

Foreword

Over the years, I have often taught myself a new technology by delving into the most complex aspects of the technology without first having a comprehensive understanding of the fundamentals. Inevitably, this leads to situations where I have to “double-back” and absorb some of the finer points of the underlying technology. I can’t say for sure why I acquire knowledge this way, but I do know that having access to a trustworthy library of reference material goes a long way toward reducing the learning curve.

This book provides the first, most comprehensive coverage of WAN optimization and application acceleration technologies. Joel and Ted have done an excellent job of defining the business and technical challenges that many IT organizations face in supporting a globally distributed workforce. By leveraging their diverse backgrounds and experience, Joel and Ted have provided a unique perspective into the fundamental technologies that define this rapidly evolving market. And by taking a solution-centric approach, they are empowering the reader with the knowledge necessary to weave WAN optimization and application acceleration solutions into the fabric of today’s complex IT infrastructures.

Businesses are just beginning to understand the potential of WAN optimization and application acceleration solutions. As these solutions take on an increasingly relevant role in the scalability and efficiency of the IT infrastructure, understanding the fundamental technologies will be invaluable. I would recommend *Application Acceleration and WAN Optimization Fundamentals* to anyone interested in learning the key concepts from two pioneers in this industry. I know this will be an important reference in my library.

Zach Seils
AS Technical Leader
Data Center Networking Practice
Cisco Systems, Inc.