## SD-WAN –
### *An All-in-One Solution*

Back in the day – let's say 2-4 years ago – if a company wanted to create a private network to connect various locations, their options were expensive, timely to deploy, and required skilled administrators. But like a fine wine, the options have gotten better with time.

Today, there's software-defined wide-area networking (SD-WAN) – one technology that can serve the purpose of router, firewall, WAN acceleration and – to a certain degree – a switch. Offering a tremendous cost savings over legacy networking technologies, SD-WAN can leverage commodity connections that are available everywhere. Think wireless, broadband, and cellular while providing the same performance as dedicated circuits. Unlike past options such as multi-protocol label switching (MPLS), SD-WAN is easy to administer. One person can log into a web portal and make changes within five minutes – a significant improvement from the MPLS process of having to reach out to a carrier to schedule a time for routers to be updated, which could take several days. All in all, SD-WAN takes things that were difficult about managing a network and makes them easier, faster, and much more cost effective.

## Does your business need SD-WAN?

If you are a company with branch offices that connect to a main office, SD-WAN is for you. However, it's also a viable option if you are a single location that requires additional bandwidth or located in a rural area that doesn't have adequate bandwidth. If you are a company that needs the ability to connect sites to other sites or hubs using proprietary overlays – such as VPN tunnels – and route traffic based on pre-determined rules, SD-WAN is your answer.

Another trend driving SD-WAN usage is a business deploying it at an employee's home so they can connect to the office and corporate network in a more efficient way than using dial-in virtual private network (VPN). Though not an original use of the technology, the spike in remote workers means we'll see SD-WAN used for remote access more because it's always on – you don't need to dial in. VPN is encrypted in most cases, but it comes with a lot of overhead costs in providing a license to each user and the large piece of equipment placed at the main office. You eliminate these costs with SD-WAN.

SD-WAN is evolving. Vendors are starting to integrate more security features such as virus and malware scanning. Then there's the onset of the internet of things (IoT) in items such as home appliances. For these connected devices, sensors need a cellular data connection or gateway to the internet – enter SD-WAN. And with 5G on the horizon, we expect to also see that becoming integrated or supported by SD-WAN.

## Defining SD-WAN

If you are considering using SD-WAN for your business, do your research to find a provider that has the offerings to meet your needs. At BullsEye, our foundation is telecommunications so when looking for an SD-WAN partner, we needed one that worked with voice over Internet protocol (VoIP) and would protect calls during network congestion or when connection issues occurred. We selected Velocloud by VMware – the only provider that could meet these needs. But from our customers' perspective, their provider is BullsEye. We provide full, white-glove deployment to support and management – it just depends on the customer's needs and expectations.

If you'd like to learn more about how BullsEye's SD-WAN solutions could benefit your business, contact us at **877-638-2855** or **sales@bullseyetelcom.com**.