

# WHY Software-Defined Wide Area Networking

## MPLS Has Made It's Mark

Enterprises have been leveraging MPLS to increase uptime, scalability, end-user experience, and bandwidth utilization.

Multi-protocol label switching (MPLS) is a routing technique that directs data from one node to the next based on short path labels rather than long network addresses, thus avoiding complex lookups in a routing table and speeding traffic flows.

Despite its benefits, *MPLS has its downsides*:

- Only large enterprises can afford it.
- Controlled and owned by the big Carriers.
- Long-term, non-flexible contracts.
- Slow and difficult to deploy sites.



## Enter SD-WAN

Software-Define Wide-Area Networking (SD-WAN) is the **next generation of business networks**. It is designed to deliver fast deployment, flexible network solutions, integrate easily with on-premise, cloud and SaaS solutions and most of all, it's flexible on price.

With SD-WAN, you get the same features and functionality as *MPLS but with the following additional benefits*;

- *Link Redundancy (Same-IP Failover)*: Gives you the ability to combine links into a single pipe where the failover is seamless and the customer IP does NOT change in the event of an outage.
- *QoS Prioritization*: The ability to prioritize bandwidth allocation to the applications that matter most, whether that be Voice, Video, Firewall, YouTube, etc.
- *Cost Savings*: Leverage the low-cost connections of your choice to supply the required bandwidth to your customer sites.
- *Provider agnostic*: Use any link (T1, Cable, WiMax, etc.) from ANY provider (AT&T, Windstream, Comcast, etc.)

