

SDWAN – Future of Branch Network and Voice Infrastructure After Effects of COVID19

SD-WAN, or software-defined WAN, is exploding at the rate of knots and is the hottest topic within the networking space right now. The Internet has fuelled countless technological advancements and presented organisations with incredible opportunities to expand geographically reaching more customers and enabling greater employee productivity and collaboration.

So, what's the role of SD-WAN in current COVID 19 pandemic?

Over the past few weeks, it's an understatement to say that the COVID-19 pandemic has changed every facet of our lives. Organisations everywhere, including businesses, educational institutions, and public venues such as airports and stadiums, are all adapting to these times. The COVID-19 pandemic has now forced nearly every country worldwide to rethink their strategies, business continuity plans and their readiness for such pandemics in future.

Many organisations have either recommended or mandated employees to work from home. The work from home users need to access their corporate applications with the same high-quality experience as they would have from their office. It is a must now for an organisation to empower its employees to carry out business activities and to ensure business continuity. Going forward, this will permanently change the way we work, learn to connect, worship and simply how we live & connect in community with each other.

What will change and why SD-WAN?

Organisations would increasingly adopt SD-WAN for the home networks to support their remote workforce, given the SD-WAN software-defined approach and benefits. As the network usage increases, the WAN struggles to keep up with demands from users and bandwidth-hungry applications. Inevitably, applications become slow and unreliable, causing frustration and agitation to both the business and their customers. Pursuing and gaining the maximum advantage out of wide-area networks (WANs) has become a business imperative.

Also, cloud-hosted applications would raise the stakes for edge network performance; enterprises would require even greater WAN reliability, agility and performance to leverage the cloud's economies of scale. They must turn to SD-WANs to achieve CapEx and OpEx savings, reduce complexity and be secure.



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This trend would spur networking technologies like SD-WAN that are making transformational changes in the way enterprises deploy next-generation WAN architecture. So, SD-WAN is going to be on a roll.

What are the benefits of SD-WAN?

Speed to market

The technology has been built on the premise that as organisations undergo digital transformation, they need a networking solution that can adapt quickly. SD-WAN allows for changes to be made immediately and centrally to an entire system or network at one time all through a single interface with great ease.

Cost savings

Connecting geographically dispersed offices or branches can hit IT budgets hard and be inordinately expensive to maintain. SD-WAN allows a business to expand its network more efficiently, circumventing its reliance on traditional providers.

A Higher Quality Experience

A particularly appealing characteristic of SD-WAN is its policy-controlled environment, which enables businesses to manage multiple types of connections. For example, it could ensure that an MPLS virtual private network (VPN) always has priority for network connectivity, while giving secondary priority for high-bandwidth traffic such as video. An SD-WAN solution also allows for dynamic path selection, early detection of congestion points resulting in optimised load balancing so that high-quality data transfer is maintained.

Zero-Touch Provisioning and Deployment

SDWAN technology enables Provisioning and deployment of SDWAN in the branch very fast with zero-touch, which makes it simple. Physical appliances are configured before shipping and virtual appliance images are burned before posting so that in many cases, organisations do not even need technical personnel physically in the branch to do the SD-WAN install. All administration and reporting take place centrally managed SDWAN controller.

Performance Blind Spots

Gain unprecedented visibility into network and application performance for proactive management and ongoing innovation.

Reduced MPLS Dependency

Augment MPLS links with less expensive links by transforming abundant, affordable broadband bandwidth to high-quality enterprise class links with the four nines reliability expected from MPLS.

While employees would be back working in the offices, social distancing would still be practised at work and large congregations of people would still be avoided, meetings would still be conducted virtually. SD-WAN as technology going to be must for an organisation to empower its employees to carry out business activities and to ensure business continuity...