

CHECKLIST

6 Questions to ask When Evaluating SD-Branch Solutions

As companies require their branch networks to do more, network engineering and operations leaders have to delicately balance a number of networking and security capabilities. Making sure the branch solution they deploy meets the connectivity, reliability, availability, cost, and security requirements can be daunting.

Choosing the right solution is critical because if your branch infrastructure lacks visibility and centralized management, your entire distributed organization is put at greater risk. Consequences of an inadequate solution include poor performance slowing down operations and security breaches.

The following questions can help determine if your solution needs an upgrade:

Can I consolidate and simplify my branch network and security infrastructure for greater efficiency and cost savings?

Look for a solution that uses a single console to manage security and networking features, plus includes robust automation and orchestration functions.

Are there ways to improve optimization of network performance?

Look for a solution that offers automated traffic routing and device onboarding with additional AI-based insights for further enhancement.

Is it possible to intelligently route traffic based on the user and/or application?

Look for a solution where routing decisions are based on a robust set of data and traffic visibility.

How can I see all devices in use in the branch?

Find a solution that enables full visibility into the users and the devices that are connected to your branch network.

Can I inspect all network traffic, encrypted and unencrypted, without network disruption?

Look for a solution that is powerful enough to inspect the increasing volume of encrypted traffic without bogging down the network.

Can I enforce policy-based controls for all devices that connect, and protect devices that have known vulnerabilities?

Look for a solution with built-in mechanisms to address network access for user-based and IoT devices.

Conclusion

Traditional branch architecture with disparate networking and security solutions cannot keep up with today's bandwidth demands and cyberthreat landscape. If you consider these questions when evaluating solutions, your branch deployments should be in good shape to deliver on the functionality needed.