FORCEPOINT

Solution Brief

Transforming Federal Networks with Secure SD-WAN

Federal networks are transforming

To more effectively and cost-efficiently deliver government services and protect citizens, agencies are increasingly adopting new ways of accessing mission-critical data and applications. Often referred to as "digital transformation," such initiatives usually begin with replacing internally hosted applications with cloud-based software-as-a-service (SaaS) that can be used easily from any location.

However, many older networks can't keep up with cloud-based computing. Applications feel unusably slow to users in remote offices. Upgrading those networks can be prohibitively expensive, and fragmented technologies limit operations teams' ability to see what is happening and enforce consistent policies, putting missions at risk.

As a result, combining new information systems with old infrastructure is inhibiting agency modernization efforts by:

- **Failing to meet productivity expectations.** The power and flexibility of new cloud apps gets lost if people throughout the agency can't use them.
- **Putting network reliability at risk.** Having remote offices send traffic through central headquarters can overload older infrastructure, leaving agencies offline.
- **Limiting visibility and control.** Often, old networks evolve into patchworks of technologies that lack the ability to be managed consistently.
- **Making security mandates more difficult to meet.** In the face of increasingly advanced threats, new policy legislation and federal cybersecurity programs (e.g., CDM, EIS, and TIC 3.0) have put in place new agency cybersecurity requirements that must be implemented.

> Branch-office firewalls need to… offer the same levels of security efficacy as the primary gateway does.
>
> —2017 Gartner Magic Quadrant for Enterprise Network Firewalls

Why agencies are looking to SD-WAN

Software-defined wide-area networking (SD-WAN) has become a game changer for agencies. By providing the ability to use local internet connections at remote locations to dramatically lower the cost of providing high-speed access to cloud applications, SD-WAN is rapidly becoming an essential part of agency IT modernization efforts.

SD-WAN can help agencies:

- **Reduce network costs.** Expensive MPLS lines can be augmented or replaced with commodity internet links like DSL, cable, or fiber.
- **Improve productivity.** Direct-to-cloud connectivity over modern internet links makes it much easier to give users at remote sites the performance they need to get the most out of new cloud-based applications.
- **Reduce operations costs.** Centrally managed SD-WAN solutions offer network operations teams much greater visibility and control without having to go onsite or maintain a patchwork of different consoles.

Making SD-WAN secure

Most SD-WAN solutions include encryption for protecting the privacy of data. However, that's only half the picture. Going direct-to-cloud from remote locations requires a new approach to securing the network, users, and data associated with those locations. Any site connected to the internet with SD-WAN needs three types of protection:

- **Network security**—access control and intrusion prevention to keep attackers out.
- **Web security**—real-time protection against advanced threats that lurk in webpages or content seen on, or downloaded from, the web.
- **Cloud app data security**—monitoring of apps being used in the cloud and protection of data stored there.

New "Secure SD-WAN" solutions bring all these pieces together, enabling agencies to connect and protect at the same time in order to accelerate their digital transformation.

Forcepoint is a leader in the federal network security market

Forcepoint's next generation firewall (NGFW) and Sidewinder network security appliances have been relied upon in military, intelligence and civilian agencies for many years. We pioneered the centralized management of multiple, clustered network connections (including internet links and MPLS lines) that now connect multi-national organizations around the world. We also were the first in the industry to identify and defend against advanced evasion techniques that attackers use to sneak malicious code such as ransomware through most network defenses. As a result, our NGFW has consistently received the top security rating in tests performed by NSS Labs, the industry's premier independent testing organization.

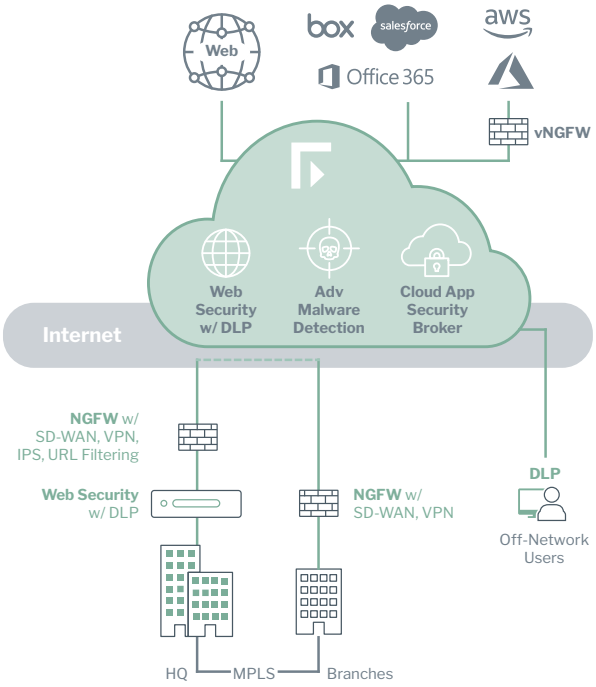
Forcepoint Secure SD-WAN is an integrated connectivity and security solution for moving to the cloud

As agencies modernize their networks to support cloud initiatives, security must be built-in from the beginning to avoid creating gaps and redundancies that increase risk and operational costs. Forcepoint's integrated connectivity and security enable local internet links to be used safely for accessing cloud applications or internal legacy applications.

Strong security is part of Forcepoint's DNA. Our network firewall, web security gateway and cloud application security broker have repeatedly been proven to deliver strong protection for internet-connected sites, users and data.

Having connectivity and security together enables operations teams to seamlessly see what's happening throughout the network—from headquarters to branch offices and cloud-based virtual datacenters—and enforce consistent policies all from a single console.

IDC Research found that customers who switch to Forcepoint NGFW were able to respond to potential security incidents 73% faster. Such unified visibility and control also make implementing the best practices that auditors look for significantly easier.



Why organizations around the world choose Forcepoint for Secure SD-WAN

Government agencies and commercial enterprises around the world choose Forcepoint over other solutions because we help them achieve the operational outcomes they need to more effectively accomplish their mission:

Increased Productivity

(service more citizens)

- **Richer connectivity** (multi-link cloud & site-to-site)
- **Faster app performance**
- **Higher availability**

Lower Costs

(infrastructure/operations)

- **Fewer boxes and consoles**
- **Lower operations costs**
- **Single-vendor efficiency**

Reduced Risk

(fewer breaches)

- **Stronger security**
- **Fewer gaps/redundancies**
- **More flexible deployment** (hybrid & cloud)

Streamlined Compliance

(happier auditors)

- **Unified control**
- **Greater visibility**
- **Faster incident response**

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