

aws marketplace

Juniper Session Smart Router

Reviews, tips, and
advice from real users



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Product Recap



Juniper Session Smart Router

Juniper Session Smart Router Recap

Juniper Session Smart Router offers real-time analytics, zero-trust segmentation, and simple deployment, providing efficient and secure connections. Its tunnel-free secure vector routing sets it apart in the SD-WAN market, enhancing scalability with Mist Cloud integration and application-aware AI operations.

Juniper Session Smart Router is recognized for improving network management through its blend of edge-to-cloud stack capabilities, application-aware AI, and seamless integration with Mist Cloud. Users leverage its zero-trust segmentation, bandwidth-efficient SDR channel, and unique no-tunnel secure vector routing to streamline SD-WAN deployments and ensure optimal connectivity across global branches. Its strengths include rapid configuration rollback, clear visibility, and application-aware operations, offering detailed insight into network performance. The dynamic full-stack operations ensure enhanced scalability and management of complex network environments, meeting the diverse needs of telecom and ISP networks by providing smooth session failovers and bandwidth savings.

What are the key features of Juniper Session Smart Router?

- **Real-Time Analytics:** Provides detailed insights into network performance with AI-driven operations.
- **Zero-Trust Segmentation:** Ensures secure, efficient connections through stringent segmentation.
- **SDR Channel:** Delivers secure connections with enhanced bandwidth efficiency.
- **Tunnel-Free Secure Vector Routing:** Unique in the SD-WAN market, offering efficient, secure pathways without tunnels.
- **Integration with Mist Cloud:** Enhances scalability and network management through seamless cloud operations.

What are the benefits and ROI for businesses using Juniper Session Smart Router?

- **Enhanced Scalability:** Supports growing network demands with a comprehensive edge-to-cloud stack.
- **Operational Efficiency:** Streamlined deployments and rapid rollback capabilities simplify complex operations.
- **Cost Management:** Offers bandwidth savings and effective resource use for optimal financial efficiency.
- **Application Awareness:** Manages diverse SLAs with AI-powered operations for improved application performance.
- **Network Visibility:** Provides detailed insights and monitoring for proactive network management.

Juniper Session Smart Router finds applications mainly in managing BNG and streamlining

operations across branches. It supports inter-location connectivity and bandwidth bundling, addressing diverse application SLA requirements. Commonly utilized by telecom and ISP networks, it ensures efficient management of large-scale environments.

Valuable Features

Excerpts from real customer reviews on PeerSpot:

- ✓ “I can share specific numbers; we achieved a 30 to 60% WAN cost reduction by reducing MPLS usage.”



Vkundawa Vkundawa

Network Implementation Engineer at Cisco

- ✓ “Juniper Session Smart Router has positively impacted my organization by achieving a 30% to 40% reduction in WAN cost, which means less reliance on MPLS, with a 40% faster failover with near-zero user impact during link issues, and 20% to 30% less time spent on troubleshooting, along with fewer outages due to dynamic path selection, which facilitates fast branch deployment.”



Verified user

Worksoft Certify Sr.Consultant at a outsourcing company with 51-200 employees

- ✓ “For telecom companies, I think zero-trust segmentation is the way to go because if you allow anything that you do not understand, then it becomes a problem.”



Bashir Bashir

IT Manager at Vegol

- ✓ “The best feature is the easiest way to deploy configuration and also back up them, and also to roll back quickly if there's an incident.”



Julien KOLLE M

Cloud Infrastructure Architect at POST Luxembourg

- ✓ “They provided us with a customized product according to our requirements.”



SRI GANESH PHANIYAPPA

Sub Divisional Engineer NOC Bangalore at Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited

- ✓ “The most valuable feature of Juniper Session Smart Router is its unique SDR channel.”



Imran Taiyeb Ali

Senior Solutions Specialist at a comms service provider with 201-500 employees

- ✓ “As compared to the other major vendors in the SD-WAN market, such as VeloCloud, Cisco, and others, the tunnel-free and secure vector routing technology is its major USP, which gives plenty of room to discuss with the customer why IPSec from 1998 is a bit outdated.”



Sascha Bülow

Technical Architect at Plusnet

What users had to say about valuable features:

“Everything has been fine. Although we did not explore much about the solution, they provided us with a customized product according to our requirements. It was very well executed..”

SRI GANESH PHANIYAPPA

Sub Divisional Engineer NOC Bangalore at Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited

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“The most valuable feature of Juniper Session Smart Router is its unique SDR channel. Unlike other SD-WAN solutions using IPsec, Juniper sends secure IP packets without adding extra headers, saving bandwidth. This unique approach ensures a secure connection from our stores to the data center, all within Juniper devices. There is no unnecessary overhead for bulk traffic..”

Imran Taiyeb Ali

Senior Solutions Specialist at a comms service provider with 201-500 employees

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“I do use its real-time analytics and visibility features, but I still prefer Sophos to that.

Real-time notifications are where Sophos beats Juniper.

For telecom companies, I think zero-trust segmentation is the way to go because if you allow anything that you do not understand, then it becomes a problem. I am all for zero-trust..”

Bashir Bashir

IT Manager at Vegol

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“The best feature is the easiest way to deploy configuration and also back up them, and also to roll back quickly if there's an incident.

“We have a better view with all this complexity because we have some probes that monitor the response time, and we can see quickly if there's an integration and so on.

“We have many controllers, so we deploy a controller by pods. So we have a nice view, and we're thinking about collecting everything in one controller, but we didn't decide that yet.

“We have NetFlow included..”

Julien KOLLE M

Cloud Infrastructure Architect at POST Luxembourg

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“The best features of Juniper Session Smart Router that offer me value are the ones I use daily, including session-based routing and core features that route traffic per session instead of tunnels, giving better performance, seamless failovers, and application-aware path selection. It selects the best link, whether MPLS, broadband, or LTE. It also has built-in zero-trust security which means it controls segmentation without needing a separate VPN setup and advanced visibility and analysis, providing strong insight into traffic, session, and performance. This provides simple branch management.

“Juniper Session Smart Router has positively impacted my organization by achieving a 30% to 40% reduction in WAN cost, which means less reliance on MPLS. There is also a 40% faster failover with near-zero user impact during link issues, and 20% to 30% less time spent on troubleshooting. Additionally, I experience fewer outages due to dynamic path selection, which facilitates fast branch deployment..”

Verified user

Worksoft Certify Sr.Consultant at a outsourcing company with 51-200 employees

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“Juniper Session Smart Router is a very good cloud integration router, with very strong application visibility, and WAN path optimization is also present. It has very good simplified branch connectivity, particularly strong automation and API support, and better SaaS performance. Session-based routing instead of tunnel-heavy architecture is one of the best features.

“Session-based routing and API support in Juniper Session Smart Router have helped me in my work. It helps in session-based routing changes from route-based packets only on destination IP to application session awareness. This can help with a better application experience, and voice or video traffic automatically takes the best WAN path based on latency, jitter, and packet loss. Faster failover occurs; instead of waiting for routing protocol convergence, sessions can dynamically move to healthier links. Additionally, there is improved SaaS performance. In terms of APIs, I have had a very good experience integrating it with automation platforms like Terraform and Ansible. It has reduced manual errors, and my team has been using the API to automate deployment and dozens of other tasks with branch SSR devices.

“Another feature I can think of regarding Juniper Session Smart Router is that there is no traditional overlay tunnel overhead in many scenarios, which is one of the best features. Dynamic path selection based on latency and jitter makes this one of the standout features..”

Vkundawa Vkundawa

Network Implementation Engineer at Cisco

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Other Solutions Considered

“When we started monitoring the SD-WAN market, we checked the obvious participants there, such as VeloCloud, and we decided to use 128T as our main and only SD-WAN..”

Sascha Bülow

Technical Architect at Plusnet

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“I evaluated other options before choosing Juniper Session Smart Router. I specifically tried to evaluate Cisco SD-WAN and Fortinet Secure SD-WAN for session-based routing improvement, as they were the most common alternatives available..”

Vkundawa Vkundawa

Network Implementation Engineer at Cisco

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ROI

Real user quotes about their ROI:

“I have seen a return on investment; faster incident resolution is something I have observed in terms of realistic metrics for WAN analytics and improved user experience for voice or video apps. Additionally, there was a significant reduction in MPLS dependency.

“I can share specific numbers; we achieved a 30 to 60% WAN cost reduction by reducing MPLS usage. The mean time to identify WAN issues was reduced due to application-aware visibility and path analytics..”

Vkundawa Vkundawa

Network Implementation Engineer at Cisco

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Use Case

“We are using it as a DNG. This means all subscriber PPPoE sessions or ILS Smart VPN connections are terminated through the access network to this BNG, Uniphore BNG. From there, they are managed..”

SRI GANESH PHANIYAPPA

Sub Divisional Engineer NOC Bangalore at Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited

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“We deploy the solution on UCPs. The solution is used for the edge and can be used for Vista, low bandwidth links, session failover, or smooth session failovers, and can be deployed on public clouds. Juniper Session Smart Router can save up to thirty percent of bandwidth and database usage..”

Ajay Kollipara

Pre Sales Engineer at Atlas Communications Technology

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“I have not tested Sophos on a larger scale, as I use Sophos in a very office environment and Juniper in telecom.

Because we have Juniper switches and Juniper firewalls, we have not centralized them really. I do not prefer centralizing things, as I feel that if someone gains access, they have so much information about my network. This is a personal feeling rather than a professional one..”

Bashir Bashir

IT Manager at Vegol

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“We are a direct partner of formerly 128T, which is now Juniper. For Juniper, we are currently working on the correct partner status, which is missing due to the purchase of 128T.

As a German ISP, we use SSRs to produce SD-WAN deployments for our customers for plenty of different use cases, such as inter-location connectivity, over bandwidth bundling, and application SLA requirements where some applications get threaded differently against each other. So, it depends on the customer, but we are currently using it for all of the use cases for which you can use SSR..”

Sascha Bülow

Technical Architect at Plusnet

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“My main use case for Juniper Session Smart Router in the lab environment where I've tried learning about Juniper networks is basically SD-WAN and application-aware routing for enterprise WAN transformation.

“A realistic example regarding my main use case for Juniper Session Smart Router is a branch failover that previously took manual intervention; now it automatically reroutes traffic based on application SLA degradation..”

Vkundawa Vkundawa

Network Implementation Engineer at Cisco

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“I use Juniper Session Smart Router to connect branch offices to cloud apps like AWS where the router dynamically selects the best path such as MPLS, broadband, or LTE connections based on application performance, ensuring low latency for critical services while enforcing zero-trust security policies.

“A key addition to this use case is that because it is session-based rather than tunnel-based, we do not rely on traditional VPN tunnels, which means it has the fastest failovers and better visibility into each application session, along with built-in zero-trust segmentation..”

Verified user

Worksoft Certify Sr.Consultant at a outsourcing company with 51-200 employees

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Setup

The setup process involves configuring and preparing the product or service for use, which may include tasks such as installation, account creation, initial configuration, and troubleshooting any issues that may arise. Below you can find real user quotes about the setup process.

“Juniper Session Smart Router is not easy to implement; its syntax is totally different, and it is not very easy to implement. If I had to implement things, I would choose Sophos over anything..”

Bashir Bashir

IT Manager at Vegol

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“The initial setup of this router is a bit complex even for experienced engineers. It runs on Linux and requires extra steps for configuration. The blasting process, where you load the software, often gets stuck, and we end up doing it a few times. It is not very reliable, and even Juniper tech support hasn't given a clear fix. Both the setup steps and software stability can be a bit of a hassle. Deploying Juniper Session Smart Router takes some time. After all the planning and documentation are done, it usually takes more than a week or around ten days to get the connector set up on our on-premises data center..”

Imran Taiyeb Ali

Senior Solutions Specialist at a comms service provider with 201-500 employees


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“For us, it's pretty much straightforward because we have been working with it for so long. We attended all the classes that 128T provided. So, for us, it's pretty much straightforward, but for a customer who doesn't have experience with any SD-WAN solution, especially not with the 128T solution, it would be fairly complex.

In terms of its maintenance, as an ISP, we have operators who handle more or less traditional routers that we have in our network. They also got trained on this SSR solution, and they can handle these too. Obviously, if you add more routers to your network, you more or less would need more staff to handle them, but there is no specific need just because you are using SSR..”

Sascha Bülow

Technical Architect at Plusnet

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Customer Service and Support

“It is good and perfect, but I do not prefer relying on support. I prefer knowing that they are available rather than having to contact them to fix things for me..”

Bashir Bashir

IT Manager at Vegol

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“Juniper enterprise support is generally very strong, providing good TAC quality, strong SD-WAN specialists, and a good documentation and training ecosystem. The resolution speed may vary depending on the complexity of the issue, but the support quality is strong technically..”

Vkundawa Vkundawa

Network Implementation Engineer at Cisco

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“Because we are talking directly to engineers in the US, the support is usually the best you can possibly get. As a direct 128T partner, we don't count as a normal customer. So, for us, the support is perfect and fine, and we can talk to the engineers directly in Boston. Support is not a problem. I don't know about their normal technical support because we just don't really use it..”

Sascha Bülow

Technical Architect at Plusnet

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“I would rate Juniper's support team as a five out of ten. In comparison to other support teams I have worked with, they could improve. Many engineers, including those with several years of experience, find the support lacking in expertise. The team often relies on generic information from guides and searches, rather than providing specific solutions to the problem at hand. It seems like they might need better training or a more efficient process to address issues promptly. Overall, it takes them some time to get to the root of the problem, which can be frustrating..”

Imran Taiyeb Ali

Senior Solutions Specialist at a comms service provider with 201-500 employees

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Other Advice

“My advice for others considering Juniper Session Smart Router is to improve the GUI-based management. Right now, it heavily relies on CLI, which can be less reliable and time-consuming. Overall, I would rate Juniper Session Smart Router as an eight out of ten. While it has some good new features, the overall performance could be better..”

Imran Taiyeb Ali

Senior Solutions Specialist at a comms service provider with 201-500 employees

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“My advice for someone considering Juniper Session Smart Router is to invest in learning early and understand the session-based routing because it is different from traditional WAN. I also recommend starting with a pilot test with a few branches before full rollout and defining the application policy early and clearly. The biggest value comes from the app-aware routing, so leverage automation because it saves time and scales. Additionally, train your team to reduce troubleshooting friction later. I would rate this solution an 8.5 out of 10..”

Verified user

Worksoft Certify Sr.Consultant at a outsourcing company with 51-200 employees

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“[Juniper Session Smart Router](#) is a controller for managing devices. We have real-time analytics through the IBA Probes. For troubleshooting, we have direct access to them. As we use other vendors, we are running also the [SASE](#) with another provider. We have the response time, also latency and so on. There are other

considerations, but I didn't think about everything right now. My overall rating for this product is 7..”

Julien KOLLE M

Cloud Infrastructure Architect at POST Luxembourg

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“My advice to anyone who wants to use this solution is to read the menu. Every customer who directly wants to administer and operate an SSR solution should obviously get in touch with a Juniper partner to get it set up right from the start of the project. That's because, with the configuration itself, there are so many things you have to keep in mind when moving on from MPLS or VPN to an SD-WAN solution. It isn't directly related to the SSR component, but it is related to switching over to an SD-WAN solution.

I would rate Juniper Session Smart Router an eight out of 10..”

Sascha Bülow

Technical Architect at Plusnet

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“I give the solution a ten out of ten.

Depending on the use case, whether we are in retail, banking, IT, or manufacturing, the deployments may differ depending on if we are on a digitization journey or moving workloads to the cloud. This solution is very good because it is scalable across all use cases, saving 30 percent of the bandwidth in its transport diagnostic and database. The solution is session-aware, rather than relying on external-based technology, so everything is seen as a session. We can run our SLA metrics on the session, rather than per source to destination, providing complete visibility of the session. Juniper Session Smart Router is also big in zero trust access. All in all, whatever we need is available, with a single pane of glass to see all the features. This makes it a great solution and it is easy to deploy, with both cloud-based environments and on-prem orchestration available..”

Ajay Kollipara

Pre Sales Engineer at Atlas Communications Technology

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“Juniper Session Smart Router is rated 8 out of 10 based on my experience with the product.

“I rate it an 8 out of 10 because the policy design complexity initially is not great and some of it requires a mindset shift from traditional routing concepts. Additionally, it is a smaller ecosystem compared to Cisco, Meraki, or Fortinet.

“My advice for others looking into using Juniper Session Smart Router is to build strong observability first, understand cloud connectivity, and train operations teams early.

“Juniper Session Smart Router is a great tool for practicing observability integration and other aspects moving towards SD-WAN and cloud networking, all relating to intent-based network operations. It is a great tool to understand cloud connectivity requirements beforehand..”

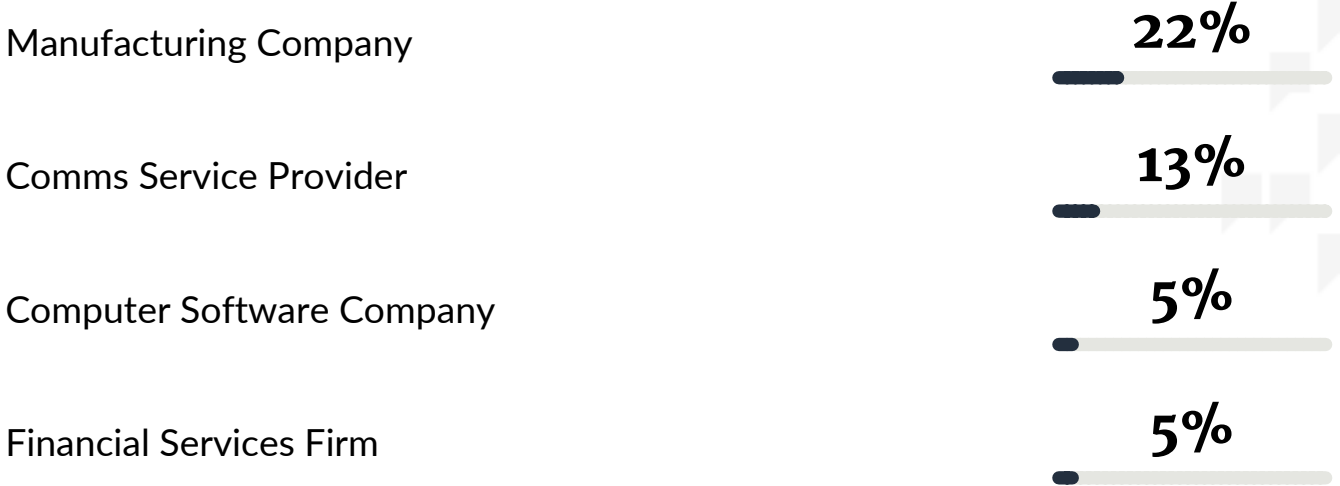
Vkundawa Vkundawa

Network Implementation Engineer at Cisco

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Top Industries

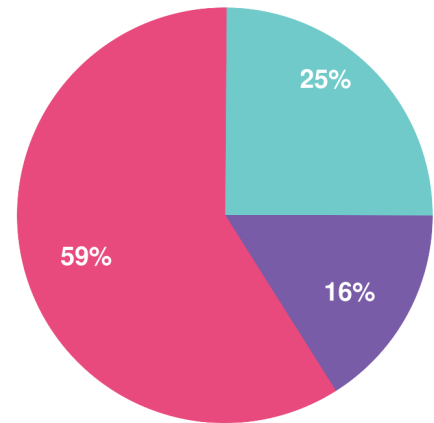
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Company Size

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Large Enterprise Midsized Enterprise Small Business

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