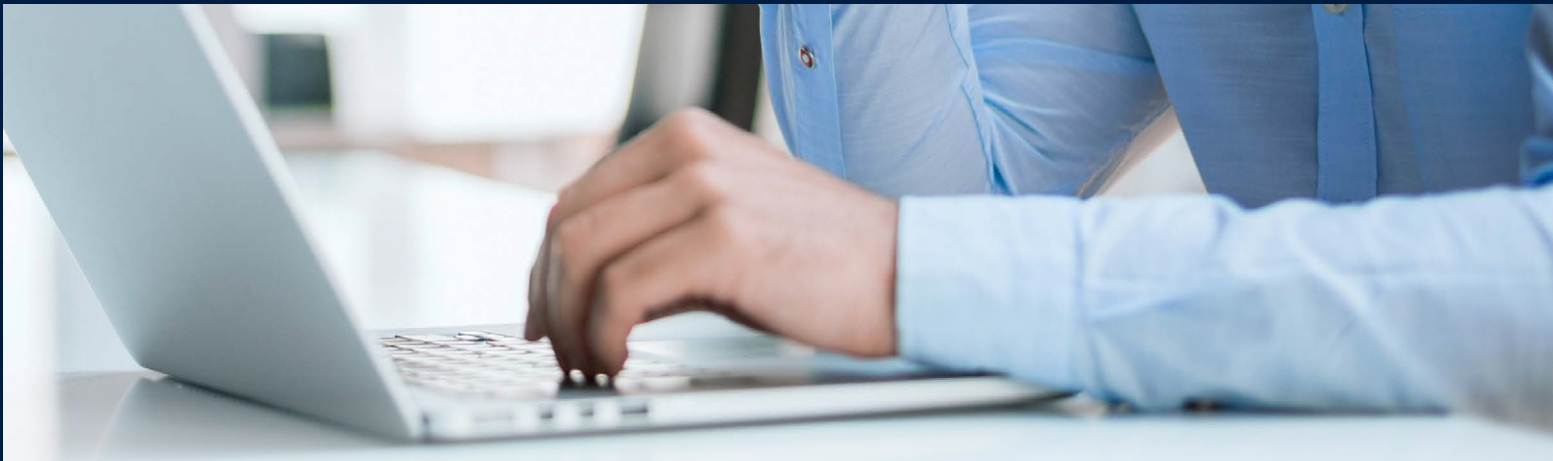# Échantillon de lecture

Modern site integration

Fit for the future with scalable and secure connections!

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Content

Foreword

Working from home, the cloud and mobile devices are the current status quo in our working lives. There's hardly a single company out there which does not have an extensive range of end user devices in the company network. This is also causing our demands on a WAN (Wide Area Network) to grow. At the same time, increasing digitisation, with more and more digital applications, exponential data growth and accumulating threats to network security, requires ever greater bandwidths, a high level of network availability and data security, as well as a speedy time-to-market. These are attributes that many conventional network infrastructures can no longer provide. However, a reliable and high-performing WAN is indispensable when it comes to guaranteeing communication between various locations. Here, WAN comprises a series of different components and functions which must mesh together seamlessly to ensure optimal power and the greatest performance when using business-critical applications. A software-defined WAN (SD-WAN) is a modern control element for all these components in a network. SD-WAN is a technology which allows businesses to optimise their networks by controlling data traffic over the various connection points. The high degree of automation is very effective against the existing skilled labour shortage, while at the same time guaranteeing a high level of network security.

When working from multiple locations, businesses are faced with big challenges. They have to ensure that the data traffic between locations is fast, reliable, and as cost-efficient as possible and, at the same time, provide a high-performance network on site. SD-Branch solutions may remedy this. These allow businesses to optimise and protect the connections to and within their branches (WAN, LAN, Wi-Fi, Security). Modern SD-Branch solutions reduce the complexity of the network – the entire network can be managed and operated via an integrated management platform. This doesn't just increase efficiency, scalability and security in the network; it's also easy on the labour, time and budget above all.

Which challenges do IT departments actually face due to company networks becoming more complex, and how do they deal with such challenges? Which technological advances dominate in WAN, and how does an SD-Branch solution influence the network security within the business? The above questions, and others, are analysed and presented in this study. The responses from 201 IT experts from businesses with 20 or more branches in the DACH/Benelux regions serve as the basis for this data. The responses were gathered in March 2022.

Growing company networks

In the wake of globalisation and the steady economic growth, digitisation also has a significant influence on site network integration. With the ongoing need for a simple and securely connected mobile working arrangement, the number of company locations has increased significantly, as well as the number of end user devices used by the company. Laptops and smartphones have become commonplace and indispensable work tools for many employees, and these need to be managed by the IT department. However, in addition to knowing about all the devices used, the IT department must be able to manage access, policies and digital applications across the company network and protect against digital threats.
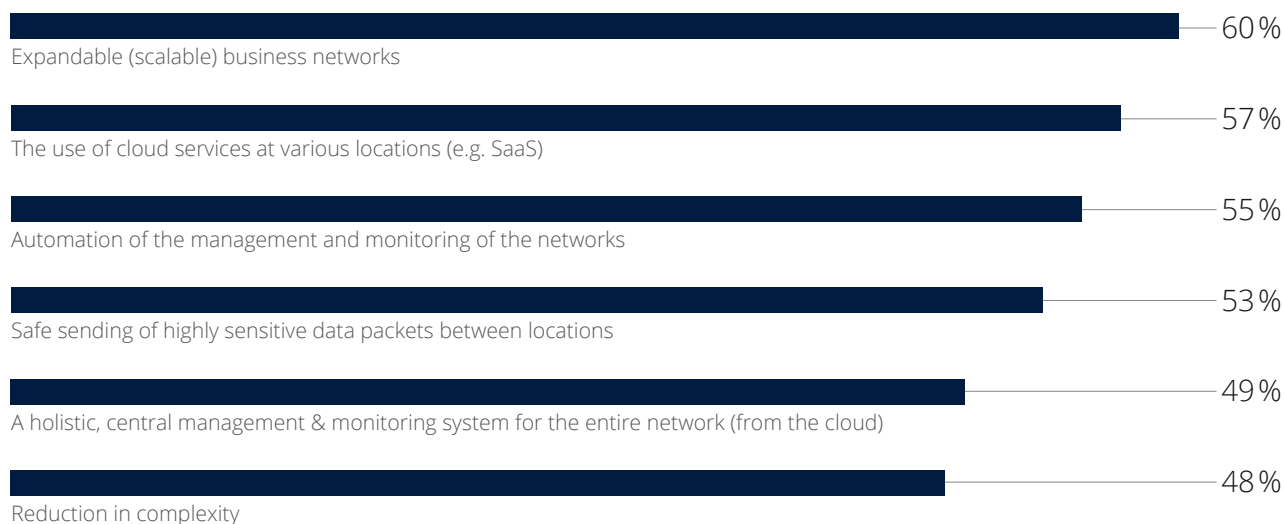
Businesses have not been limited to a regional market for some time now. More and more offices, branches and company locations are being established in the most diverse national and international sites. In this context, more than one in two companies requires scalable company networks (60 percent). In addition, the structure and security of the networks are becoming increasingly complex.

Employees access the company network from anywhere at all, and expect stable and secure access so that they can work efficiently. Cloud services in particular place an immense burden on network traffic, but for 57 percent of the businesses surveyed, these have already become indispensable in everyday business life. Without a central platform, it is only possible to guarantee smooth access to data and the state of network resources with a great deal of effort.

Businesses have recognised that an efficient design of these networks can only be achieved with comprehensive software solutions. If you automate the network management and control via software-defined WAN (SD-WAN), this makes life so much easier for network administrators and enable a more efficient use of resources. In addition to this, automation can minimise error sources and make the network more reliable. 55 percent of the surveyed IT experts agree with this. Almost one in two (49 percent) also believe that fully centralised management and monitoring of the entire network from the cloud is essential.

Requirements of a business network

Basis: 201 companies | multiple responses possible

Expandable (scalable) business networks	60 %
The use of cloud services at various locations (e.g. SaaS)	57 %
Automation of the management and monitoring of the networks	55 %
Safe sending of highly sensitive data packets between locations	53 %
A holistic, central management & monitoring system for the entire network (from the cloud)	49 %
Reduction in complexity	48 %

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