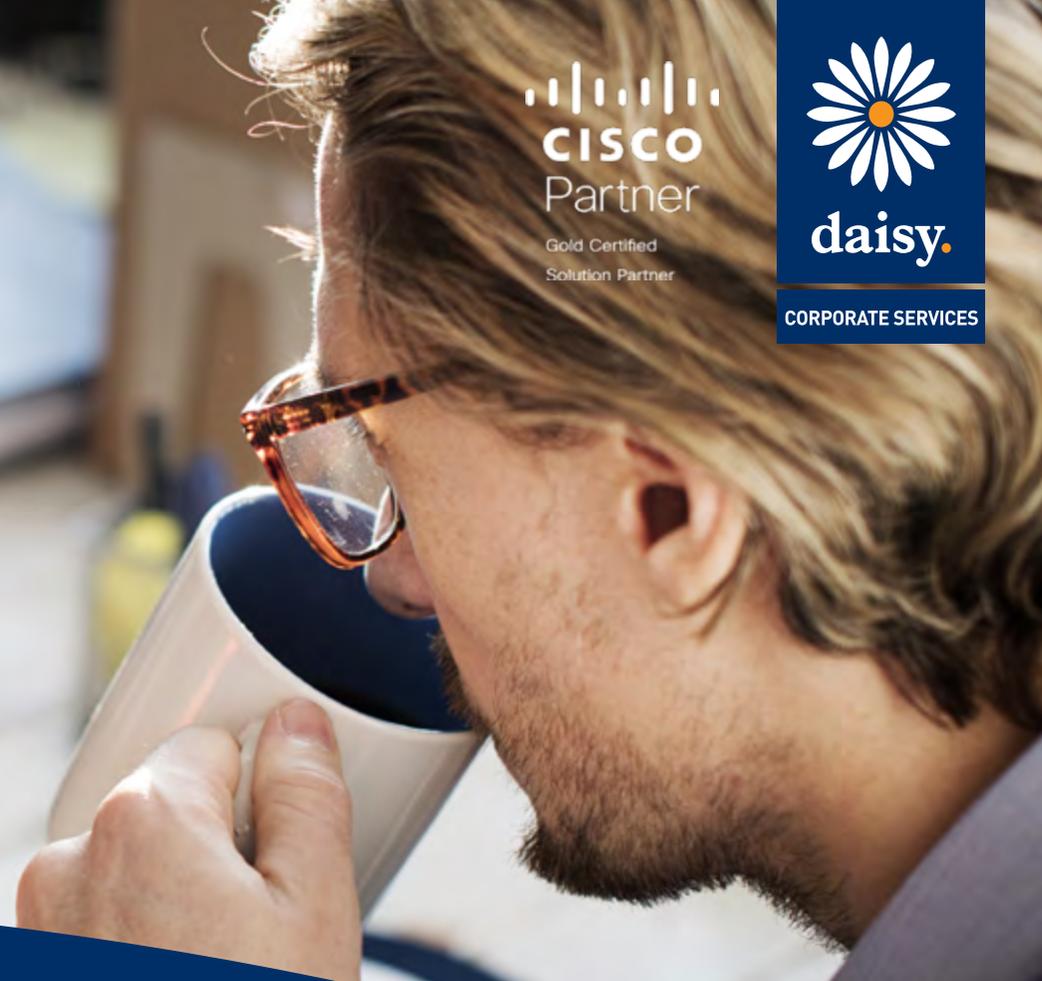




  
**CISCO**  
Partner  
Gold Certified  
Solution Partner

  
**daisy.**  
CORPORATE SERVICES



# **PASS THE REMOTE:** THE ROLE OF SD-WAN IN THE YEAR OF HOMEWORKING GUIDE

# Synopsis

The year is 2020 and the global outbreak of COVID-19 sees businesses facing unparalleled challenges. IT departments are having to think on their feet – particularly those where part of the workforce works remotely, and the other part are back in the office. Some organisations struggle to adopt an entire remote working scenario; others struggle with the upgrades required to allow remote working, and more again struggle to ensure that employees can remain productive for what might be an extended period of disruption.



# We Need to Talk About WAN

Whichever one of these scenarios applies to you, the solution is the same – it's time to pandemic-proof the wide area network (WAN).

Why? Because traditional MPLS WANs are not cloud-friendly. They typically feed all traffic – including that destined to the cloud – from branch offices to a central hub data centre where advanced security inspection services can be applied. The delay caused by such movement impairs application performance and can result in poor user experience and a consequent loss in productivity.

## Did you know?

The March 2020 Virtual WAN Summit in New York (held remotely because of – you guessed it – COVID-19) discussed the role that SD-WAN plays in enabling more employees to work remotely and found that organisations that have already moved to SD-WAN found it easier to implement remote working during those early weeks of challenges.

You can watch the entire summit [here](#)



# Remote Control

**“But what exactly is SD-WAN, how does it work and how can it actually benefit my business?”**

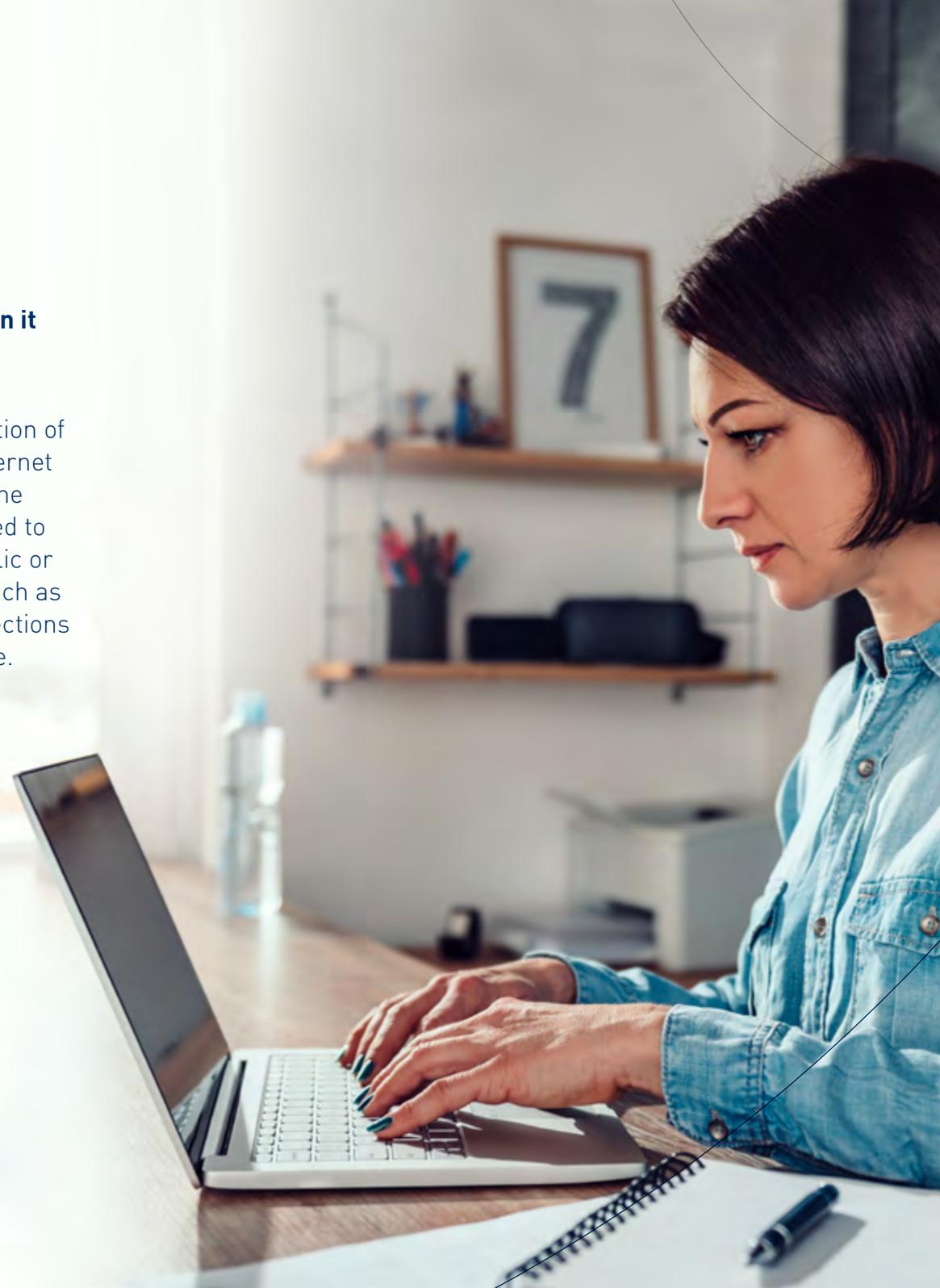
A software-defined wide area network (SD-WAN) is a WAN architecture that allows businesses to leverage any combination of transport services – including MPLS, LTE and broadband Internet services – to securely connect users to applications. Unlike the traditional MPLS only WAN model, SD-WAN can be configured to connect applications hosted in on-premise data centres, public or private clouds and software-as-a-service (SaaS) solutions such as Microsoft 365, Salesforce and Dropbox, using different connections while delivering the highest levels of application performance.

SD-WAN uses a centralised control function to securely and intelligently direct traffic across the WAN. This increases application performance, resulting in enhanced user experience, increased business productivity and reduced costs for IT.



**Think of it as...** ✈️

SD-WAN is a bit like air traffic control for your networks; allowing you to direct and reroute traffic as demand requires – all from one centralised dashboard.



# The Miracle of Meraki

IT needs to just work. Employees have enough to worry about and be distracted by without worrying about the performance of their network connection or how to configure their virtual private network (VPN).

A sudden disruption of Internet access doesn't just cost an organisation time and money, it costs productivity and so IT leaders need to make sure that while many employees are working remotely, they have the same simple, secure and reliable network access they get at work.

But let's not forget that in many cases, the IT leaders themselves are often working remotely too and so providing that Internet access is even more challenging. The demand for support has increased, the new types of support tickets has increased, the number of remote employee connections has increased...

And that's our cue. As a Cisco Gold Partner, Daisy Corporate Services knows that it has become more important than ever to help IT managers navigate the difficult terrain of a remote work environment and we certainly know a thing or two about supporting fast-moving organisations in modernising their networks quickly.

For organisations that need help in urgently modifying their networks for remote work, **Daisy's SD-WAN solution powered Cisco Meraki** provides an easy and secure option. Cisco Meraki devices can be pulled out of the box, plugged in virtually anywhere in the world, and instantly replicate a seamless office experience from home. With simple Cisco Meraki cloud-management, IT managers can maintain visibility of employee networks, continue to monitor potential interference to workforce productivity while at home as well as:



**Create a site-to-site VPN over a WAN link**



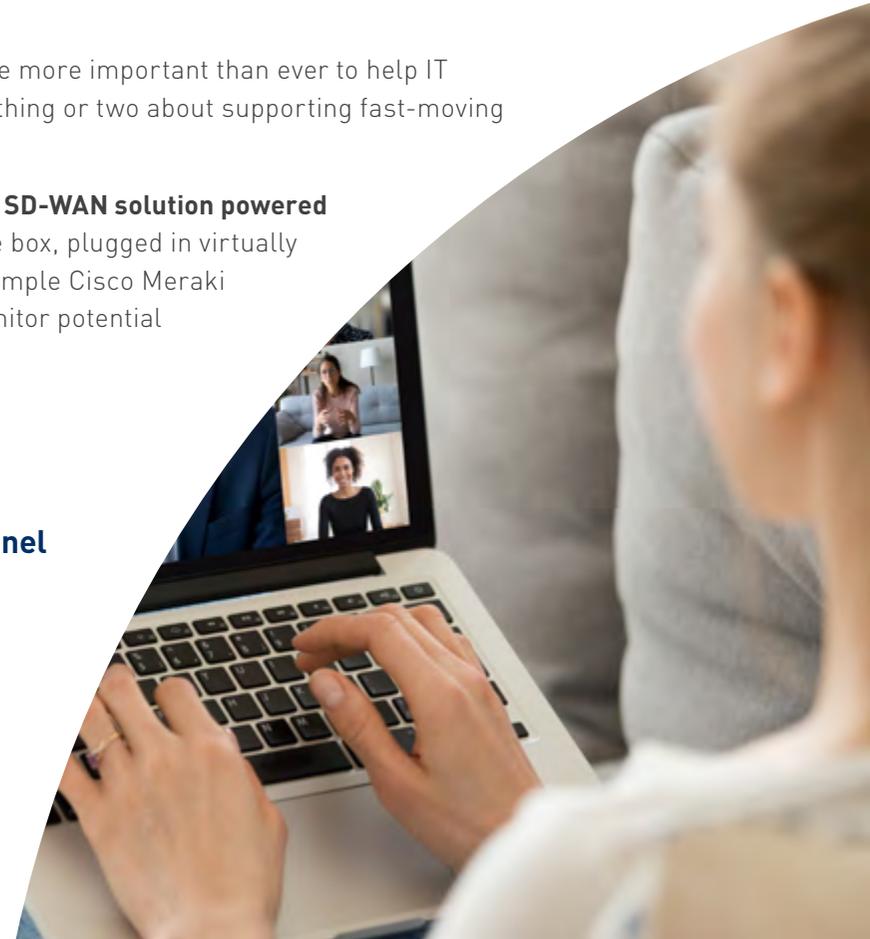
**Securely provide remote network access via WiFi over an encrypted tunnel**



**Keep end-user devices secure – even when off the network**



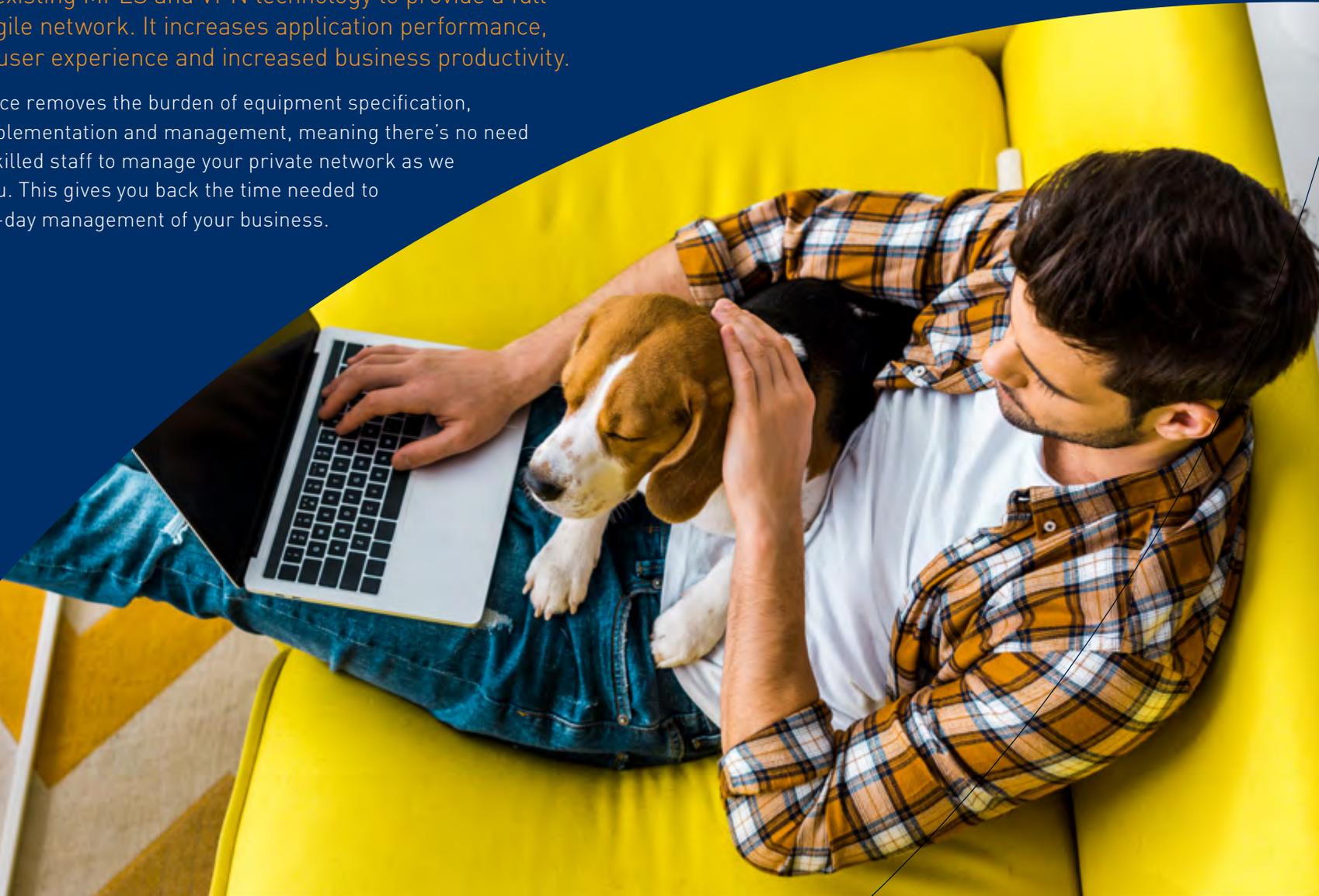
**Perform remote troubleshooting of employee connectivity and apps**



# Let Daisy Handle It

Daisy's SD-WAN solution is provided as a managed service and can work independently or with existing MPLS and VPN technology to provide a full-featured, integrated, agile network. It increases application performance, resulting in enhanced user experience and increased business productivity.

A managed SD-WAN service removes the burden of equipment specification, procurement, network implementation and management, meaning there's no need to hire and retain highly skilled staff to manage your private network as we provide this service for you. This gives you back the time needed to concentrate on the day-to-day management of your business.



# What Daisy Managed SD-WAN Delivers

## **Simplicity**

Simplified infrastructure with quick and easy network expansions with the benefits of robust security features without any added complexity. Cloud-delivered SD-WAN provides zero-touch configuration and automation from a central controller and enables the installation, configuration and management as well as centralised network visibility of your WAN through a single console.

## **Agility**

Updates and modifications to your network and branch configuration are completed easily and more efficiently, enabling you to adapt quickly to changes in business needs and requirements. Aggregating multiple connection types enables the ability to choose from a variety of network connectivity - great when sites require additional bandwidth or a backup option.

## **Performance**

Routing applications and traffic based on thresholds provide an improved user experience and business efficiencies. Leverage a combination of broadband Internet, MPLS, and cellular connections to ensure a highly reliable WAN for your organisation.

### Not to mention...

- ✓ Service desk
- ✓ Hardware support
- ✓ Monitoring
- ✓ Management
- ✓ Security vulnerability patching
- ✓ Optional reporting
- ✓ Optional annual configuration review



# Why Daisy?

Daisy has more than **25 years'** experience delivering managed services and connectivity:

-  **End-to-end expertise**  
From data centre to device across LAN, WAN, WiFi and mobile
-  **The best technology**  
The highest levels of accreditation with the world's leading vendors
-  **Skills and expertise**  
Support from 1,500 skilled engineers throughout the UK
-  **We aggregate the major UK carriers on our own network**  
Connecting you with the provider who can deliver the best service locally, wrapped in professional Daisy support
-  **Expertise and experience**  
Daisy has a long and successful history of delivering connectivity solutions, developing our offering as business demands change
-  **Fit for purpose**  
Our network is built to deliver business-grade connectivity with appropriate service levels for corporate and enterprise customers





## Get in touch

Daisy Corporate Services can help make your network and cloud management smarter, and your day-to-day that much better by facilitating the transition of your legacy branch connectivity to an SD-WAN solution.

We'd love to speak to you about how we can help your organisation benefit from secure, scalable connectivity. Why not schedule a no-obligation call with one of our connectivity experts to discuss what might work for your business?

Call **0344 863 3000**

or visit [dcs.tech/sd-wan-roadmap](https://dcs.tech/sd-wan-roadmap)



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