

Why SD-WAN Technology Is Perfect for Telecommuting



Working remotely is creating compelling opportunities and tests for business networks. SD-WAN technology provides reliable technical solutions for firms and their employees who telework or take flextime.

Challenges of Remote Access and Mobile Business

Although this growing mobility trend delivers strong results, it also presents hurdles for remote access to business communications, applications and data transmission. Due to the desire to retain top talent, businesses need to ensure that they have a game plan for providing reliable, and secure, access to the company network.

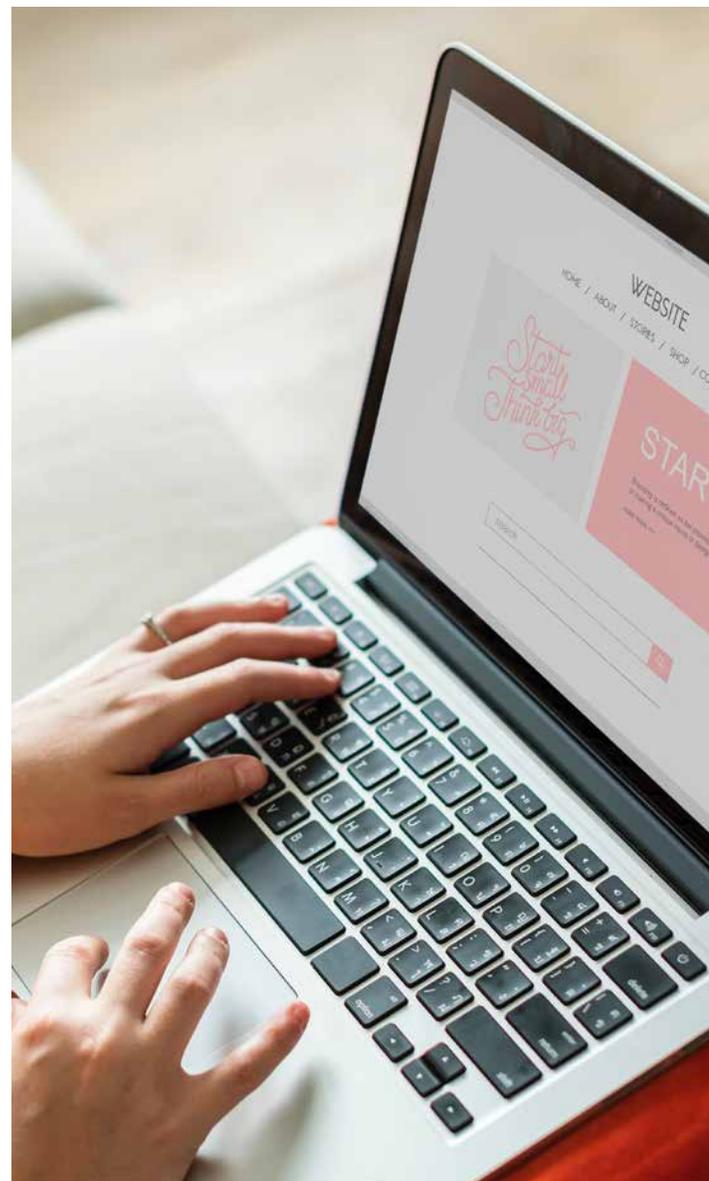
SD-WAN is an effective solution for remote company access. With SD-WAN, your firm can deliver agile, robust and secure end-to-end deployment with end-user transparency.

Security is a critical issue you must address since it's imperative to keep private company information out of the wrong hands. The company should set up a virtual private network (VPN) that adheres to the IPsec standard.

Employees must agree to internal policies, such as keeping corporate and business data separate on their devices. They should further agree to only use company resources for business use and to put a high priority on compliance. Employees must only use complex passwords for logins, or multi-factor authentication, and must be current on their cybersecurity training.

It's worth noting that SD-WAN can help organizations can keep their remote employees under the same security protocols as employees in-house. Managing updates and network changes can be done at a central IT center and sent to employees no matter their location.

The flexibility of working from home, the beach or any location presents another challenge for managers who must motivate employees to keep pace with schedules and assignments. Sometimes working in a comfortable environment can lead to distractions. Managers can remotely monitor work activity to ensure deadlines are met. This strategy creates a win-win scenario for the company and its workers, who can enjoy balancing work with family life.





Advantages of SD-WAN Solutions & Teleworking

A clear benefit to implementing SD-WAN is reducing infrastructure costs. Not only will this solution save the company expenses on hardware and maintenance, it also will save money on travel. Here are additional reasons to explore this model:

- › Teleworkers are motivated when their company trusts them to work remotely
- › Ability to attract new talent, including those with special needs
- › Encourages use of new technologies and new ideas

Additionally, this infrastructure and work arrangement will create a deeper interest in Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) for employees. CSR is an emerging set of metrics and reports that companies share with stakeholders to demonstrate they care about employees, as well as social concerns. The more employers care about their staff, the more output and loyalty the firm will likely receive in return. CSR also deals with sustainability. Cutting down or eliminating travel helps reduce the strain on the environment while improving the quality of life for workers and the community.

SD-WAN is a perfect solution for geographically dispersed call centers. SD-WAN's unified monitoring offers continuous unidirectional monitoring across all WAN connections, with immediate response to network problems that can prevent disruption of calls. With SD-WAN, even if link failure occurs, the system won't drop calls, unlike what happens with MPLS solutions that are vulnerable to call drops when an MPLS connection fails. Geographically dispersed call centers can thus get real-time unified communications through SD-WAN. Benefiting both customers and call center employees.

Remote Approaches for Branch Networks Using SD-WAN

Businesses can explore options when they decide to adopt SD-WAN for branch networks. The most basic option is maximizing equipment for various purposes such as using a security stack in a hub location that also facilitates SSL or IPsec VPN for remote access. But this choice may involve time-consuming DNS configurations and drive up costs to pay for hub component licenses and maintenance.

Another option is allowing controlled access to an application delivery platform. This solution may involve strict access policies and use of multi-factor authentication for remote users. However, this solution can be more costly with lower quality performance for team members from remote locations. This solution is better suited for businesses in which remote users live within the same geographic region as the branch location.

A more recent development in SD-WAN technology is that it is delivered as a service. SD-WAN as a service fundamentally moves remote access authentication and policy-enforcement responsibilities to the public cloud, enabling service providers and their customers alike to align their WAN architectures to the new cloud computing paradigm. This gives network managers the ability to centrally manage all mobile users. It is a win-win model that provides the administrative and security controls that network administrators want, with the performance advantages that end users want.

Conclusion

Telecommuting is steadily gaining wider adoption as enterprises aim to meet the future needs of team players, particularly remote workers. All indications point to increasing remote access functionality in SD-WAN technology at public cloud data centers. The SD-WAN approach of well-envisioned policies can serve remote users well, allowing for consistent access control.





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