MIGRATING FROM MPLS TO SD-WAN

Flexible network connectivity at a fraction of the cost

In today's business landscape organizations require a robust, secure and scalable network connectivity solution to support their critical operations. This has led to the emergence of Software-Defined Wide Area Network (SD-WAN) as a popular alternative to traditional Multiprotocol Label Switching (MPLS). SD-WAN offers a wide range of benefits such as increased agility, improved network performance, reduced costs, and simplified management, making it an ideal solution for businesses of all sizes.

The shift from MPLS to SD-WAN is driven by a businesses' need for a modern and flexible network architecture. MPLS, although reliable, is limited in terms of bandwidth and agility, making it a less suitable option for the modern digital landscape. With the rise of cloud-based applications and remote work, the need for a more dynamic and cost-effective solution has become imperative. SD-WAN provides the perfect alternative, with its ability to leverage multiple transport technologies, including broadband, wireless, and LTE, to achieve high performance and reliable connectivity. As a result, typically, businesses opt to migrate when their MPLS contracts are up for renewal or when expanding their network infrastructure to accommodate growing demands.

5 Steps within a MPLS to SD-WAN migration project

Step 1: Assessment and Planning -
This involves evaluating your current network infrastructure, identifying critical applications, and creating a roadmap for migration.

Step 2: Design and Configuration -
Once the assessment is complete, the next step is to design the SD-WAN architecture and configure the necessary hardware and software components. The provider does this for the client.

Step 3: Deployment and Testing -
After the design is finalized, the equipment is shipped out to the site. Either an FCX managed install, self-install or provider managed install takes place. The node is tested after install.

Step 4: Integration and cutover -
Once the testing is complete, the SD-WAN solution is integrated with the existing network, and the cutover from MPLS to SD-WAN takes place.

Step 5: Training and Support -
To ensure a seamless transition, it is essential to provide training to the IT team and end-users on the new network architecture. This step also includes ongoing support to troubleshoot any issues that may arise.

After the migration has taken place, various technologies become available through the SD-WAN network. These include: **Virtual Overlay**, creating a virtual network over existing physical infrastructure and **WAN Optimization**, which prioritizes and compresses data for faster transmission and reduced latency. It's most popular features however are: **Dynamic Path Selection**, which uses real-time monitoring of network conditions to select the most efficient path for data transmission and improves performance and **Application-Based policies**, allowing you to prioritize network traffic based on specific applications or for certain users.

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