INDUSTRY INSIGHTS

Why Choose Fortinet Secure SD-WAN Over Cisco SD-WAN

Secure SD-WAN connectivity has become mission-critical for organizations needing to intelligently interconnect their remote locations quickly and securely. The challenge is that many SD-WAN solutions don't meet those requirements. Some only work in specific use cases. Others have significant technology limitations. Most have failed to seamlessly integrate security into their solution.

Cisco's SD-WAN solution is a case in point. Cisco continues to struggle with merging the Viptela SD-WAN software it acquired in 2017 and its point security offerings into its ISR platform, impacting the reliability, security, performance, and simplicity organizations like yours require.

Reliability – In May 2023, Cisco had a catastrophic certificate expiration issue that prevented CPEs from authenticating with the controller. This affected ALL legacy Viptela customers, taking down entire networks and causing widespread business disruption.

Fortinet Secure SD-WAN uses a decentralized, fully autonomous controller architecture to avoid single points of failure and controller scaling limitations.

Security – Cisco SD-WAN relies on point solutions never designed to work as a cohesive security system. ISR routers trying to perform deep packet inspection suffer from severe performance degradation. The solution's security effectiveness has also never been validated by a third party. Security is a critical component of any SD-WAN deployment and not just a checkbox.

Fortinet's fully validated Secure SD-WAN solution is built on our FortiGuard platform. It natively includes ASIC-accelerated security inspection, AI-powered threat intelligence, fully integrated security designed for SD-WAN environments, and seamless integration with the extended Security Fabric.

Performance – Because of its piecemeal architectural approach, Cisco SD-WAN has chronic performance and scaling limitations that can significantly impact user experience.

Fortinet's patented SD-WAN ASIC and decentralized fully autonomous controller architecture ensures optimal user experience under any load.

Complexity – Another example of Cisco's incomplete strategy is that its security, SD-WAN, switches, and APs are all managed using different consoles, creating unnecessary complexity and overhead.

Fortinet Secure SD-WAN provides true single-pane-of-glass management for both networking and security (SD-WAN, security, SD-Branch) to ensure consistency and simplicity in deploying, optimizing, and troubleshooting any aspect of your SD-WAN solution and lower your TCO.

Why Fortinet

While Fortinet pioneered the concept of Secure SD-WAN, it is our expertise in security, advanced routing, and integration that has made us a leader. It's why we are one of the top two vendors in the Leader's quadrant and placed highest in Ability to Execute, being recognized for the 13th time in the 2022 Gartner® Magic Quadrant™ for Network Firewalls.[1]

[1] Gartner, Magic Quadrant for Network Firewalls, Rajpreet Kaur, Adam Hils, Tom Lintemuth, 20 December 2022.

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