Technical Overview

Analyzing Connectivity: 4G LTE and T1 Circuits

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Finding the Best Connectivity for Your SD-WAN Platform

4G LTE connectivity is often a preferred platform for SD-WAN solutions due to its availability, reliability, and cost performance. Customers who are looking to get high-quality connectivity for their corporate offices, branch locations, retail stores, manufacturing plants, etc., often rely on the performance their connectivity gives them. Comparing 4G LTE and the legacy T1 connectivity shows that customers who are looking for a dependable solution will likely want to rely on a 4G LTE connectivity for their SD-WAN platform.

Type of Connectivity

4G LTE transport is an all packet-based connectivity, which means it plays very well in a software-based environment. One of the benefits of this is that turning up a new connection is simple since it doesn't require a tech to be onsite to configure the circuit. Furthermore, with 4G LTE being software-based, the ability to manage and monitor your connection is easier than with a circuit-switched service. Keeping an eye on performance, uptime, and making changes to your speeds is simpler and takes only minutes instead of weeks. T1 connections are circuit-based and need to be "hooked up" before ether service will be active. This requires a technician to go to each location that needs a new circuit and manually implement the connectivity for the customer. This limits the flexibility a customer has to make changes, add new lines, or upgrade their connection because each time requires weeks of waiting and a human intervention.

Reliability

T1 circuits are subject to outages, as well as broadband circuits. 4G LTE connections are significantly more reliable and with a redundant connection, can provide 5 nines of reliability. Furthermore, having redundant circuits can also provide a higher reliability of uptime. If a connection is not performing or has experienced downtime, the SD-WAN platform with its DMPO (Dynamic Multi-Path Optimization) capability, can switch to the connection that is performing optimally.

Availability

Most carriers today are offering 4G LTE options and so the availability and price compression have left customers in a good position to incorporate 4G connections into their network. As a result, customers have more options as well as more confidence that their 4G platform will be cost-competitive.

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