A critical part of digital change

SD-WAN is a critical technology in supporting the ambition of digital transformation but also the rapid move to the digital workplace and enabling remote workforces.

92% said that increasing network bandwidth demands was an important or essential driver for implementing SD-WAN within their organisation.

95% said that digital transformation was an important or essential driver for implementing SD-WAN within their organisation.

3% of organisations have no plans to implement SD-WAN.

The top three technical implementation challenges when adopting SD-WAN are the lack of:

- hardware compatibility
- SDN understanding
- SDN support.

The top three non-technical implementation challenges when adopting SD-WAN are the lack of:

- budget
- training and support
- business leaders’ technology awareness.

The importance of partner support

Organisations know they will need partners for SD-WAN to piece together the technology and provide relevant skills and identify use cases.

92% said that digital transformation was an important or essential driver for implementing SD-WAN within their organisation.

94% of people surveyed outsource or co-manage their IT network infrastructures to a partner organisation.

The average split between internet and MPLS in an organisation:

- 62.50% Internet
- 37.50% MPLS

The top three attributes when working with a partner are:

- network performance
- trusted partnership
- network reach.

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Security is crucial to SD-WAN

The clearest message throughout the study was the importance of security and enterprises are keen for help in this area from partners.

62% of organisations surveyed said that there would be an increase in budget spend on internet connectivity over the next 12 months.

BT came top of the IT network providers

that organisations would consider partnering with in the future, ahead of Verizon, Accenture, T-Mobile, and NTT.

96% said security was an important or essential aspect to their decision making when choosing their SD-WAN solution.

The results when asked, how important it is for security to be built into an SD-WAN solution as opposed to an add-on:

- not important at all
- important
- very important

In relation to IT network security, the top three potential risks of moving to SD-WAN are:

- a much wider attack surface to manage and protect
- the use of public internet
- the concern about lack of skills to correctly apply security

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