Stopped Working Two Mandates Ago

During a recent industry working group, the CEO of a UK regional ISP said something worth sitting with. His company cannot absorb any more regulation. Not won't. *Can't.* He wasn't making a political argument. He was describing arithmetic.

> *"My company cannot absorb any more regulation. Not won't. Can't."*
> CEO, UK REGIONAL ISP · INDUSTRY WORKING GROUP

> *"Regulation for the sake of regulation."*
> OPERATOR, SAME DISCUSSION

> *"ISPs are being forced to make up for other sectors' failures."*
> HEAD OF REGULATORY, MID-SIZE PROVIDER

THE ARITHMETIC

Operations team built to **run infrastructure**. Route traffic, maintain uptime, mitigate threats, hit SLAs. Now stack: resilience reporting + content filtering admin + Online Safety consultation + each mandate's own monitoring tool + its own alert queue + its own documentation trail + its own audit cycle. For a **Tier 1 carrier**, that's a budget line item. For a **regional operator running lean**, it's a capacity crisis nobody outside the building can see.

> ***"Your network was built to move packets. Now it's expected to be a content filter, an age verification gateway, a compliance engine, and a security platform. Same headcount. Different job entirely."***

CHAPTER 03

The Real Divide Isn't Regulated vs. Unregulated

People start debating whether specific regulations are good or bad. That matters. But it's not the conversation that helps the person running your network at 2 AM. The only question that matters to that person:

> *"Does this new thing require someone to touch it every day, or does it run on its own?"*

⚠ MANUAL INFRASTRUCTURE

Struggles With Every Mandate

- ✗ Each regulation adds workflows, dashboards, triage procedures
- ✗ Escalation paths multiply with every new tool
- ✗ Operational surface area expands; the team doesn't
- ✗ Human attention is the bottleneck for every new capability

✓ AUTOMATED INFRASTRUCTURE

Absorbs Mandates Without Cracking

- ✓ Detection runs without needing new baselines
- ✓ Enforcement happens inline without rerouting
- ✓ Visibility lives in one place, not six dashboards
- ✓ Humans focus on judgment calls, not routine triage

This isn't about having better technology. It's about having technology that **reduces** the number of decisions a human being has to make per day instead of adding to the pile.

The real divide isn't regulated vs. unregulated. It's **automated vs. manual.**

CHAPTER 04

The Blind Spot Attackers Are Counting On

Picture your best network engineer — the one who notices when something's off before the alerts fire. Now picture that person spending their Thursday documenting compliance evidence for an audit that has nothing to do with network security.

THE WINDOW ATTACKERS EXPLOIT

1. **Best engineer buried in compliance documentation.** Audit prep, filtering configs, resilience reporting.
2. **Nobody's watching the right screen.** Traffic anomaly analysis gets less attention than it needs.
3. **Six-second pulse attack hits at terabit scale.** Nobody detects it in real time because the humans are elsewhere.
4. **Damage is done before anyone notices.** That's the window. That's exactly what attackers are counting on.

6s
Attack bursts fast enough to saturate a 10 Gbps link several times over before detection

50+
Simultaneous attack vectors in a single campaign, shifting while the attack is still running

2.7 Tbps
Peak attack volumes recorded in 2025 — larger than most ISP teams are staffed to handle manually

> *"The organizations that caught those attacks didn't have the biggest security teams. They had defensive infrastructure that didn't need human attention to function."*

CHAPTER 05

What the Survivors Have in Common

What separates the operators who absorb new mandates from the ones who get buried by them isn't size. It isn't budget. It's architecture decisions they made *before the mandate arrived.*

01

They automated enforcement before they were told to

Their infrastructure already enforces at the edge, automatically, without a human in the loop for routine protection. When a new requirement lands, the question is configuration, not construction.

→ A week of work instead of a six-month project

02

They killed dashboard sprawl before it killed them

Every mandate brings a vendor. Every vendor brings a console. Five years of that and your team is toggling between eight interfaces to understand what's happening on one network. Consolidated visibility means actually seeing things — not staring at data and missing information.

→ One place for visibility instead of six

03

They made protection invisible on purpose

The best security infrastructure is the kind nobody on your team thinks about. Not because it's unimportant — because it's handling things before they become incidents. For a team already stretched across six compliance workstreams, "invisible when working" isn't a luxury.

→ It's the only way the math works

> *"Build the network so that doing more doesn't require being more."*

CHAPTER 06 · CONCLUSION

Where This Is Heading

The Online Safety consultation closes May 26, 2026. Whatever comes out of it will add to the list. Regulatory expectations on network operators are expanding globally. Each mandate is individually reasonable. Collectively, they're compounding into an operational reality that most ISP teams were never staffed for.

NOW
Battery, filtering & intercept mandates active

MAY 2026
Online Safety consultation closes

NEXT
More mandates. There are always more mandates.

✗ WRONG QUESTION

"Will my network be expected to do more next year?"

✓ RIGHT QUESTION

"Is my infrastructure built so that 'more' doesn't break the people running it?"

START THE CONVERSATION

If your team is spending more time on compliance than on the network itself, that's a conversation worth having.

Corero Network Security provides automated network protection and business continuity solutions for service providers and enterprises in more than 50 countries. Our SmartWall ONE platform delivers sub-second DDoS mitigation inline at the network edge. Our CORE platform provides traffic visibility and intelligence that turns raw network data into operational clarity.

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