Deploying a wide area network, or WAN, may seem like a complex, daunting task. To help, this book is your quick, easy-to-read guide to understanding Software-Defined WAN, a technology that enables enterprises to migrate to a flexible, simple-to-deploy and easy-to-manage WAN solution. SD-WAN is a transformational approach to simplify branch WAN networking by automating deployment and improving performance over private, broadband Internet and LTE links for today's increasingly distributed enterprises.

- Understand the need for SD-WAN adoption for branch networking
- Learn the benefits of migrating to an SD-WAN solution
- Familiarize yourself with the key features of SD-WAN
- Learn about SD-WAN options
- Customize an SD-WAN adoption plan to your enterprise

Learn more about SD-WAN:

- SD-WAN Overview For Dummies iPaper
- SD-WAN Enterprise For Dummies iPaper
- SD-WAN Deployment For Dummies iPaper
- Future of SD-WAN For Dummies iPaper

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Learn more about SD-WAN:

5 Reasons Your Enterprise Needs SD-WAN

1. Flexible overlay topologies, options, and deployment models
   SD-WAN orchestrators and SD-WAN gateways are deployed as software entities. SD-WAN edges can be deployed as virtual (software) or as hardware appliances. The hosted SD-WAN orchestrator and SD-WAN gateways are usually deployed in a virtual form in either public clouds, such as AWS or Microsoft Azure, or through large Internet service provider (ISP) data centers for optimal access for the users.

2. Assured application performance
   SD-WAN boosts the service level and capacity of hybrid networks or standard broadband Internet links by implementing optimization technologies that include continuous monitoring, dynamic application steering, on-demand remediation, and Quality of Experience (QoE).

3. Enterprise-wide business policies
   SD-WAN makes setting policy as simple as a single click. Enterprises or their managed service providers can define business-level policies that apply enterprise-wide across many edges, all through a centralized, cloud-based orchestrator. Link steering, link remediation and Quality of Service (QoS) are all applied automatically based on set business policies; however, specific configuration overides may also be applied. A centralized SD-WAN orchestrator also provides an enterprise-wide view and configurability of routing in an overlay flow control table, eliminating complex node-by-node route configurations.

4. Unified, robust security
   SD-WAN provides unified, secure communications for traffic steered across any underlying transport. Standard Internet Protocol Security (IPsec) encryption is provided end to end from branches to data centers and for dynamic branch-to-branch communications. A cloud-delivered architecture also provides an automatic virtual private network (VPN) from branches-to-cloud gateway aggregation points for intercompany access to infrastructure as a service (IaaS), enabling manual, two-sided tunnel setup. SD-WAN provides the scalability and robust security of a public key infrastructure (PKI) with the consolidated management of an integrated certificate server, secure onboarding of devices, and revocation management. Risk is minimized by pinning certificates to specific devices and using unique pair-wise encryption keys.

5. Quick deployment in minutes
   Using a zero-touch deployment capability, an SD-WAN edge can be quickly installed. The SD-WAN edge is shipped to the branch office where a nontechnical person simply plugs in a power and a network cable. Activation, configuration, and ongoing management are all handled from the cloud.