

# SD-WAN implementation checklist

## Optimising network performance, security, and scalability

### 1 Network performance:

- Assess how SD-WAN can enhance network performance, especially in terms of application responsiveness and bandwidth utilisation.
- Understand the impact on latency, jitter, and packet loss, particularly for critical applications.

### 2 Scalability and future-proofing:

- Consider the scalability a SD-WAN solution to accommodate future growth.
- Evaluate the solution in the context of an SASE platform and how it can adapt to emerging technologies and evolving business requirements.

### 3 Hybrid or full internet connectivity:

- Decide whether to maintain a hybrid approach (combining MPLS and internet connectivity) or move to a fully internet-based SD-WAN model.
- Evaluate the resilience and redundancy of internet connections to minimise downtime.

### 4 Application prioritisation and optimisation:

- Understand what your business critical apps are and where they are to leverage SD-WAN's ability to prioritise and optimise traffic based on application requirements.
- Ensure that business-critical applications receive the necessary bandwidth and quality of service (QoS) to maintain performance.

### 5 Security considerations:

- Evaluate the security features offered by an SD-WAN solution, such as encryption, threat detection, and secure access.
- Ensure that the chosen SD-WAN solution aligns with the organisation's security policies and compliance requirements, especially as part of a SASE platform for distributed workers.

### 6 Integration with existing infrastructure:

- Consider how easily SD-WAN can integrate with existing network infrastructure, including routers, switches, and security appliances.
- Ensure compatibility with existing applications and services.

### 7 Management and orchestration:

- Evaluate the management and orchestration capabilities of the SD-WAN solution.
- Ensure that the organisation can easily monitor and control the network through a centralised management platform.

### 8 Cost analysis

- Evaluate the total cost of ownership (TCO) for both MPLS and SD-WAN solutions.
- Consider potential cost savings associated with reduced reliance on expensive MPLS circuits and increased utilisation of cost-effective internet links.

### 9 Change management and user Education:

- Implement a comprehensive change management plan to minimise disruptions during the transition.
- Educate end-users about the changes in network behaviour and the benefits of SD-WAN.

To find out about Nexon's SD-WAN

**NExon**<sup>™</sup>