

From Mobile Networks to AI Infrastructure

SRv6 as the unifying technology

Michael Beesley
Chief Technology Officer, SP Networking
Cisco

UPPERSIDE WORLD PARIS 2026



Current state

5G

Billions of connected
devices

AI

Massive adoption

Networking is fundamental

Two industries. One protocol.

Mobile and AI are rewriting network demands simultaneously

Mobile



Mass scale at every level

Native programmability requires simplicity

All apps are IP

Future-proofing architecture is a necessity

AI



82% CAGR in AI network traffic through 2029

10,000+ GPUs must synchronize in milliseconds

Every dropped packet degrades entire training run

East-west traffic at a scale traditional WAN never anticipated

The answer isn't another protocol. It's IP — back in control.

Programmable. Scalable. Universal.

SRv6: A global standard at scale

Adopted by major CSPs worldwide across mobile,
enterprise, and cloud domains

2017

IETF debut

uSID

Microsegment
technology

3GPP

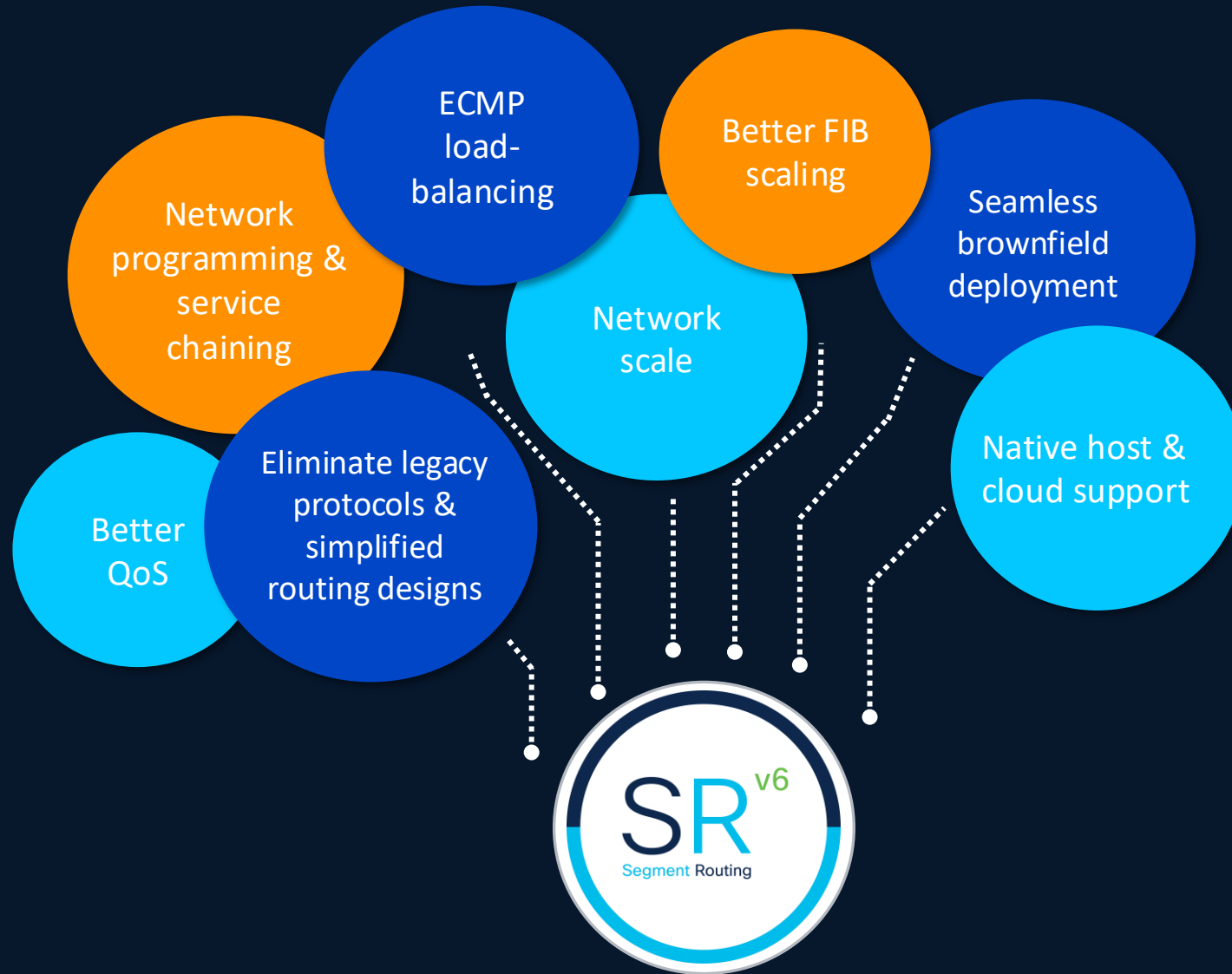
UPF

3 RFCs

Core standards
ratified

500+ customers have adopted Segment Routing

SRv6 is the tool for network evolution



SRv6 capabilities

1

Simplified VPN services

L3VPNs across networks with only edge routers requiring SRv6, core just forwards IPv6

2

Service function chaining

Firewalls and load balancers embedded directly in routing paths - no extra protocols

3

Traffic engineering and FRR

Fine-grained control over traffic routes for low latency and bandwidth guarantees

4

Operational simplicity

Single IPv6 framework clarifies overlay protocols - easier troubleshooting and lower OPEX

5

Enhanced scalability

IPv6 address space manages large networks with fewer prefixes, simplifying routing

Mobility evolution with SRv6

5G

Complex overlay
tunnel architectures

Multiple disconnected protocol
domains add cost and friction

Ultra-low latency
hard to achieve

Network slicing
support limited

Mobile edge computing
bottlenecks

6G

End-to-end IPv6 path
composition

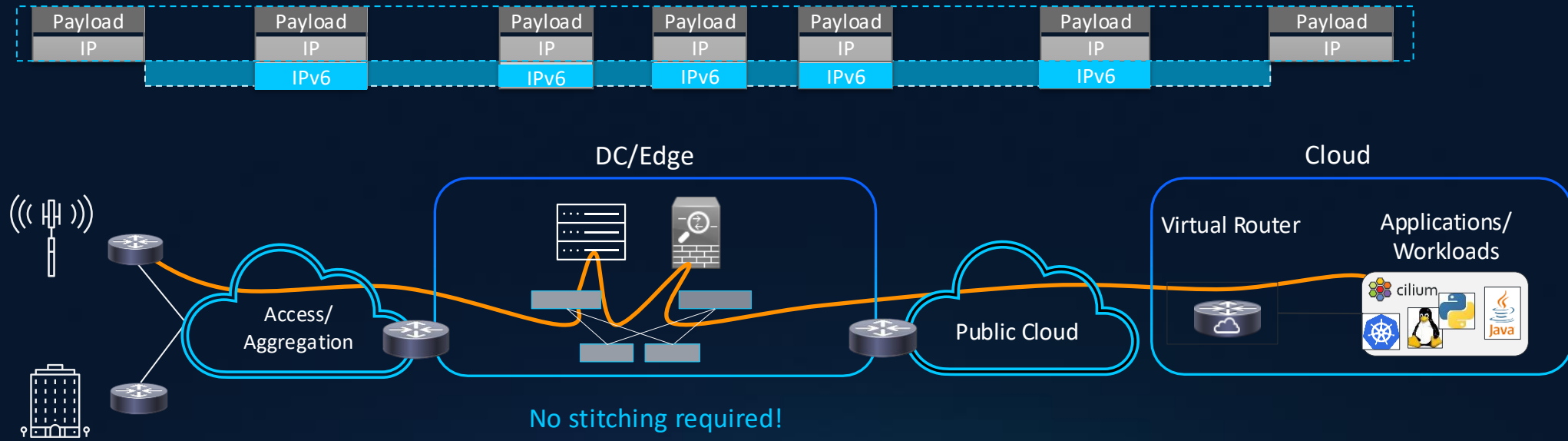
Integrated TE, VPNs, and
service chaining

No per-session tunnel
state needed

Network resources → IPv6
addresses

Even DWDM wavelengths addressable

Unified mobility data plane



Enables native routing (IPv6) to cloud/virtual data center providers

Works on any IPv6 network

Optimizes and simplifies service-chaining provisioning, customization, and operations

AI is rewriting the network

Efficient creation and delivery of tokens will be a critical differentiator

33%

CAGR increase in demand for AI
DC capacity through 2030¹

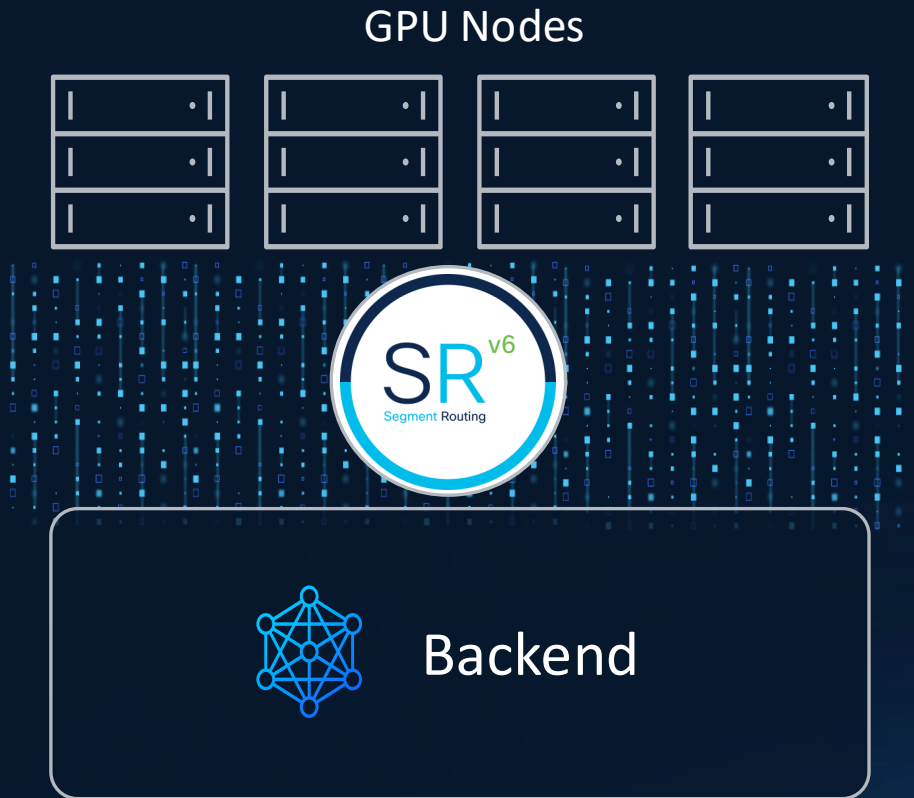
82%

CAGR for AI network
traffic through 2029²

75%+

Inferencing/processing
moves to edge by 2030³

SRv6 in AI backend networks



SRv6 uSID Approach

Deterministic path placement for RDMA
NIC-level source routing via uSID
Stateless, predictable distribution
Proactive — reduces congestion frequency

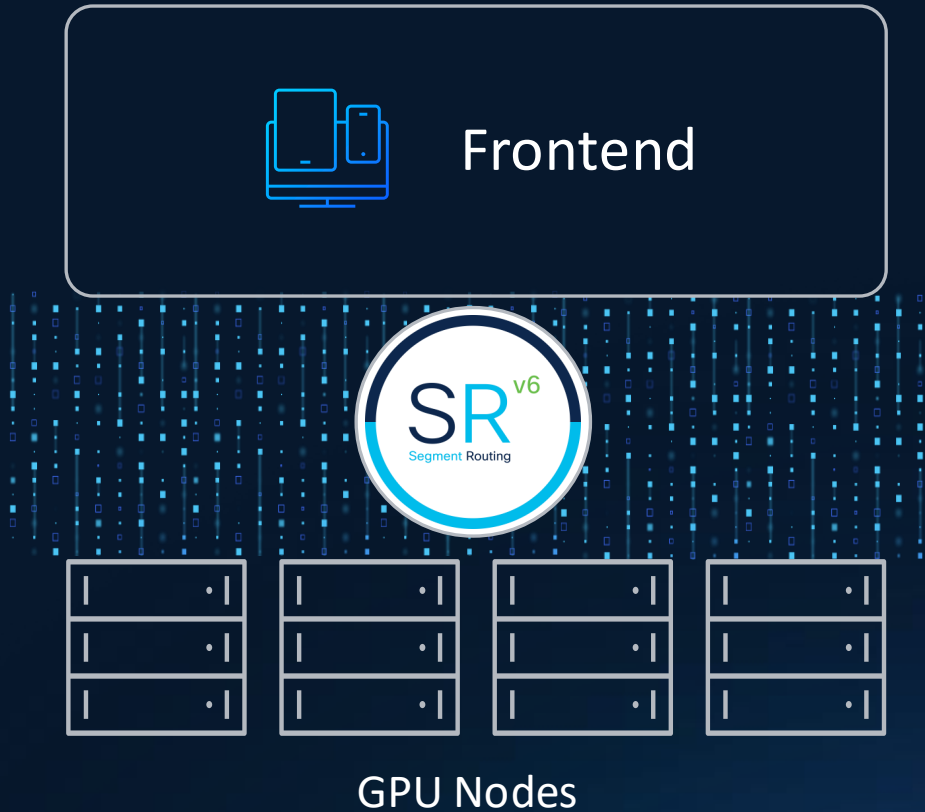


SRv6 Fast Failure Recovery

SRv6's explicit path encoding enables rapid rerouting.
GPU jobs recover in microseconds rather than
seconds.

GPU fabric **optimization** through deterministic path placement

SRv6 in AI frontend networks



Variety of traffic types

Checkpoint Writes

Large model checkpoints to distributed storage systems

Telemetry Streams

Real-time monitoring, metrics and observability data

Control Plane

Job scheduling, coordination and orchestration traffic

User Access

API calls, inference requests and user-facing traffic

SRv6 Unified Framework

One framework for QoS policies, security policies, traffic steering — across both backend and frontend domains

Scale-across DC to WAN unified architecture



SRv6 - a unifying future

Stateless
operation

Source-driven
path control

Unified IPv6
architecture

Mobile

Simpler network
devices with large
scale

Explicit path
encoding

Single protocol stack

AI

Scales to 100K+ GPU
clusters

Traffic placement across
GPU fabrics

One IPv6 data plane

