



The Top 9 Things Australian Business Owners Need to Know About SD-WAN

You may have heard about SD-WAN and might be wondering why it's so popular with Australian businesses.

A Software-defined Wide Area Network (SD-WAN) is a virtual WAN architecture that allows businesses to use any combination of transport services – including MPLS, LTE and broadband internet services – to securely connect users to applications.

An SD-WAN uses a centralised control function to securely and intelligently direct traffic across the WAN. This increases application performance and delivers a high-quality user experience, resulting in increased business productivity, agility and reduced costs for IT.

Here are the Top 9 questions we get from Australian Corporate, Enterprise and SME clients investigating SD-WAN (and their answers, which we've learned from experience).

Can SD-WAN make our internet faster?

Yes, because a true SD-WAN like VeloCloud will bond multiple services together, giving you access to all of the available bandwidth if that is required.

For example, if you had 2 x 100/40 NBN services running (from different carriers of course) with the right VeloCloud SD-WAN subscription, you could potentially be getting close to 200Mbps download speeds and close to 80Mbps upload speeds.

Will SD-WAN save us money?

In most cases yes. Firstly, due to the redundancy an SD-WAN offers you won't have down time in the event

one of your data links drops out or goes down. Secondly instead of having to pay for an expensive carrier fibre link costing \$000s, you can bond multiple lower cost links and get a similar result.

For example, think about the cost of 2 or 3 NBN services bonded together vs the cost of a fibre internet service.

Can SD-WAN make our internet more reliable?

Yes, because a SD-WAN can have up to four different internet links (most commonly two data links and a 4G connection are used), if any one link drops out the SD-WAN automatically routes all traffic over the fastest available link.

Can we put multiple NBN connections on a SD-WAN?

Yes, the VeloCloud SD-WAN edge devices from Commschoice can take up to 4 X NBN services plus a 4/5G connection.

But won't that effect the IP address the traffic is routing over?

No, because the IP address used by the SD-WAN is issued by the Cloud Orchestrator, it doesn't matter which path the data packet travels over. It will always use the IP Address of the SD-WAN, even over a 4G link.

Could we use SD-WAN to get better-quality links in our offices where high-quality fibre is not available?

Yes. It's very easy to bond multiple lower cost links such as NBN TC4 (using different NBN Carriers and 4G for additional redundancy). This will allow you to build a very high bandwidth but cost-effective connection.

How do we manage the SD-WAN?

SD-WAN provides the user with an orchestration layer giving full visibility of their network and granular information on traffic, application use & steering, security management and control of their capacity. Users can simply click through their site map from network level down to the device layer at any connected site.

What is dynamic traffic routing on a SD-WAN?

Dynamic traffic routing by the packet is managed by the SD-WAN. The SD-WAN will choose the fastest path for the data packet. You can even unplug a connection during a VoIP phone call and the callers will not notice any change, the call would simply continue over the next available path.

How do you manage security on a SD-WAN?

The VeloCloud has a built-in security layer and management capability but you can always add in a next generation Cloud Firewall like a ZScaler subscription for additional security.

SD-WAN allows businesses to leverage simple, ubiquitous, competitive internet connectivity for rapid deployment and considerable savings. It is suitable for any organisation that wants to reduce costs, improve performance, gain flexibility – all without losing functionality.

To find out more, visit our [website](#) or contact the Commschoice team today on 1300 42 66 67 or email sales@commschoice.com

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