

LiveAction and Cisco SD-WAN

SOLUTION BRIEF

LiveAction for Cisco SD-WAN

More and more organizations are moving to Cisco software-defined wide area network (SD-WAN) architectures for simplified WAN operations, better bandwidth efficiency, and reduced communication costs across their remote offices, distributed branches, and cloud operations. IT professionals need advanced analytics to gain insights into performance, QoS policies, path routing, and traffic management complexities to ensure this key initiative is a success.

The LiveNX network performance management platform monitors performance of both the physical underlay and the virtual overlays, helping NetOps teams deliver end-to-end service quality for Cisco SD-WAN operations as well as the rest of your network – on-premises, cloud, remote, hybrid. With LiveNX, you can manage your Cisco SD-WAN network and deliver optimal end-to-end network performance.

LiveAction Use Cases for Cisco SD-WAN

While it's easy to see why so many companies are embracing Cisco SD-WAN, there are challenges involved in the move from traditional WAN solutions to SD-WAN. To overcome the challenges of moving to a Cisco SD-WAN architecture, LiveAction offers support across planning, implementing, and running a new Cisco SD-WAN deployment.

o [Planning for a Cisco SD-WAN Pivot](#)

While a migration to Cisco SD-WAN is not a blank-slate exercise, it does offer an opportunity to audit applications, sites, service provider transport resources, and policies to tailor the new network to your unique business needs. LiveNX measures the capacity requirements of the existing WAN, including a comprehensive analysis of site-to-site, site-to-data center, and site-to-cloud bandwidth consumption. At this stage, NetOps teams should also identify critical applications traversing the WAN, measure their current performance, and baseline user experience expectations.

LiveAction Best Practices for Cisco SD-WAN

o Day 0 – PLAN

When planning a Cisco SD-WAN deployment, select the pilot sites, identify unsanctioned applications and end users, and establish network utilization and performance baselines for rightsizing and setting SD-WAN policies. In addition, it's important to create a monitoring strategy during the planning stage.

o Day 1 – VERIFY

As the Cisco SD-WAN is being implemented, LiveNX can be used to verify SD-WAN policies and assure that services are not impacted in the event of brownouts or abnormal events. Keep the POC on track by ensuring the SD-WAN fabric and by triaging issues quickly and effectively.

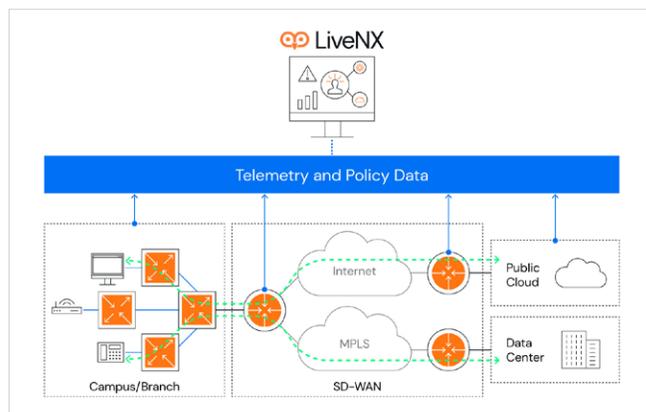
o Day 2 – OPERATE

Monitor bandwidth and visualize path control so network administrators manage performance and mitigate problems before they affect users. Report on business applications to manage and optimize voice and video communications. Easily visualize and quickly resolve issues.

In addition to understanding SD-WAN decisions on sites, applications, security, and policy, as well as setting benchmark expectations for application performance, LiveAction helps develop a network monitoring strategy. This is especially important in large enterprises with a mix of WAN/SD-WAN networks and multi-cloud operations, helping ensure success in the Proof of Concept (POC) and deployment phases of development.

o Moving Microsoft Infrastructure into the Cloud

As enterprises continue to accelerate their movement to cloud computing, Microsoft infrastructure, including common workplace applications like Microsoft Office, SharePoint, and Teams, are being pushed to the cloud for the flexibility and cost savings offered by the move. LiveAction helps customers set benchmark expectations for their application performance and understand the pre- and post-migration impact to WAN/SD-WAN and site utilization to ensure an excellent user experience.



Cisco SD-WAN Integration with LiveNX

o Monitor Cisco SD-WAN and Cloud POCs

A successful POC requires advanced monitoring to understand if the new SD-WAN or cloud deployment will meet your business requirements and deliver the cost savings to make it worthwhile. Not only does LiveAction help organizations monitor the POC network performance both inside and outside of the SD-WAN fabric and across cloud operations, NetOps and SecOps teams can monitor SD-WAN and cloud security. In addition, LiveAction accelerates troubleshooting and helps triage issues to keep the POC on track, including detailed application performance data to ensure a good user experience.

o Ensure Cisco SD-WAN Deployments

When the POC for your Cisco SD-WAN is completed, it's time to integrate the new SD-WAN operations into the network at large, including integrating the SD-WAN into NOC operations as part of an integrated multi-cloud, data center, and campus footprint. All the benefits of integrating LiveAction into any network – advanced network observability, actionable insights, reduced MTTR, and enhanced network security – are extended to your Cisco SD-WAN, helping to deliver on the performance, flexibility, and cost advantages of SD-WAN deployments.

o WAN/SD-WAN Refresh Assessment

As technology evolves, many companies who jumped into SD-WAN early are looking at their deployments to evaluate the need for a refresh to keep up with the latest SD-WAN evolutions. Much like planning for an SD-WAN pivot, refreshing your SD-WAN operations involves understanding current baselines as a guide for replacement decisions, including application performance, congestion, capacity utilization, and existing device usage. In addition, when a company is looking to transition from Cisco IWAN, LiveAction helps you understand IWAN performance to map to Cisco SD-WAN policies, including traffic, sites, patterns, QoS policies, routing, and more.

LiveAction

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LiveAction provides end-to-end visibility for network security and performance. By relying on a single source of truth – the packets – LiveAction gives modern enterprises the confidence needed to ensure the network is securely meeting business objectives, providing full network visibility to better inform NetOps and SecOps, and reducing the overall cost of network and security operations. By unifying and simplifying the source of collection, inspection, presentation, and analysis of network traffic, LiveAction empowers network and security professionals to proactively and quickly identify, troubleshoot, and resolve issues across increasingly large and complex networks.

To learn more about LiveAction, visit www.liveaction.com