



Agentic AI:

From reactive to proactive
agentic AI leads the way

Are you prepared for a new wave of AI that moves beyond simple automation, enabling intelligent agents to execute complex task sequences and operate semi-autonomously? These agents make real-time decisions and automate entire workstreams across critical domains like customer service, software development and supply chain intelligence.

Unlike familiar chat AI iterations focused on learning or conversation, agentic AI defines a new paradigm where intelligent agents optimize tasks autonomously with minimal human intervention. This ambition elevates AI from reactive responses to proactive, agent-driven workflows using diverse tools, API's and data. Imagine an AI acting like a digital travel agent, not just answering questions, but planning, booking and managing an entire trip by being integrated with various tools and APIs. Industries are increasingly connecting AI agents, creating intricate automated workflows that perform sophisticated tasks across diverse systems. This orchestration, while incredibly powerful and full of possibilities, profoundly increases dependency on secure network connectivity.

Effectively leveraging AI's full potential will require, in many cases, a complete re-architecture of network infrastructure, rethinking processes, rather than just optimizing them.

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Enterprises are connecting multiple AI agents to build a workflow. Joining together those different agents creates something more powerful than the individual model.”¹

Colin Wilson
Enterprise Architect, Verizon Business



¹ Verizon, [AI's growth revolution: Beyond efficiency to new revenue streams](#), 2025



How are forward thinkers using agentic AI in business?

The transformative power of agentic AI is already being demonstrated by forward-thinking enterprises across industries. These early adopters are not just cutting costs but are creating tangible competitive advantages.

Global logistical companies are using AI systems and agents to improve efficiencies and reliability. This includes enabling proactive management of shipping routes, port operations, and cargo allocation, leading to smarter, more resilient global trade networks.

Shipping giant Maersk, is redefining their global operations with advanced AI, aiming for “zero-touch logistics” to achieve its goals of improving end-to-end visibility and optimizing complex global supply chains.²

By leveraging AI for route optimization, schedule optimization, and predictive ETAs, companies are enhancing efficiency, reducing costs, and improving delivery reliability for their customers. This level of granular, real-time optimization is a hallmark of agentic AI's capabilities.

Some companies that have successfully invested in AI for their logistical operations are making it available for the benefit of their partners. Walmart Commerce Technologies has launched AI-powered logistics products to optimize its vast supply chain.³

Unilever stands out as another prime example, actively transforming its global supply chain into a more resilient, sustainable and customer-centric operation at scale by allowing intelligent agents to manage complex logistics, inventory and distribution decisions with minimal human intervention.⁴



Gartner® predicts at least 15% of day-to-day work decisions will be made autonomously through agentic AI by 2028. In addition, 33% of enterprise software applications will include agentic AI by 2028, up from less than 1% in 2024.”⁵

These examples illustrate that agentic AI is no longer theoretical. It's an extremely fast-developing pragmatic tool for achieving operational excellence and securing a leading position.

² Maersk, [Maersk's AI Revolution: Redefining Global Logistics](#), 2025

³ Walmart, [Walmart Commerce Technologies Launches AI-Powered Logistics Product](#), 2024

⁴ Unilever, [How Unilever is envisioning the Autonomous Supply Chain with Agentic AI](#), 2025

⁵ Gartner, [Gartner Identifies the Top 10 Strategic Technology Trends for 2025](#), 2024



Agentic AI's operational success hinges on resilient infrastructure

The promise of agentic AI is immense, but its realization is entirely dependent on a robust foundation of data, infrastructure and connectivity. Without these critical enablers, agentic AI models remain theoretical constructs, starved of the real-time inputs they need to function.

Why it matters:

Operationalizing agentic AI will profoundly reshape enterprise network architecture and demands.

- Agents operate at machine speed, requiring extreme low latency to prevent failures and persistent memory access, often necessitating processing at the network's edge.
- If operators can choose to keep humans in the loop, they run the risk of the system being overwhelmed with thousands of micro-interactions happening in seconds. Running fully autonomously, helps to ensure that the network always moves at the same speed as AI workloads.⁶

What this means:

This shift will drive an unprecedented surge in data flows and a reorientation of network traffic patterns.

- There will be a massive increase in “token” usage, the basic units of AI data processing (roughly three-quarters of a word), demanding significant bandwidth.⁷
- Network traffic will shift from traditional 'north-south' (up to the cloud) to primarily 'east-west' (across systems within data centers), creating a “spiders web” of interconnected data.⁸

And the consequence:

Businesses must rapidly adapt their network infrastructure to accommodate these new demands.

- Agents are users that instruct connected machines and systems as well as requiring access to data from sensors and systems. The exponential growth in network

⁶ Kapoor, CISCO Blog: The Agentic AI Era Demands a New Network, 2025

⁷ NVIDIA, What Are AI Tokens? The Language and Currency Powering Modern AI, 2025

⁸ Salt, Your Most Dangerous User Is Not Human: How AI Agents and MCP Servers Broke the Internal API Walled Garden, 2026

connected devices adds to network load – growth in 2025 was 21.1 billion and is expected to reach 39 billion in 2030 – creating a significantly larger attack surface.⁹

- Enterprises should develop a holistic and hybrid network strategy that includes both a robust cloud on-ramp for efficient data transfer to cloud-based AI components and resilient, high capacity, low-latency edge and local infrastructure to support distributed agentic AI workflows requiring immediate action and localized data access.
- Securing high network capacity in core locations for data transfer and the use of low-latency edge for immediate, distributed actions.

Need to know:

The cybersecurity consequences could be profound with the expanded attack surface having the potential for malicious exploitation.

- Agentic AI dramatically expands the attack surface as autonomous actions risk manipulation due to their high-privilege access to external tools. This necessitates cybersecurity solutions that operate at the machine speed of these agents.



⁹ Sinha, *IOT Analytics: State of IoT 2025: Number of connected IoT devices growing 14% to 21.1 billion globally, 2025*

The path to agentic AI requires thoughtful deployment

While the opportunities presented by agentic AI are immense, its deployment also introduces significant challenges that demand careful consideration and proactive management.

These are not roadblocks, but essential elements of a responsible and sustainable AI strategy.

Business need	AI need	Network impact
Achieve machine speed operations	Agentic AI interacts with other systems and devices – requiring machine speeds for real time responsiveness.	Extremely low latency in network communication is critical to prevent failures and ensure prompt execution.
Handle exponential data growth	Agentic AI leads to a massive increase in data flows, and token usage, as agents constantly call on, process and generate information.	An increase in overall bandwidth demand and capacity is required to support the continuous data processing.
Unify internal workflows	Agentic interactions inherently require communication between systems within the data center or enterprise site (e.g. IoT devices and sensors sending data via an edge AI to a robot).	Agentic network traffic patterns shift significantly from site to web, 'north-south' to predominantly across sites, 'east-west' communication between internal systems.
Maintain robust cybersecurity	Agentic AI significantly expands the attack surface, necessitating advanced threat detection.	Cybersecurity solutions must operate at machine speed to detect and neutralize threats, including sophisticated AI-launched attacks, requiring high-speed network security enforcement.
Ensure continuous task performance and context	Agents require constant and persistent access to their memory data to maintain context, learn and perform continuous tasks effectively.	Reliable, high-speed network access to distributed memory and storage is essential to support agents' continuous data retrieval.
Corporate sovereignty	Full governance and control over AI agents are critical to ensure data privacy, ethical alignment, and prevent leaking proprietary data.	Secure, isolated network environments, robust identity and access management, and potentially new protocols for agent authentication are required to maintain control and data integrity.
Optimize performance through strategic placement	The critical need for ultra-low latency and persistent memory access dictates optimal agent placement.	Your network needs to bring AI agents and their data closer to where decisions are made, often pushing computing to the network's 'edge' instead of just the cloud.

Empowering your agentic AI ambitions



Deploying agentic AI demands specialized network and security expertise. Verizon's decades of innovation deliver robust solutions to manage its resource-intensive workloads, "east-west" data traffic and expanded attack surfaces. We ensure

persistent memory access and extreme low latency, helping your agentic AI operate efficiently, securely and responsibly from core to edge.

Find out more

Understanding how to generate value from agentic AI, and build the network to support its unique demands, is essential. Verizon works with businesses globally, helping

them leverage agentic AI to accelerate innovation, enhance services, harvest insights and drive business intelligence. Learn more about how we can help you.

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