Selection Guide for Upgraded SD-WAN Devices for Safe Cities



Overview

SD-WAN Security Selection Guide 2026: Expert Comparison. This guide will help you navigate the landscape of SD-WAN Security and SASE solutions, understan.

Key Takeaways

Choosing the right SD-WAN for safe cities requires secure, resilient, and intelligent network solutions with integrated threat protection, centralized management, and cloud-ready capabilities. Key Selection Criteria1. Security Integration For safe city deployments, SD-WAN devices must include built-in next-generation firewall (NGFW) capabilities, intrusion prevention systems (IPS), data loss prevention (DLP), URL and DNS filtering, and AI-powered threat intelligence to protect critical infrastructure and IoT endpoints.

Devices should support end-to-end encryption and secure VPN tunnels to safeguard sensitive municipal data. 2. High Availability and Resiliency Devices should support dynamic path selection, automatic failover, and redundancy across multiple WAN connections to ensure uninterrupted connectivity for emergency services, traffic management, and public safety systems.

Features like brownout detection and policy-based traffic prioritization help maintain performance during network congestion. 3. Centralized Management and Orchestration A cloud-native or centralized management interface allows city IT teams to deploy, monitor, and troubleshoot SD-WAN devices across multiple locations efficiently.



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Zero-touch provisioning (ZTP) simplifies branch and remote site deployment, reducing configuration errors and operational overhead. 4.

Application-

Aware Traffic Steering SD-WAN devices should intelligently route traffic based on application type, latency, and bandwidth requirements, ensuring critical services like emergency communications, video surveillance, and cloud-based analytics maintain optimal performance. Integration with SaaS and IaaS platforms is essential for modern city services. 5.

Scalability and Future-

Proofing Select devices that can scale to accommodate growing IoT networks, smart city sensors, and additional branch locations. Support for multiple WAN transport types (MPLS, broadband, LTE/5G) ensures flexibility and cost efficiency. 6.

Vendor Evaluation Factors When comparing SD-WAN solutions, consider: Security posture and compliance certificationsEase of deployment and managementPerformance metrics (latency, jitter, packet loss)Integration with existing firewalls and network infrastructureSupport for AI-driven analytics and automated policy enforcement Recommended Deployment PracticesIntegrate SD-WAN with existing NGFWs to unify security and networking policies. Prioritize critical applications using QoS policies to maintain service levels for emergency and public safety systems. Leverage cloud orchestration for remote monitoring and updates, reducing manual intervention and downtime.

Regularly audit and update security policies to address evolving threats in urban environments. By following these criteria, safe cities can deploy upgraded SD-WAN devices that provide secure, reliable, and intelligent connectivity, supporting both operational efficiency and public safety objectives.

Article Content

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Cisco SD-WAN User Documentation

Landing page for configuration guides. User Documentation for Cisco IOS XE Catalyst SD-WAN Release 17

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The information in this guide is based on the experience our internationally-accredited expert consultants have from providing nearly 7,000 managed SD-WAN devices for organisations in every

SD-WAN Implementation Checklist

However, implementing SD-WAN is not without its challenges and requires careful planning and execution. This guide aims to provide a

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