



# Nonprofit Technology

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*What Nonprofit Leaders Should Consider **Before**  
Purchasing **Cisco Meraki** Equipment*



## Helping Nonprofit Leaders Make Informed IT Decisions

As nonprofits increasingly depend on IT to fulfill their mission, making smart technology choices is more important than ever. The right tools protect sensitive data and help organizations grow, enabling them to serve their communities better.

This guide provides nonprofit leaders with the *essential* questions to ask when evaluating IT network solutions. These questions will help leaders make decisions that solve immediate problems and ensure their technology supports their mission and long-term goals.

## Understanding Nonprofit IT Network Challenges

For nonprofits, IT is more than just a necessity—it's *crucial* to driving mission success. However, with limited budgets and small teams, making the right IT decisions can feel overwhelming. Add to that the need for solutions that are both scalable and easy to manage. That's why it's important to have a solid plan for choosing the right technology to help your nonprofit grow and succeed.

**Nonprofits waste an estimated 35-45% of their IT budgets on outdated or inefficient technology.**

## 15 Things to Nonprofit IT Leadership Should Consider “Before” Purchasing Cisco Meraki Equipment

### 1. What are our networking and security needs?

Think about the **scale of your network**, the **sensitivity of the data you handle**, and **how many people need access**. Make sure the solution offers essential protections like **encryption, firewalls, and real-time threat detection** to keep your data secure.

### 2. Does this equipment support our mission and growth?

Consider how the right technology can **improve the way you serve your community**. Will it help **simplify daily operations, strengthen data security, and free up more time** to focus on your core mission?

### 3. What are the long term costs?

Don't just focus on the initial price. Be sure to account for **ongoing expenses** such as **maintenance, updates, and any necessary training**. Make sure these costs align with your long-term budget to prevent unexpected financial strain down the road.



### 4. Can our IT team manage this equipment?

See if the provider offers **support, training, and management tools** to facilitate monitoring and maintenance. Make sure the equipment is manageable for your team and can grow with your organization's needs without adding unnecessary complexity.

### 5. What are the data backup and recovery options?

Evaluate the equipment's ability to handle data recovery, backups, and redundancy. Ensure it offers **secure, automated backup options** and has a **reliable disaster recovery plan** in place to protect your data.

## 6. How reliable is the vendor's customer support and warranty options?

Research the vendor's reliability by looking into **their history, customer reviews, and reputation**. Check if they provide 24/7 customer support, and carefully review their **warranty options**—pay attention to coverage length, any exclusions, the availability of extended warranties, and their service level agreements (SLAs).

## 7. How will we integrate this with our existing system?

Make sure the new technology is **compatible with your existing hardware, software, and network configurations**. Identify potential issues like version conflicts, data migration challenges, or the need for updates. Be prepared for any necessary adjustments and factor in additional costs that might come up during the process.

## 8. How will this technology impact our stakeholders and what ROI can we expect?

Consider how the new technology will **affect your staff, volunteers, and beneficiaries**. Will it make daily operations easier or introduce new challenges? Take time to assess the **long-term benefits**, including potential cost savings, improved efficiency, and overall operational improvements, to determine its true value for your organization.

## 9. What is the expected lifespan of the equipment?

Think about how long the **equipment will stay relevant and useful**. IT investments should serve your organization for several years. Look for warranties that match the expected lifespan, and make sure the vendor provides regular software updates to keep the system running smoothly over time.

## 10. What are the compliance and legal considerations?

Ensure the **equipment complies with necessary legal standards and data protection regulations**. Depending on your region and industry, this may include adhering to laws like GDPR, HIPAA, or PCI DSS to safeguard sensitive information and maintain compliance.

## 11. What are the environmental considerations?

Assess the equipment's energy efficiency and environmental impact. Choose technology that **complements your organization's sustainability goals**. Look for energy-efficient options with Energy Star certifications.

## 12. What is the implementation timeline and required resources?

Estimate the time needed for deployment, configuration, and staff training. To minimize disruption, **choose systems with quick, remote setup options**. Plan for any extra personnel or temporary downtime required to ensure a smooth transition.

## 13. How will this equipment affect user experience?

Select technology with a **user-friendly, intuitive interface** that IT and non-technical staff can navigate easily. Look for features like customizable dashboards, simple menus, and clear reporting tools to simplify daily management and minimize the need for extensive training.

## 14. Does the vendor offer training and educational resources?

See if the vendor offers resources to help your team quickly learn how to use the equipment. This might include **manuals, webinars, training sessions**, or other **educational materials** to support a smooth transition.

## 15. What is the resale or disposal value of the equipment?

Make sure the vendor provides **eco-friendly disposal or recycling programs** for outdated hardware. Some vendors may also offer trade-in programs or resale options, which can help offset costs when upgrading your equipment.

**Nonprofits partnering with Telecom4Good saved up to \$12 million on IT expenses through discounted solutions and support.**

## Your Cisco Meraki Solution

*Cisco Meraki gives nonprofits a straightforward, cloud-based IT solution that makes managing your network easier and more secure. Whether you have a small team or limited IT resources, Meraki helps you keep everything running smoothly without adding complexity.*



### Strong Security

- Cisco Meraki protects your data with built-in encryption, firewalls, and real-time threat detection.

### Manage Everything from the Cloud

- Manage your network from anywhere, anytime, using any device.

### Grows with You

- Meraki grows with your organization, adding users or locations without extra costs.

### Automatic Updates

- No need for manual updates —Meraki takes care of that for you.

### Energy Efficient

- Designed to save energy, helping you cut costs and support sustainability.

### Simple to Use

- Easy interface with clear dashboards.



## Why Nonprofits Choose Telecom4Good



### Big Savings

Nonprofits Save **50% off** or more on Cisco Meraki **products**, with Telecom4Good's nonprofit pricing. That means you can invest in top-notch tech without going over your budget



### Free IT Planning and Strategy

Telecom4Good offers personalized IT planning and strategy services at **no cost**, so you can feel confident that your technology decisions are supporting your long-term goals.



### Real Impact

Nonprofits using Cisco Meraki see real improvements—saving money, boosting efficiency, and strengthening security. These benefits free up more resources for the work that really matters—**serving your community**.



### Personalized Support

Telecom4Good offers dedicated support, **guiding you through setup and ongoing management** to ensure your IT system runs smoothly and grows with your nonprofit.



### Ongoing Consultation:

We ensure your technology adapts to your growing needs, helping you stay ahead **without extra hassle**.

## CASE STUDY:



### OVERVIEW

Goodwill Industries of Kentucky was facing challenges with their outdated IT system. It couldn't keep up with their growth, leading to performance issues and security concerns. They partnered with **Telecom4Good** to find an *affordable, efficient solution*, and **Cisco Meraki** was the answer.

### SAVINGS ALL AROUND

Through Telecom4Good, Goodwill received a **56% discount** on hardware and licenses. The cloud-based system allowed them to manage their network remotely, while built-in security features like encryption and real-time threat detection ensured *stronger protection*. The outdated IT system had been causing network slowdowns and putting sensitive donor and client data at risk, but with Cisco Meraki, those concerns were addressed.

The new system delivered a **62% improvement in network performance**, enabling staff to work more efficiently. Automatic updates reduced the IT team's workload, allowing them to focus on higher-priority tasks. Significant cost savings freed up funds for community programs, and the scalable solution ensured Goodwill's IT could grow without costly upgrades.

By adopting Cisco Meraki, Goodwill modernized their IT infrastructure, improving efficiency and setting the stage for continued growth.



## Now it's Your Turn to Succeed

Telecom4Good makes upgrading your IT systems easy. Here's how to get started:

### 1. Schedule a Consultation

Connect with our team to create a custom plan.

**[Schedule your consultation now](#)**

### 2. Explore Nonprofit Pricing

Browse Cisco Meraki products at exclusive nonprofit rates.

**[Explore Cisco Meraki products](#)**

### 3. Request a 30-Day Risk-Free Trial

Test the solution in your environment with no obligation.

**[Request your risk-free trial](#)**

### 4. Contact Us for Support

Our team is here to assist you as you integrate Cisco Meraki into your organization.

**[Contact us now](#)**



## Take the Next Step

Cisco Meraki, teamed with Telecom4Good, gives nonprofits an IT solution that's **reliable, easy to manage, and ready to grow with your organization**. It's designed to keep your network secure, support your team, and simplify your IT setup, so you can focus on what matters most—your mission.

With **special nonprofit pricing and free planning services** from Telecom4Good, you can get top-notch technology without blowing your budget. Let Cisco Meraki and Telecom4Good provide the tools you need to grow, serve, and succeed.

- **Contact Us:** Schedule a call to discuss your nonprofit's unique IT needs and find out how you can get started with tailored solutions.
- **Explore More:** Visit our website to explore our full range of services and exclusive nonprofit pricing.
- **30-Days Risk-Free:** Take advantage of our risk-free trial period to see firsthand how these solutions can make a difference for your team.

Contact us today and start optimizing your technology for greater impact!



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