

Your quick guide to SD-WAN

Our SD-WAN primer

The future is exciting.
Ready?



If you only read one thing, read this

Today Irish businesses are embracing digital transformation to work smarter and be ready for the future.

That's not easy when legacy networks are struggling with increasing demands. In this fast-changing world, businesses are facing increasing challenges with speed, cost and complexity.

Software-defined wide-area networking (SD-WAN) can help with that – and it's not just hype.

As a total communications provider, Vodafone can enable your business to realise the potential of SD-WAN and guide your adoption with our simple five-step process.

Our innovative SD-WAN product can solve everyday networking issues and play a crucial role in helping you achieve your long-term business goals. Be ready for success with Vodafone SD-WAN.



SD-WAN tech and terminology

Software-defined wide-area network (SD-WAN)

A virtual solution placed over your existing WAN or IP-VPN. Offers lower-cost connectivity than MPLS and immediate visibility and control of network traffic. Making it ideal for large, multi-site enterprises.

Secure Wi-Fi

A centrally controlled and managed Wi-Fi solution that improves network efficiency and adds additional layers of security. This will help improve employee and guest wireless experience while promoting your brand to end-customers.

Secure Firewall

Comprehensive security in a single box. It supports multiple features such as stateful firewall and integrated sourcefire intrusion prevention (IPS) engine, to keep networks secure. Threat definitions and filter lists update seamlessly ensuring every site is protected from the latest vulnerabilities and troublesome websites.

Analytics and Application Control

This offers complete end-to-end web application and WAN performance management. These tools will help IT administrators optimize the end-user experience, significantly reducing the time it takes to isolate network or application problems that lie beyond the LAN – for happy and productive users.

What are the benefits of SD-WAN?

SD-WAN has the potential to radically transform the way businesses operate. It's all about giving your business the tools to work smarter, and ultimately, more effectively.

- 1. Manage your network, your way:** It gives you more control over your network. Prioritise bandwidth to critical apps, as you need to.
- 2. Seamless and worry-free setup:** We'll help you move in stages, at your own pace.
- 3. Redefine your network economics:** Cost-effective connectivity and equipment. Supports multiple functions from a single box.
- 4. Know what's happening across your network:** Built-in visibility gives you a complete view of your network. Make better business decisions, faster.
- 5. Automate & integrate:** Rapidly deploy and manage networks in powerful new ways with the built-in API library.
- 6. Deploy at speed:** Launch new applications and services, when it suits you.
- 7. Stay one step ahead:** Updating security rules has never been easier. Stay protected, keep performing.
- 8. Your business Wi-Fi needs met:** You can provide Wi-Fi to all sites as part of your SD-WAN deployment.

Is SD-WAN suitable for me?

If you're a tech strategist or enabler Vodafone SD-WAN is for you:

- You are following a digital transformation agenda
- You are embracing more cloud-based services
- You are facing increasing demand to support remote, mobile and flexible working
- You are looking to increase network visibility
- You are struggling with the data explosion, evolving security threats, and rising costs

Triggers and motivations

Businesses have different levels of knowledge, maturity and readiness for SD-WAN. Many have hybrid WANs, using different networking products for different scenarios – creating an inefficient patchwork of solutions.

Some early adopters have started deploying SD-WANs as overlays – enabling them to get full network visibility and cut costs by reducing their reliance on MPLS connectivity and IT specialists.

Most business owners will be aware of the opportunities open to them and the challenges their organisations face. But they may be less aware of the strategies and technology that can help them solve their specific problems



How does Vodafone support SD-WAN?

Our five-step approach is designed to support your journey to SD-WAN.

- 1. Innovation Workshop:** Shows you how SD-WAN works and how it can help their business.
- 2. Readiness Assessment:** A one-to-one consultation with our SD-WAN specialist who will advise how and when to deploy.
- 3. Demo:** You can see a live SD-WAN demo environment.
- 4. Proof of Concept:** Get more formal proof of SD-WAN in your own environment.
- 5. Deployment:** Where we support you in going live, at your own pace.

Our SD-WAN solution – enabled by Cisco Meraki – can be deployed now.

Why choose Vodafone?

As a total communications provider, we offer more value than our SD-WAN-only competitors.

Scenario 1: Something goes wrong with Company A's underlay network.

SD-WAN providers can't see what's going on at the physical-network component level. But Vodafone has visibility of both the overlay and underlay network giving customers what they need to be an agile and responsive digital business.

Scenario 2: Company A needs to add/move sites, or migrate a workload from one location to another.

Vodafone is a single provider that can supply the entire change end-to-end, ensuring seamless delivery and handover – a true 'network-as-a-service' model.

We're a user of SD-WAN, not just a supplier

We're committed to the technology – the success of our 5G network relies on it.

We're multi-vendor

Vodafone SD-WAN is built on open standards – customers can partner with whoever they want.

We're ready for the next wave of technology

We plan to leverage in-built analytics with automation and artificial intelligence, to help our customers leverage all the benefits of digital transformation.

We offer the whole package

With a network offering that spans mobile, cloud and fixed network capabilities, Vodafone can deliver the always-on network customers need to support their always-on service.

We're both local and global

A network operator with a local team, and local support desk, but with global footprint and expertise.

Ready to find out more about Vodafone SD-WAN?

Talk to a Vodafone Business Account Manager about why Vodafone SD-WAN is right for your business and find out more about our SD-WAN Innovation Workshop today.



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