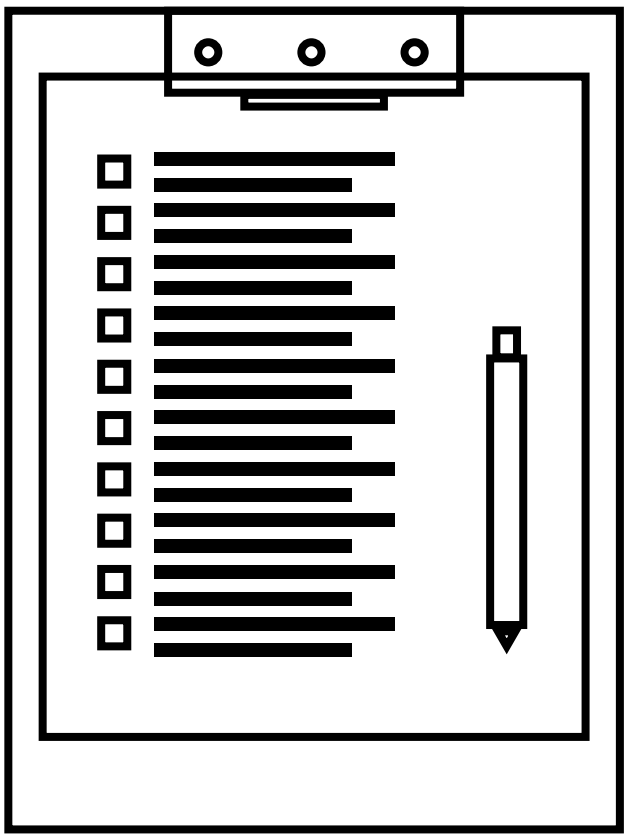
These are the questions to ask in preparation for SD WAN Deployment.



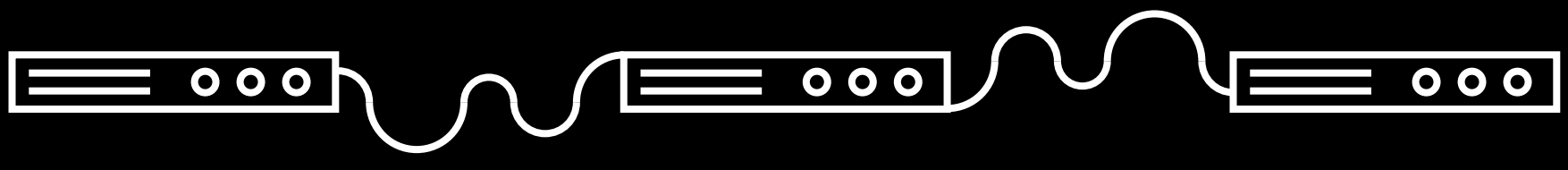
1. Assess your hardware and software capabilities of Edge devices.

Does the hardware device have adequate resources to run all of the branch services needed concurrently at line speed?

Have you sized appropriately for future application needs?

Does the software include all capabilities for those services, including security support?

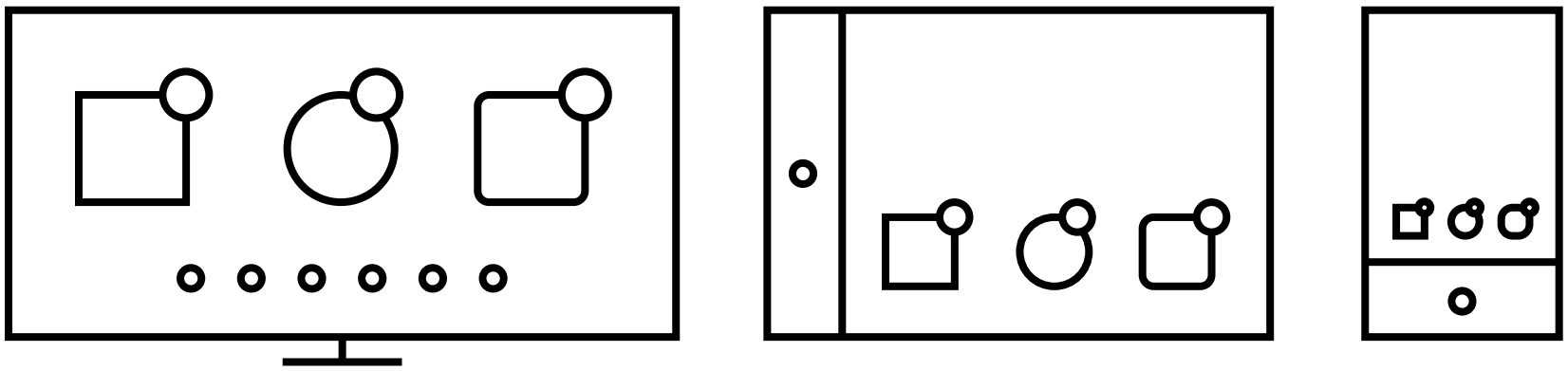
You need both the hardware and software in place to run in your current environment and be right-sized for future support.



2. Understand your current application environment.

Do you know what apps are running in your branch?

You'll need to understand your current applications in order to craft an application routing policy to effectively run critical apps.

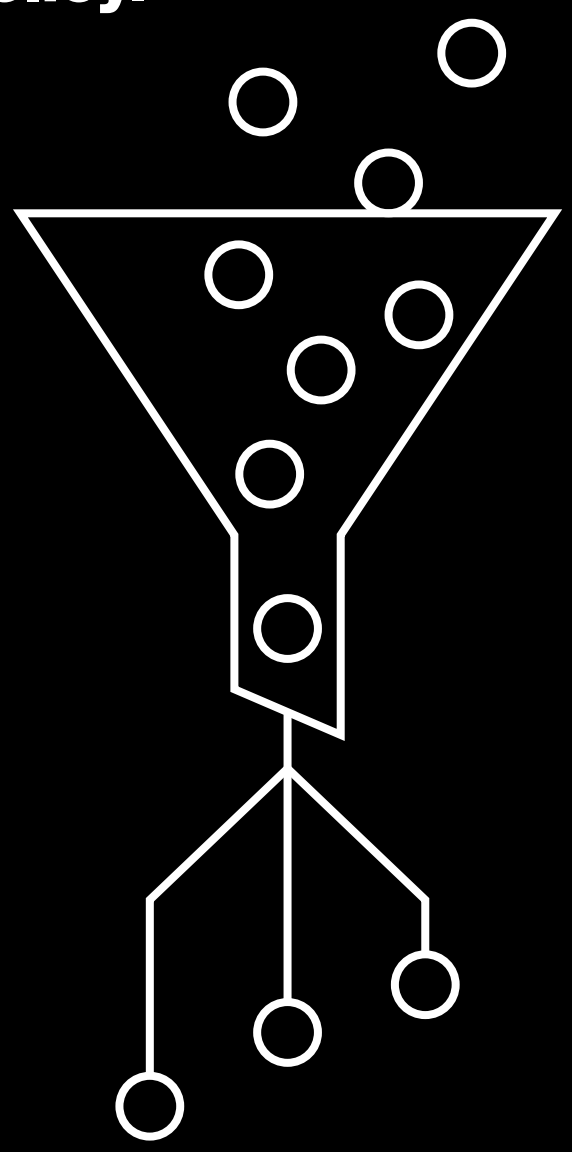


3. Define your application routing policy.

Do you have a policy that considers the appropriate bandwidth, latency, and jitter thresholds needed to run critical apps?

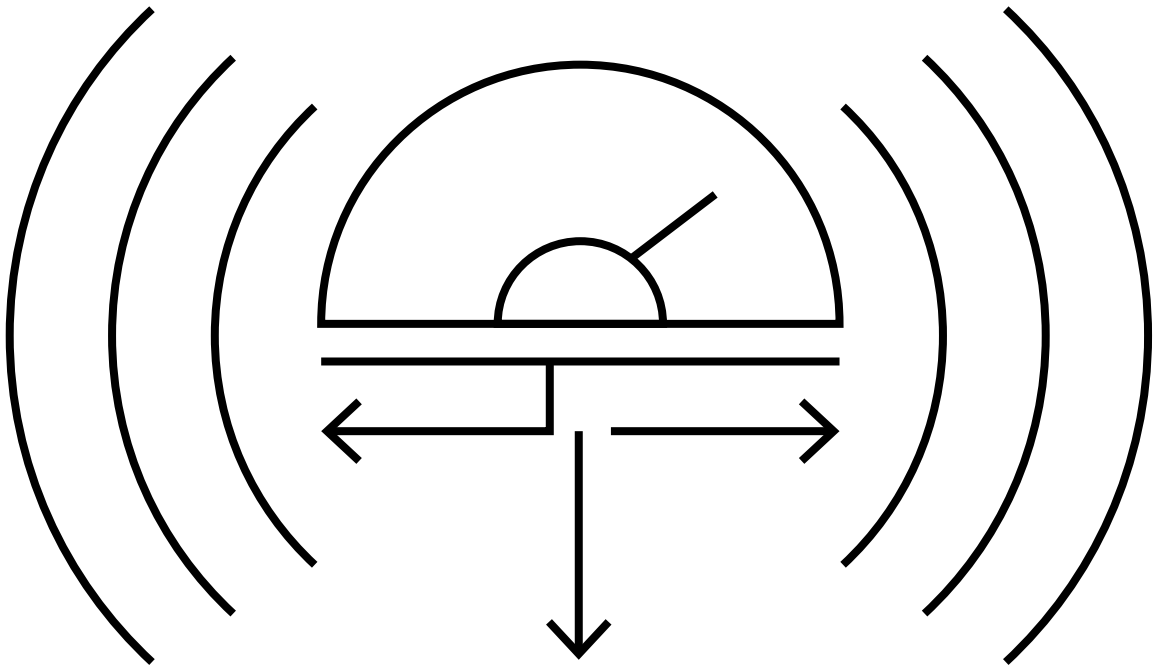
Are you using multiple routing paths—primary, secondary and tertiary—and how have you planned to configure them in the routing table?

Will you have filters in place during route redistribution to prevent routing loop?



4. Configure your bandwidth statement.

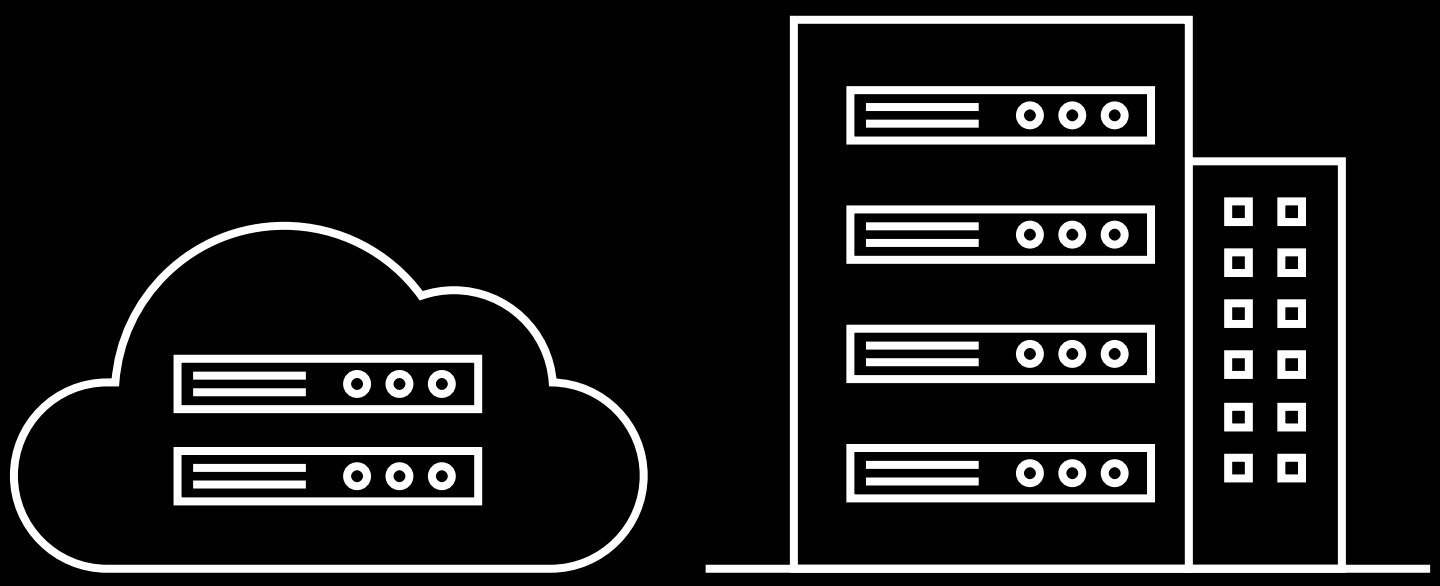
Has your bandwidth statement been configured on each tunnel representing the true bandwidth of the link?



5. Determine local or centralized internet breakout and security.

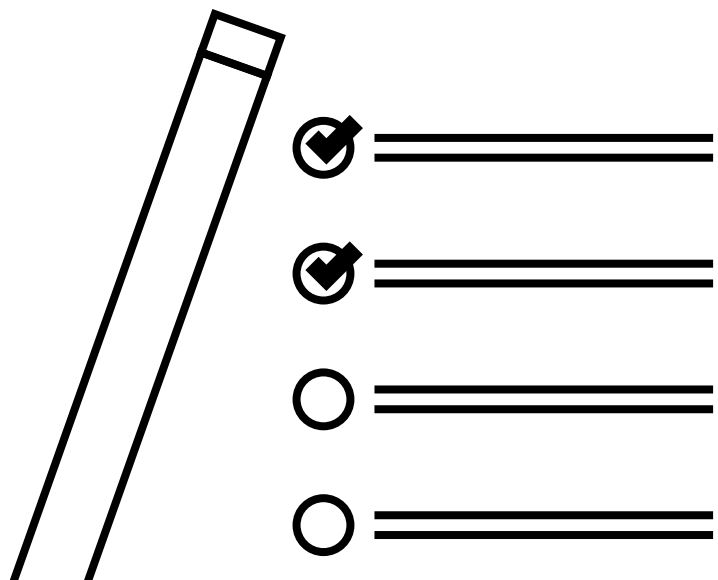
Have you determined if you want to split tunnel for Internet services at each branch?

Have you considered building security at each branch or centralizing security at the head end?



6. Determine Quality of Service (QoS) policy.

Do you have a comprehensive QoS plan/design to support critical voice, video & ERP apps over terrestrial networks and 4G networks?



QoS optimizes critical application performance.

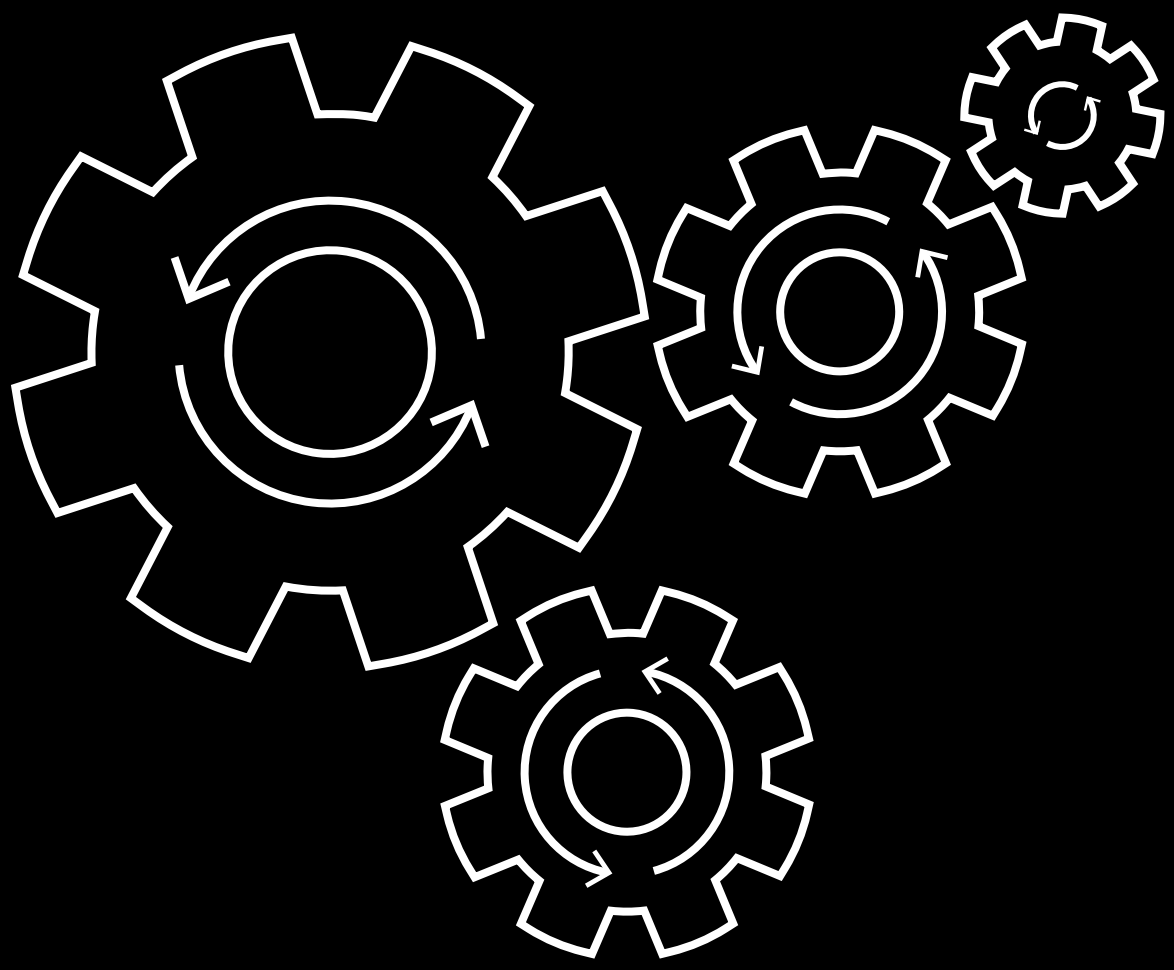
7. Consider WAN acceleration.

Will you utilize WAN acceleration to further optimize and reduce bandwidth requirements?

8. Consider using a Content Delivery Network (CDN).

Will you want to minimize requests of applications which can be stored at the branch edge?

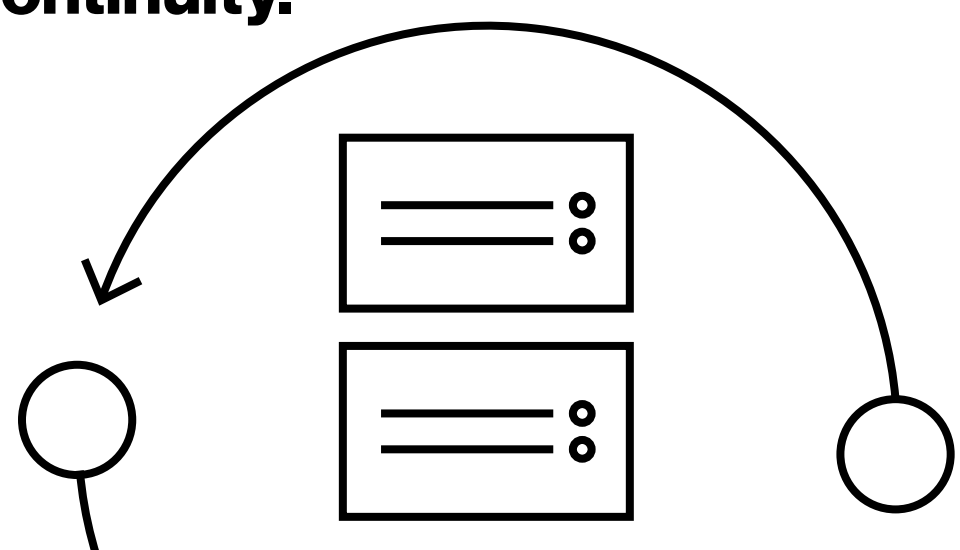
Is your CDN able to support Apple mobile device updates?

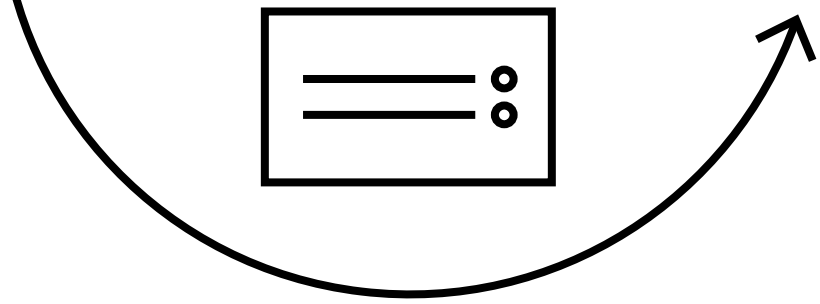


9. Redundancy for business continuity.

Are you considering redundant routers at larger branch locations for business continuity?

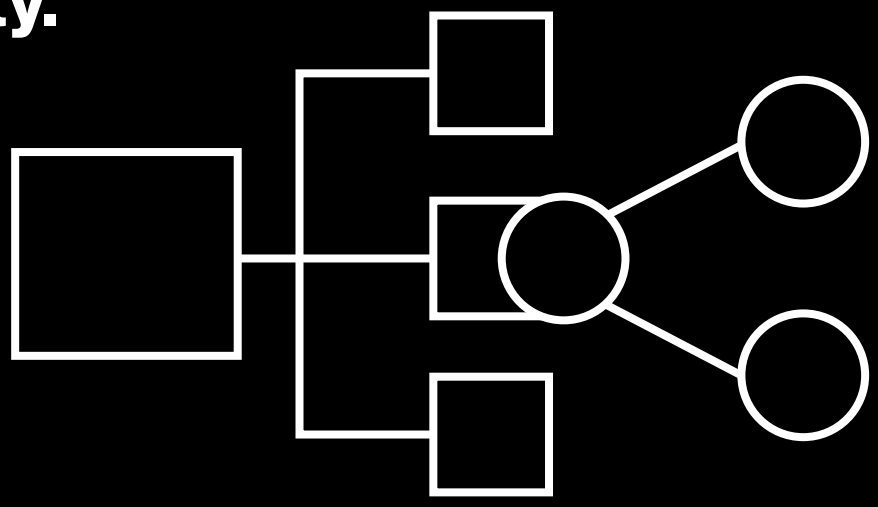
Will you use 4G as a tertiary link to back-up an active path?





10. Consider vendor complexity.

How many vendors will be used to support all of these services in your SD WAN deployment and how many relationships will need to be established with vendor help desks?



Even if your SD WAN service is being managed by a Managed Service Provider, they will have to establish relationships with all of those vendors and coordinate with all of them in case of a network issue.

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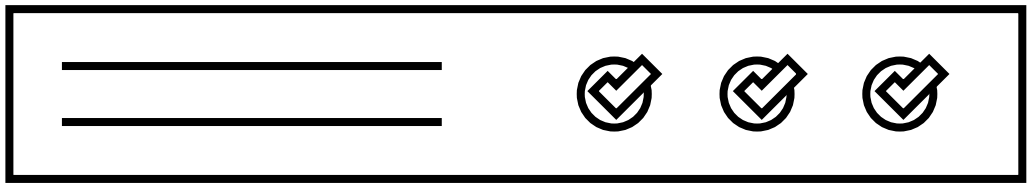

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