Work from Anywhere: A VMware SD-WAN Solution

Learn more

- *VMware SD-WAN Datasheet*

Working from Home Is the New Normal

COVID-19 has introduced a host of changes, including a dramatic shift from office-based work to a work from home environment. Most enterprise organizations today have sent their non-essential employees to do their jobs from home. Companies must address many challenges to keep people not only safe but productive, efficient, and effective in their work.

To ensure a seamless office to home, or anywhere, transition, employees need a technical environment that closely duplicates the experience they would have in the office. This means easy and seamless access to applications as well as consistent and always-on internet availability. Inefficient network connectivity results in lack of bandwidth, broken and disrupted connectivity, and poor application performance. For remote users, secure access to the corporate network to utilize applications for day-to-day work becomes extremely important.

Solving Work from Home Access Issues

For enterprises to provide employees with a better work from home (WFH) environment, VMware SD-WAN™ delivers a secure access service edge platform that combines industry-leading SD-WAN with comprehensive security options embracing cloud and SaaS.

VMware SD-WAN delivers excellent and optimized network connectivity, assured application performance along with security, providing the Quality of Service (QoS) users need. VMware SD-WAN also provides operational simplicity by providing centralized monitoring, analytics, and control combined with artificial intelligence to simplify operations.

Security

Customers should enable 802.1x authentication for all wired ports and wireless SSIDs (except for an SSID or wired port for home users). VMware SD-WAN Edge supports EAP-MD5 password-based authentication as well as Mac Authentication Bypass (MAB) for 802.1x authentication. Enabling 802.1x authentication ensures that only business users and devices can access the overlay and the enterprise network.

Privacy

Home users and devices connected to the VMware SD-WAN Edge should be assigned to a VLAN that is configured as a private segment. Doing this ensures that traffic from these appliances will go directly to the internet via the underlay and ensures privacy for the home users' traffic (no flow data is collected or stored for private segments).

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Deployment Options

VMware recommends two deployment options to obtain maximum benefit from SD-WAN. In both scenarios pictured below, all traffic is routed through the VMware SD-WAN Edge. It prioritizes work traffic and applies on-demand remediation when poor application performance is detected. This ensures better Quality of Service (QoS) and a better user experience.
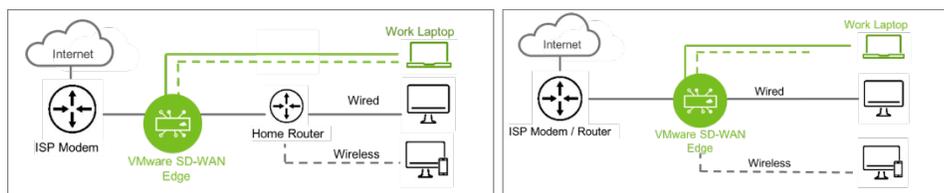
Deployment with separate ISP modem and router

Deployment with integrated modem and router

WFH Subscriptions for the Enterprise

To help enterprises provide an optimized work environment and experience for their WFH employees, VMware is offering two subscriptions that enable users to get the best application performance while working from anywhere: WFH and WFH Pro.

Any VMware SD-WAN Edge can use either WFH subscription license type. The appropriate license type depends on end users' typical work tasks. Light users who use the network for regular emails and voice calls may use the WFH subscription license. Power users who need to download large files and attend video conferencing calls may need the WFH Pro subscription license.

Both subscriptions include access to VMware Edge Network Intelligence™, a vendor-agnostic artificial intelligence for IT operations (AIOps) solution focused on the enterprise edge. VMware Edge Network Intelligence provides visibility not just into the SD-WAN network, but all the way to the LAN. It gives IT administrators new insight into non-enterprise networks, including home Wi-Fi networks, to analyze and remediate common WFH problems such as dropped VoIP calls and jittery video conference connections.

WFH SUBSCRIPTION	WFH PRO SUBSCRIPTION
One business user Up to three (3) concurrent business devices	One business user Up to six (6) concurrent business devices
Improved app reliability and performance for audio/video conferencing, voice calls and emails	Improved app reliability and performance for audio/video conferencing, voice calls and emails
Includes direct SaaS and cloud VPN access	Includes direct SaaS and cloud VPN access
Delivers rich client experience with VMware Edge Network Intelligence	Delivers rich client experience with VMware Edge Network Intelligence
Unlimited home users and unlimited home devices	Unlimited home users and unlimited home devices
Up to 350 Mbps (or maximum device throughput)	Up to 1 Gbps (or maximum device throughput) for graphics and large file downloads