SD-WAN: Deployment Options and Considerations Guide

SD-WAN technology is rapidly becoming ubiquitous in modern, highly distributed IT environments. In fact, two-thirds (66%) of organizations are already using and virtually all of the rest are planning to adopt (72%) this technology. The drivers behind the adoption are quite clear and include the ability to directly connect to cloud-based apps (51%), improve digital experiences (48%), and enable key remote workers (44%), among many others.

Organizations Have Deployment Options

However, in the rush to deploy SD-WAN, organizations also need to understand their deployment options and which ones best fit their business and operational needs. To better help you understand these options, let’s look at how your peers are deploying SD-WAN. While at a high level it appears to be an even split, a closer analysis shows that just over a quarter of respondents (27%) deploy the technology themselves in a DIY mode, while almost three-quarters (73%) prefer to deploy it as a managed service. Breaking that down further, organizations work with telcos (30%), VAR/MSPs (20%), and NaaS providers (23%). Organizations need to decide if they want fully managed or co-managed options and ensure their partner of choice provides the requisite flexibility.

Other Important Considerations

In addition to how the technology is consumed, organizations also need to understand whether key functionality is included in the technology or managed service. For example, for those operating a physical or concurrent SD-WAN cloud environment, almost half of organizations believe AI/ML technology is an important component for SD-WAN. Or when consuming the technology as a managed service, 99% of organizations believe AI/ML technology is an important component for SD-WAN. These considerations are key to making the most of the technology.

The next consideration is related to security, with SD-WAN being a critical component of a secure access service edge, or SASE, framework. Organizations should investigate whether their managed service provider also offers solutions for SASE, as organizations believe that both the SD-WAN technology and the communication links (Broadband, MPLS, cellular) must be included as part of the service.

The Bigger Truth

SD-WAN is well on its way to becoming ubiquitous technology and organizations need to make sure they understand which deployment model and critical capabilities are required. Dell Technologies is partner ecosystem provide organizations with flexibility and choice in SD-WAN technology, deployment options, and value add SASE or MEC solutions. To find out more about Dell Technologies SD-WAN solutions, click on the Learn More button.