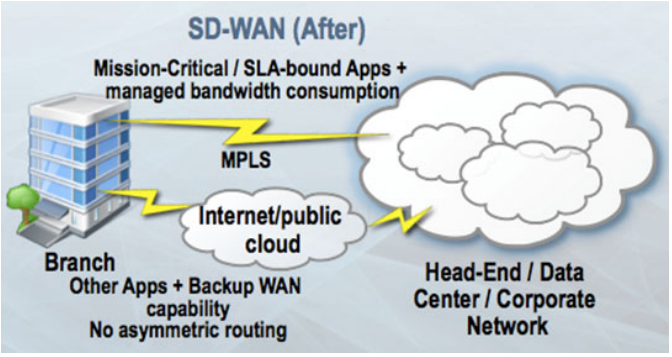
What drives SD-WAN deployments in enterprise? According to a global IDC survey, the answer includes bandwidth optimisation, consistent application security, integration with existing WANs, and improved automation and self-provisioning.



SD-WANs leverage hybrid WANs but incorporate a centralised, application-based policy controller, analytics for application and network visibility and security, a software overlay to abstract underlying networks and optional routing capability providing intelligent path selection across WAN links. It provides means to optimise cloud/SaaS applications while providing a dynamic and secure WAN fabric for distributed enterprises.

The survey covers current and future enterprise plans for SD-WAN infrastructure and services. It suggests increased confidence in emerging SD-WAN architectures, as well as the further embrace of SD-WAN across enterprise and service providers, leading to infrastructure and services revenues worth $8 billion by 2021.

"Given the affinity towards leveraging broadband for enhanced capacity across enterprise sites, in parallel with the proliferation of cloud-based applications and services, the enterprise WAN is being rapidly re-architected to cost-effectively deliver new, secure capabilities," IDC remarks. "Understanding and adapting current WAN network and security solutions across the emerging connectivity and application landscape is going to be a key ingredient for success as this market transforms in key geographies and across the service and solution provider domains."

The survey also points out faster deployment, operational efficiency and reduced complexity as other motivational factors for SD-WAN deployments. Key SD-WAN components include WAN optimisation, application and network security, application policy-based path selection, integrated routing and application visibility.

Meanwhile top SD-WAN use cases include the ability to simplify WAN infrastructure, the use of multiple WAN providers and broadband as a means to offload non-critical business apps.

Go IDC Survey Finds Bandwidth Optimisation, Consistent App Security, WAN Integration, and Improved Automation Are Driving Enterprise SD-WAN Deployments