

Selecting the *right converged* SD-WAN and cyber security solution

To evolve, the enterprise requires an approach as individual as the enterprise itself, and selecting the best solution can be challenging. **End user populations cluster** according to diverse business criteria and uptime **can be critical at flagship offices**. Connectivity to sites can be unreliable and create persistent and repeating incidences which drain resources.



In order to accommodate the customer's business operations, network designs require greater flexibility. To establish the selection criteria can often be an expensive consultancy exercise.



Key attributes of an SD-WAN provider

Not all SDWAN solution providers address the same business network needs.

Prioritising the factors that deliver the best return on investment to your business will help to frame the right vendor(s) and technology.

- Security Compliance in all areas of the network through the same set of policies.
- Optimisation of each business application, irrespective of the hosting location.
- Technical Specialisms that support your company's mid-term IT strategy.
- 24x7 Monitoring, centralised management and ubiquitous reporting.
- Multiple access to management, including co-management and segmentation.
- Remove issues of integration by replacing "point solutions" with managed services.
- Agile deployment, to accommodate your business and its teams, locally, nationally, and globally.



Decide how to connect your sites (topology)

Decide whether you want to connect all sites together (full mesh topology) or choose a few key sites to act as a central point for traffic management (hub & spoke topology).

Traffic between sites is encrypted through VPN tunnels, so the greater the number of sites, the higher the performance of the equipment required at each site.

Consider Cloud backup



If the company's applications are deployed in the Public Cloud, **identify SD-WAN providers that are compatible with cloud providers.**

Securing access to applications connected through virtual networks by encrypting the traffic between them is just as important as securing physical sites.



Emphasise security needs

In every industry sector, each company needs to consider different use cases and needs. The type of business activity, the number and type of devices and users connected to the network and **the type of security the SD-WAN solution requires.**



Management requirements

Managing a network solution is complex and requires a highly available and specialised network and cyber security team. Increasingly, companies are choosing to outsource the design, installation, deployment, and operation of SD-WAN and cyber security solutions to specialist managed service providers. **Self-management portals give companies with in-house skills the option to make changes on-the-fly.**

