



WHITE PAPER

One step at a time

Easy network
virtualisation for
painless migrations

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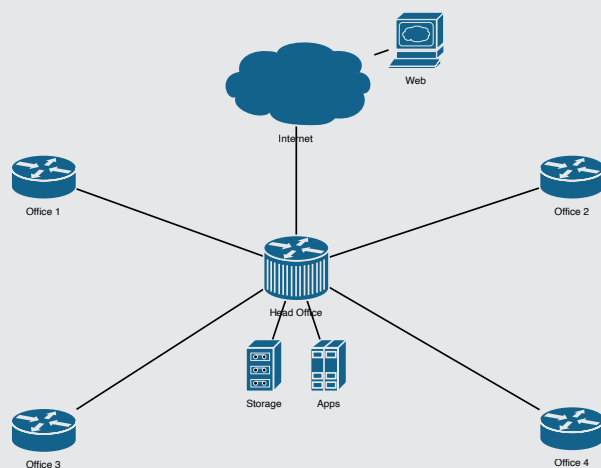
One step at a time

Easy network virtualisation for painless migrations

1 Locked-in to old technology

One of the most common reasons for moving to a Software-Defined Wide Area Network (SD-WAN) is its vastly more flexible, scalable and adaptable nature, as compared with the fixed, immutable nature of the traditional WAN built on leased lines and MPLS.

At the same time, though, this fixed, immutable nature can make moving away from the older technologies a difficult process, fraught with expense, contractual issues and logistical complexity.



This difficulty is one of the principal reasons these fixed circuit technologies tend to remain in play for significant periods of time, often long after they have ceased to be the best option, and despite the significant operational and financial benefits of SD-WAN. Unsurprisingly, providers rely on this inertia, enjoying the recurring revenues as they roll in, year after year.

With Evolving Networks, irrespective of the size, scope and complexity of the existing WAN, SD-WAN can replace it, and your migration from the old technology to the new can be phased to suit your needs.

2 Phased migration

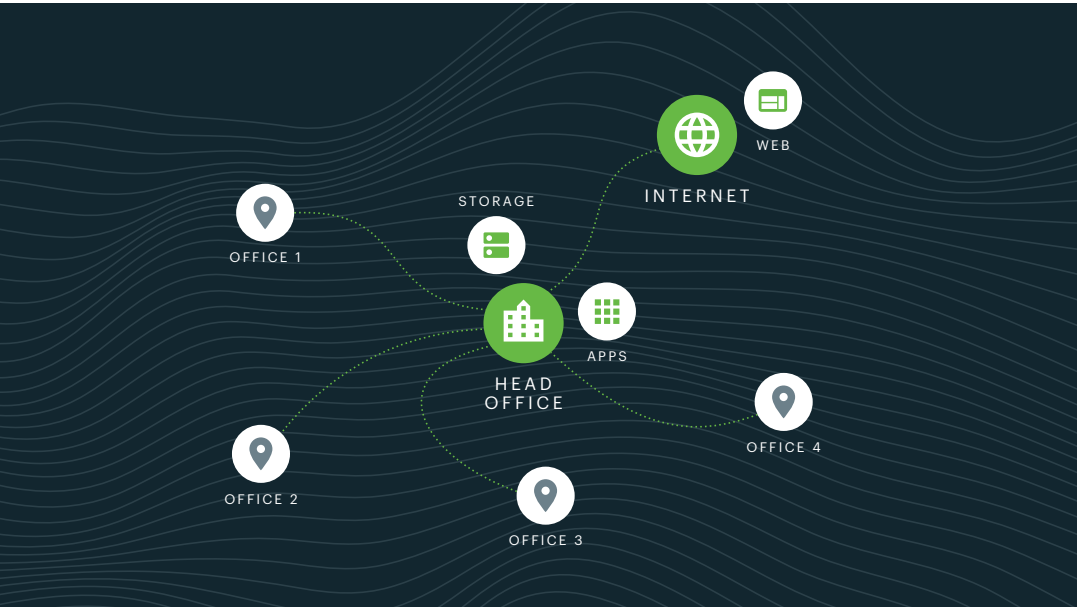
The typical enterprise WAN serves multiple, geographically distinct sites, each with its own access circuits. Those circuits are provided under separate contracts, the start and end dates of which will vary from site to site.

The practical upshot of this appears to be that to move away from existing WAN connectivity, an arbitrary migration date must be set, with payments being made for a period of time for both the old connectivity and the new at various locations across the network.

White papers in this series:

- 1 Automating the Wide Area Network
- 2 Why your SD-WAN will fail
- 3 SD-WAN as a service
- 4 Mind the gap
- 5 **One step at a time**

A major benefit of SD-WAN from Evolving Networks is that migration from old technologies, with their long, fixed contract periods, can be undertaken in a phased manner. Because our EVXs can be installed, as physical or virtual devices, on any physical circuit, in any datacentre (or virtual datacentre, such as Amazon or Microsoft Azure) we can separate the connectivity delivered from the underlying circuits.



Installing EVX devices at each location enables the replication of existing WAN topology, meaning an easy, phased transition to the benefits of the INF, such as bi-directional Quality of Service

The EVX, once plugged in, initiates the always-on Intelligent Network Fabric (INF), hooking each branch office into the new virtualised WAN.

This abstraction of functionality from the network underlay is what gives our SD-WAN its power. The INF (Intelligent Network Fabric) is overlaid on top of all existing connectivity, right from day one.

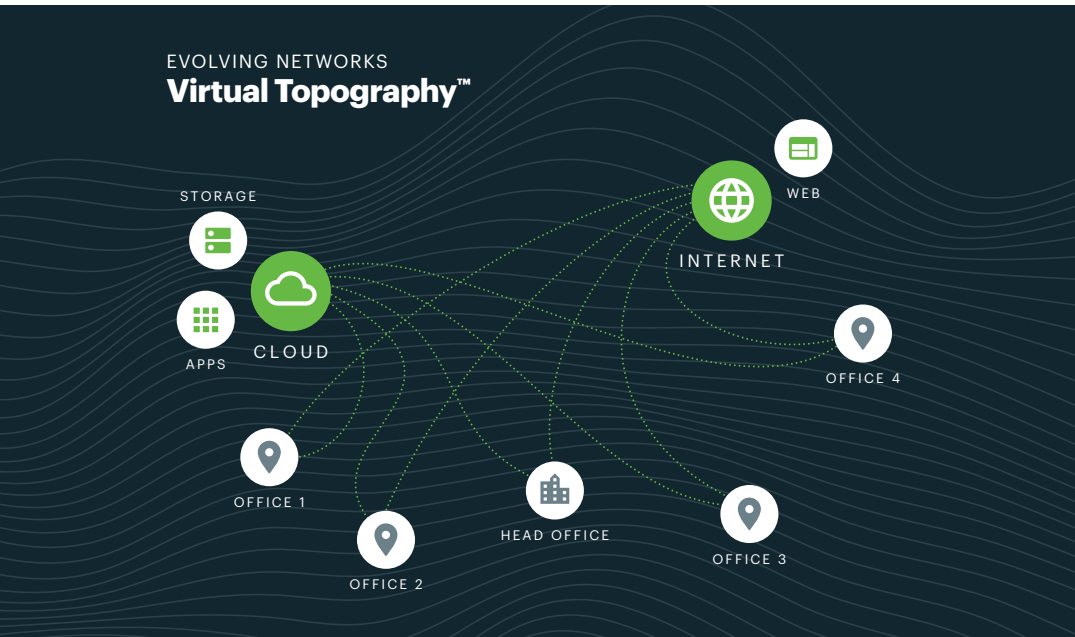
This means each site can continue to run its existing circuits, enjoying the benefits of the Evolving Networks SD-WAN, until those circuits' contract end dates come up. At that point the underlying connectivity can be replaced with more flexible, more resilient, lower cost options, by swapping out the existing connectivity and underpinning the INF with the Evolving Networks SDN Platform. Thus a seamless, phased migration is achieved.

Phasing a migration from MPLS to SD-WAN, using existing connectivity in this way, allows full use of the benefits of the INF – bandwidth management, QoS, eView Live, and access to Evolving Networks engineers ahead of the migration of the underlying connectivity – all from day one.

This allows not only for existing contract end dates to be managed, but also for the IT department to maintain close focus on service delivery and user experience at each location as the underlying connectivity is migrated, replaced and augmented.

3 The connectivity you need

We are often asked whether Evolving Networks SD-WAN can provide this functionality or that connectivity. The answer is almost always yes – the Evolving Networks SDN Platform and INF, coupled with our software-defined network ecosystem, is sufficiently intelligent and flexible to seamlessly integrate with any existing WAN technology, whether it be public or private, layer 2 or layer 3.



Once EVX devices are in place at each location, the abstraction of the software layer from the underlying connectivity means your WAN can be redesigned on the fly

The key to successful migration to Evolving Networks SD-WAN is clearly identifying where the users are, how many of them there are, what applications and data they need to access, and where those applications and data reside.

With this information, Evolving Networks can deliver enterprise-grade WAN solutions connecting your users to the applications and data they need, with limitless scalability and flexibility on tap to address future needs as they arise.

4 Migrating your WAN

SD-WAN can offer immense benefits to multi-site organisations. Contact Evolving Networks to discover how our unique, intelligent SD-WAN fabric, can allow you to run high quality, high availability, high uptime connections at all your sites, irrespective of local connectivity restrictions, and with drastically reduced up-front and ongoing costs.

Contact Evolving Networks to begin exploring how we can manage the painless transition of your WAN to our SD-WAN technology, with minimal risk or disruption to your day-to-day operations, and phased according to your circumstances and needs.



Evolving Networks
Nexus House
7 Commerce Road
Lynch Wood
Peterborough
PE2 6LR

+44 330 55 55 333

sales@evolving.net.uk

evolving.net.uk