



HOW TO  
LEVERAGE

# HETEROGENEOUS NETWORKS WITH SD-WAN

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# How To Leverage Heterogeneous Networks With SD-WAN?

Connecting SD-WAN to a heterogeneous network involves establishing connectivity between the SD-WAN infrastructure and **diverse** network connections.

**Here's a general approach to connecting SD-WAN to a heterogeneous network:**

- **Evaluate Existing Network Connections:** Assess the available network connections in your environment, which may include MPLS, broadband internet, 4G/5G, or other types of connectivity. Identify the characteristics, capabilities, and limitations of each connection to determine how they can be integrated into the SD-WAN deployment.
- **Network Diversity and Vendor Consolidation:** With Command|Link you have access to every carrier and every access type, including: Fiber, Ethernet, Cable, Broadband, 4G/5G/LTE, Fixed Wireless, and Satellite. With Command|Link, you can easily order circuits directly from our ITSM or add your existing circuits to the platform for complete integration.
- **SD-WAN Edge Device Configuration:** Configure SD-WAN edge devices or appliances to support the **different types of network connections** present in the heterogeneous network. This may involve configuring specific settings, such as WAN interface configurations, authentication protocols, or addressing schemes, to enable connectivity over the diverse network connections.

- **Link Provisioning and Integration:** Establish physical or virtual connections between the SD-WAN edge devices and the network connections. This may involve connecting the SD-WAN edge devices to the various routers, switches, or modems that provide the network connectivity. Depending on the connection types, this could include physical cabling, Ethernet connections, or virtual tunnel configurations.
- **Secure Connectivity and Authentication:** Implement appropriate security measures to ensure secure connectivity between the SD-WAN infrastructure and the heterogeneous network. This includes configuring encryption protocols, authentication mechanisms, and access control policies to protect data in transit and establish secure connections.
- **Dynamic Path Selection and Load Balancing:** Leverage the capabilities of SD-WAN to enable **dynamic path selection** and **load balancing** across the heterogeneous network connections. SD-WAN can intelligently route traffic based on real-time conditions and optimize the utilization of available network resources. This ensures efficient use of bandwidth and enables optimal performance across diverse connections.
- **Quality of Service (QoS) Configuration:** Define QoS policies within the SD-WAN infrastructure to prioritize traffic over the different network connections based on application requirements. Assign appropriate QoS levels to ensure critical applications receive the necessary bandwidth, latency, and performance characteristics.
- **Monitoring and Management:** Implement monitoring and management tools to gain **visibility** into the performance and health of the heterogeneous network connections. SD-WAN solutions often provide monitoring and analytics capabilities to track link performance, bandwidth utilization, latency, and other network metrics. This visibility helps identify issues, optimize configurations, and proactively address performance bottlenecks.

It's important to note that the specific steps and configurations required to

connect SD-WAN to a heterogeneous network may vary based on the SD-WAN solution and the types of network connections involved. Consult the documentation and guidelines provided by your SD-WAN vendor for detailed instructions on integrating and configuring the SD-WAN infrastructure with your specific heterogeneous network environment.



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