Nine things you should know about SD-WAN: but nobody told you

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9. SD-WAN evolving to SASE



- An evolving technology
- Replacement for dedicated leased links between enterprise sites
- Substitute for MPLS connections (but can work in unison with them)
- Way to connect sites using secure VPN tunnels that go over the public Internet
- Allows the Enterprise to connect its remote locations with high availability to the DC / HUB locations (in theory)
- Makes this connectivity much cheaper than standard implementations
- LOVED by management !





- Software Defined Wide Area Network
- Enterprise WAN network using VPN tunnels over public Internet
- "Overlay" customer visible WAN network
- "Underlay" physical connections that route traffic between sites

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#1 What is SD-WAN?

Multiple deployment configurations can be supported



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Type of deployment unique for SD-WAN



- EDGE has multiple tunnels toward the multiple gateways
- GATEWAY is the SD-WAN provider device that serves as VPN concentrator
- GATEWAYS communicate between themselves over provider network



 ORCHESTRATOR is the control plane concentrator of the SD-WAN

- ORCHESTRATOR is where all configuration, control and management functions are located.
- EDGE sends logs, traffic, and performance information to Orchestrator

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- Expensive
- Complex
- Difficult to Manage
- MPLS not available everywhere globally
- Sometimes Long Lead times

CLOUD FIRST WAN

- Cost Optimized
- Flexible & Agile
- **Better Visibility & Control** (Central Mgt)
- Transport Agnostic
- Built for Cloud
- Improved Application Performance



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#2 SD-WAN is an evolving technology

Gartner Magic Quadrant: WAN Edge Infrastructure



SD-WAN Market Share 3Q21

1. Cisco	25.3%	
2. VMware	13.0%	
3. Versa Networks	11.8%	
4. Fortinet	10.2%	
5. HPE (Silver Peak)	7.5%	
6. Huawei	4.6%	
7. Palo Alto Networks	3.4%	
8. Nuage Networks	3.1%	
9. H3C	2.2%	
10. Others	18.9%	

 Gartner Magic Quadrant for WAN Edge Infrastructure, Sept 2021 Gartner Market Share: Enterprise Network Equipment by Market Segment, Worldwide 3Q21, Dec 2021

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#2 SD-WAN is an evolving technology

- Vendors raced to market with 'semifinished' solutions
- Vendor specific standards / solutions / implementations (no RFC for SD-WAN!)
- Early deployments faced a lot of troubleshooting and features still "in production"
- Lack of training and documentation
- "Best Practices" still in development





- SD-WAN is a connection between provider WAN/Internet and Enterprise LAN network
- Separate troubleshooting efforts are needed for SD-WAN
- Who is responsible for ISP communication (customer / SD-WAN provider)?
- Joint maintenance <-> joint responsibility



#4 SD-WAN Edge installation considerations

- "Zero Touch Provisioning"
- ISP links
- ISP Firewall
- NAT / CNAT
- (Un)trained personnel on site
- Coordination with customer network specialists
- Coordination needed with customer network design team



#5 Underlay Troubleshooting

- Invisible for the customer
- ISP communication and troubleshooting
- SD-WAN uplinks are not MPLS (high SLA) !
- Internet access without SLA / with weak SLA
- Customer will only see the service



#5 Underlay Troubleshooting

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#6 "Masking" of the underlay problems



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Continuous Link Monitoring

· Drives automation and optimization

Dynamic Per Packet Steering

- Sub-second steering without session drops
- Aggregated bandwidth for single flows

On-Demand Remediation

- Protects against concurrent degradation
- Enables single link performance

- Dynamic Multipath Optimization
- Excellent feature with a "dark side"
- How do we know that the link failed ?
- When will the customer know the link failed ?



- Visible to customer
- Customer will only see the service
- SD-WAN is not WAN network
- SD-WAN holds prefixes and announces them to Edge Devices (and vice versa)
- Additional troubleshooting challenge
- Careful routing procedures need to be implemented to prevent routing loops

#8 SD-WAN Operation and Maintenance

- Transition to SD-WAN from legacy infrastructure
- ISP communication and troubleshooting
- SD-WAN troubleshooting
- LAN troubleshooting
- Monitoring of all LAN / SD-WAN / WAN / ISP operation
- Field work at location
- What can be kept in-house what needs to be outsourced

#8 SD-WAN Operation and Maintenance

How can a Managed Services Provider (MSP) help?

- Extend your team's skillsets and technical expertise
- Share implementation and deployment best practices
- Provide insight and experience across the leading technology players
- Augment service and management capabilities





#9 Secure Access Service Edge (SASE)

- SASE convergences WAN and Network
 Security services into a single unified cloud native service delivered model.
- New package of technologies often including SD-WAN and SWG, CASB, ZTNA, FWaaS as core components.
- Delivered primarily 'aaS' and based upon the identity of the entity, real time context & policies.
- Simplifies network infrastructure by merging networking and security services into a unified architecture.



Conclusions



Conclusions

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- 1. SD-WAN represents an evolving technology
- 2. Vendor specific solutions are the only solutions available
- 3. A new SD-WAN implementation requires **careful planning** and **execution**, including:
 - A **clear design** and **strategy** for the new SD-WAN network
 - A **comprehensive redesign** of the existing infrastructure
 - A detailed migration plan to transform the enterprise network to SD-WAN
 - A defined process for ongoing troubleshooting, monitoring, and maintenance of the new SD-WAN network

Conclusions

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- Need for either outsourcing or intensive and comprehensive training of the existing staff to handle the SD-WAN implementation, monitoring and operation.
- Managed Services Provider is not a "universal solution" to all SD-WAN issues
- Regulatory / legal concerns need to be addressed when implementing cloud-based solutions like SASE
- Despite the industry hype and marketing messages there are no magical solutions in the SD-WAN implementation

THANK YOU

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