PLANNING FOR WAN: 8 TIPS FOR SMART CLOUD MIGRATION AND NETWORK TRANSFORMATION

Today’s digital businesses are relying more and more on cloud-optimized network services for delivering innovation and achieving a competitive edge. Wherever your business is in the cloud and WAN transformation process, this checklist sourced from a new IDG report and ITผ surveyed companies will help you develop a smart strategy and solid transition plan.

Identify your end goals.
Take time to identify needs and challenges that can be met with cloud-ready solutions, learn what's worked for other companies, and explore what best aligns with your business goals.

Do your homework.
Before forming an action plan, you'll need to conduct an inventory of your current network, identify potential suppliers and service providers, and weigh the pros and cons of each option.

Assess current connectivity needs.
Choosing the right cloud ready solutions for your business depends on your current network architecture and needs. Start by mapping out your current network to understand its strengths and weaknesses.

Embrace the mix.
For many enterprises, a phased migration approach is best. This allows for the emerging benefits of cloud to offset any initial costs and risks.

Build momentum with quick wins.
Start by mapping out your current cloud-ready applications and then planning for a gradual migration strategy. This will help you achieve quick wins and build momentum.

Learn, refine and evolve.
Always be on the lookout for new and emerging technologies to see what they can do for your business.

The benefits of WAN transformation.
For enterprises that have deployed SD-WAN, Hybrid-WAN, Ethernet WAN, or a mix of all three, and who measure their benefits, the positive impacts are clear.

Data Security
90% see improvements in networking costs of up to 50%.

Network
91% see improvements in end-user experience.

Revenue
90% see improvements in end-user performance of up to 50%.

User Experience
74% see improvements in on-demand connections of up to 90%.

IDG, ‘How a Software-Defined Network Advances Digital Transformation’, April 2018

CenturyLink software-defined adaptive networking solutions are ready to help you lay steps toward long-term transformation. For most enterprises, a phased migration approach is best. The key is embracing the mix.

Partner with experience.
For many enterprises, a phased migration approach is best. This allows for the emerging benefits of cloud to offset any initial costs and risks.

Davide Cooper, Vice President, Global Network at CenturyLink
Davide Cooper leads the Network Engineering & Solutions area at CenturyLink, where he works closely with sales, marketing and IT teams to help customers develop a strategic approach to their cloud readiness.

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I think the key to plan for a phased migration approach is to start with Cloud, Software Defined Networking, SDN first, public cloud, private cloud, hosted cloud and then the layering of those behind it. That’s the beauty of CenturyLink’s approach. Healthcare and other industries don’t have the overall budget to do it all at once, that’s why CenturyLink is really focused on that approach.

Only the best WAN designs make it into the market. What’s best for a enterprise is a customized solution. The solution is going to need the right expertise to be implemented correctly. That’s why CenturyLink is not just a technology company. What we do is more in the realm of process and how we make it work for the customer.

It’s all about understanding the things that we can do in terms of the customer experience. It’s always important to us to keep the customer experience foremost in mind.

Contact your peer group and find out what software-defined networking services and networking software are available today.

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One main thing that really sticks is that the first thing that needs to be done is to understand where you are in your digital transformation journey. That requires a very thorough inventory that shows all the different applications that are in terms of customer-facing aspects. Look at software-defined networking services and networking software.

Think through how you will break the old network down and what your new one will look like. That requires a very thorough inventory that shows all the different applications that are in terms of customer-facing aspects. Look at software-defined networking services and networking software.

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Think through how you will break down the current network as a phased approach.

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