

Challenged by WAN Modernization? There's Relief in Sight.

Digital transformation means organizations must rethink and upgrade their technology, including the wide area network (WAN). Many plan to update their WAN — but challenges are real and varied, according to a new survey by IDG Research and CenturyLink.

Many say working with a Managed Services Provider (MSP) can reduce network costs, increase speed, and optimize bandwidth.

Time to Update the WAN

50%

plan to update the WAN to support digital transformation

57%

have already taken steps towards modernization

A variety of objectives are driving WAN updates



49%

Improving network performance



49%

Improving network security



48%

Boosting network agility and responsiveness



46%

Reducing network costs



40%

Supporting an increase in IoT device endpoints



38%

Supporting bandwidth-intensive applications

Challenges with Modernizing the WAN

More than
95%

of organizations have experienced negative consequences as a result of WAN management challenges, including: cost/performance, business impact, user/customer satisfaction

Topping the challenge list

39%

Skills gap

38%

Managing bandwidth needs

36%

Getting optimal performance

Reduce Risk and Accelerate Results with a Managed Service Provider

47% 

of organizations have worked/are working with a MSP

These are the benefits they see today:

37%

Reduced network costs

37%

Increased network speed

35%

Better bandwidth optimization

31%

Support for cloud application access

29%

Better network agility and responsiveness

29%

Improved security

26%

Improved application performance

Not all MSPs are created equal.

The most popular attributes among IDG Research survey respondents include:



Experience with network security and solutions



Ability to customize solutions in your unique environment



Price/TCO



Cloud service interconnectivity

Learn more about CenturyLink® SD-WAN



About the Survey

This IDG Research survey was fielded in the U.S. in June 2018, and results are based on 100 qualified respondents.

To qualify for this survey, respondents were required to work in an IT-related function at the manager level or above for an organization in the finance, healthcare, manufacturing, or retail industries and be involved in the purchase process for wide area networks (WAN) tools and solutions. Company size was restricted to organizations with 500+ employees. The average company size was 7,145, and the median company size was 3,750.

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