When evaluating a network architecture to fuel your digital transformation, use the following requirements checklist to guide your SD-WAN assessment.

Requirements Checklist for Vendor Evaluation

Ask your vendors:

Do you have any evidence demonstrating the ROI of your solution?	Can you migrate seamlessly to an SD-WAN infrastructure?	How will your solution integrate with non-SD-WAN infrastructure?
What capabilities do you have to support a hands-on pilot or testing in my existing legacy or hybrid WAN environment?	Do you have validated and certified security offerings (FIPS 140-2, CC, or Suite-B)?	What new skill sets and hardware or software resources are needed to deploy and support your solution?
WAN is a long-term investment. What is the scope and scale of your support model? And the maturity of your solution and your company's longevity?	How open is your solution?	How broad is your partner ecosystem?

Requirements for Technology Assessment

Architecture

- ☑ What is the minimum and maximum number of branches supported by the vendor's solution?
- ☑ How is the interoperability between SD-WAN and non-SD-WAN environments?
- ☑ What is the solution's platform, for example, physical or virtual, appliance or software?
- ☑ Which native Layer 3 to Layer 7 network services are offered or integrated with?

Management

- ☑ To what extent does the solution support northbound API for third-party management or control applications?

Deployment

- ☑ Which platforms can the branch component be delivered on, for example, physical or virtual, appliance or software?
- ☑ Does the solution support legacy WAN interfaces, such as T1, E1, DS3, and other transport types, such as LTE?

Security

- ☑ How is direct Internet access (DIA) supported, and which security services does the solution offer or integrate with?

For more information, visit
www.cisco.com/go/sdwan.