

## Checklist: What Type of SD-WAN Is Best for Your Business?

Nearly every provider, partner, and manufacturer in the IT/telecom industry touts that they “do” SD-WAN. But SD-WAN means different things to different suppliers – making navigating the marketplace confusing.

When it comes to considering SD-WAN for your business, it’s nearly impossible to figure out what’s best for you with all the pros and cons of various designs, suppliers, and technologies. Navigate through this checklist to see what – if any – SD-WAN solution is right for your company.



### What is driving your need for SD-WAN?

Are you looking to migrate off an expensive legacy MPLS? Maybe trying to beef up network availability by combining multiple low-cost ISP circuits? Perhaps you’re trying to get more predictable traffic flow across the country or world, or maybe you need easy access to cloud apps like O365, Salesforce, or AWS/Azure. Answer these questions to determine what problems you are trying to solve with SD-WAN first!

### Do you need to increasingly push applications to the cloud, such as VoIP, ERP, SaaS, or other?

The right SD-WAN can accommodate your need for highly reliable, high-performing bandwidth by leveraging a “gateway” in the cloud. These “gateways” act as a superhighway to your most important applications.

### Do you currently have MPLS in place?

At CommQuotes, we replace MPLS all the time, but it is not necessarily always the right solution to replace it with SD-WAN. Your specific business requirements and use case will determine if SD-WAN is a better, more cost-effective solution.

### Do you anticipate needing to push a lot of bandwidth across your network?

One of the major drivers to SD-WAN is the notion that there is significant cost savings moving to high-capacity broadband coax and shared fiber solutions. What many do not take into account is that the more bandwidth you push, the more SD-WAN may cost. Big bandwidth typically means bigger \$\$.

### Is security a high-priority concern in your networking considerations?

Many SD-WAN solutions can enable you to run SD-WAN parallel to existing firewalls locally, and others layer on true enterprise firewalling, IDS/IPS, anti-malware, and more – either locally or as part of a cloud solution. Depending on your security posture, one design may be better than the other.

### Do you have locations that are close together? Or do you house your apps locally?

If you answer “yes” to either question, an edge-based solution might be best for your business that enables you to send traffic over your WAN without paying for a larger license.

### Does your traffic need to go long distances or connect to cloud apps?

You’ll likely need a gateway solution where the provider leverages an internal private network.

## Clearly, It All Depends

We know how daunting it can be to try to evaluate your business needs against the heavy marketing and sales collateral that has bombarded IT pros today. Sometimes SD-WAN makes sense, and – no matter what a sales person tells you – sometimes it’s not a fit.

CommQuotes has decades of experience helping businesses like yours navigate these complex waters – ensuring our clients get real-world, cost-effective recommendations and guidance that solve actual problems. So, what problem do you want SD-WAN to solve for your business?

Contact us today to  
get the right answers!

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