



Terminology

- **Provider (P) network**—P network is the backbone under the control of the enterprise IT.
- **Provider edge (PE) interface**—The PE interface is located at the edge of a provider network and faces the customer.
- **Provider edge (PE) router**—A router belonging to a provider with one or more PE interfaces; also known as an edge label switching router (ELSR). PE routers connect to VPN site routers to provide connectivity into an MPLS network.
- **Provider (P) router**—A router belonging to a provider with no PE interfaces. P routers reside in the core of the service provider and provide interconnectivity to PE routers.
- **Customer edge (CE) interface**—An interface on a customer router that points towards a provider, where customer router means a router that is logically part of the customer network no matter where it is physically located or who manages it.
- **Customer edge (CE) router**—A router with at least one customer edge interface that resides on a customer premise. In a typical campus design, access layer switches are Layer 2-attached to the distribution layer. Access layer VLANs terminate on the first Layer 3 device (the distribution layer), so CE router terminology does not apply to campus networks. Consider the CE box as a Layer 2 switch connected to the distribution layer router.
- **Multi-VRF (CE) router**—This router supports VRFs but not full MP-BGP VPNs. This could reside on a customer premise. In a campus network, this could be any Layer 3 switch where VLANs terminate.

