Extending VMware SD-WAN™ by VeloCloud® to Microsoft Office 365

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As organizations use software-as-a-service (SaaS) applications in the cloud, limited wide area network (WAN) bandwidth, poor connection quality, and the high cost of private links has become a big concern for enterprise IT. The increase in the use of SaaS through providers such as Microsoft necessitates that IT provide scalable, secure and optimized access to the cloud from remote branches. Using virtual private network (VPN) technologies offered by legacy vendors to access services like Microsoft Office 365 is complex and time consuming to implement and lacks enterprise-grade performance and security. A new solution is needed for managing connectivity to SaaS applications in the cloud. The solution is VMware SD-WAN™ by VeloCloud®.

VMware SD-WAN

VMware SD-WAN aggregates multiple WAN connections at the branch, including Internet broadband,

Multiprotocol Label Switching (MPLS) private lines, and wireless LTE, and performs dynamic, application aware per-packet link steering and path conditioning to deliver enterprise class quality over the Internet for SaaS applications. VMware SD-WAN has a unique, globally distributed network of VMware SD-WAN Gateways, that bring SD-WAN to the doorstep of the major SaaS providers, including Microsoft Office 365. The VMware SD-WAN Orchestrator is a cloud-delivered central management and monitoring portal that greatly simplifies deployment, reducing tasks from hundreds of lines of command-line interface (CLI) box-by-box to a couple of clicks on the user interface, to distribute configurations to all branch site devices.

Organizations need a turnkey networking solution that is easy to deploy and manage, offers high availability, and can automatically scale in order to maximize the value of moving to the cloud. Through their collaboration, Microsoft and VMware offer large-scale branch connectivity in a simple, secure, and unified manner to Microsoft Office 365 customers.

Extending SD-WAN to Office 365

VMware SD-WAN enables enterprises to rapidly and cost-effectively leverage world-class SD-WAN capabilities within Microsoft Office 365. VMware SD-WAN integrates with Office 365 to bring the same optimization, security, and simplified operations of Office 365, with the uncompromised user experience that VMware SD-WAN delivers, for the most demanding networks and applications, worldwide. This joint solution between VMware and Microsoft addresses compelling use cases that support the immediate needs of today's enterprises, as well as the ongoing evolution from legacy computing infrastructures to a cloud-first strategy.

vmware®

Simple design and availability

With VMware SD-WAN, customers have a range of flexible deployment options, that can be implemented without changes to existing networks. Enterprises can connect to Office 365 through globally distributed VMware SD-WAN Gateways that interoperate with the Microsoft cloud network. Customers will benefit from simplified network design and zero touch deployment, with simplified configurations at branch locations. VMware SD-WAN will enable enterprises to support the migration to SaaS with secure and automated business policy and control for access priority. With VMware SD-WAN, enterprises can aggregate broadband Internet, 4G-LTE, and MPLS circuits with application-aware, per-packet link steering and on demand remediation to achieve optimal performance for connection to Office 365.

The cloud is about agility, availability and speed. It's about making sure the right resources are delivered just in time without failure to drive the best possible business outcomes. VMware SD-WAN connects and protect applications, data and users wherever they are.
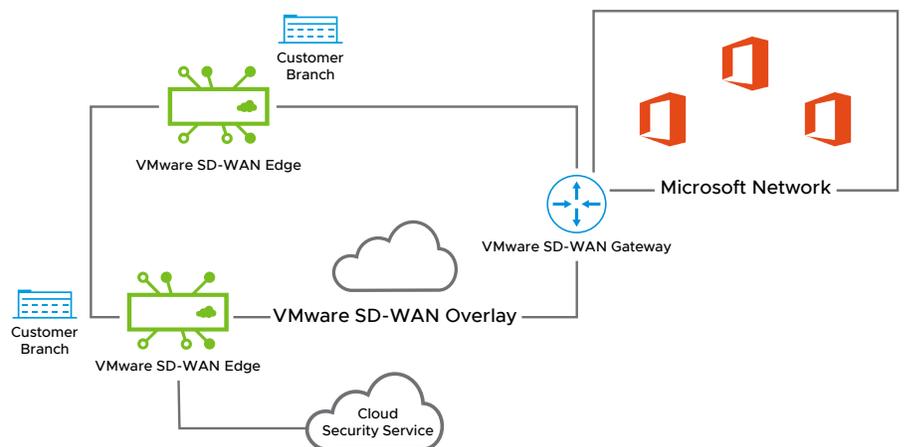

FIGURE 1: VMware SD-WAN Edge connectivity to Office 365 via VMware SD-WAN Gateways

VMware supports and endorses the joint partnership with Microsoft by ensuring we meet the key principles that Microsoft has outlined for secure and reliable connectivity to Office 365. The joint solution has the following benefits:

- Ease of configuration through simplified business policie

- Dynamic Multipath Optimization™ over the Internet to Office 365 using VMware Cloud Gateways and integration with the Microsoft cloud network

- The VMware SD-WAN Orchestrator recognizes Office 365 traffic and applies prioritization for optimal connectivity

Key Differentiators:

- VMware SD-WAN communicates with and dynamically connects to the closest Microsoft vWAN network endpoints, enabling seamless and efficient access to Office 365

- Customers can enable Internet access for Office 365 traffic using a business-policy to easily route Office 365 traffic via VMware SD-WAN Gateways avoiding data center backhaul

- The VMware SD-WAN Orchestrator supports simple business policy creation, enabling customers to directly send Office 365 traffic to the Microsoft vWAN Network with flexible network security measures that integrate with security capabilities that are available in Office 365

Flexible deployment options

Customers have flexibility in identifying, prioritizing and classifying Office 365 traffic based on their business policies in a simple and automated manner. Connectivity to Office 365 is automated and dynamic, allowing scale and ease of use.
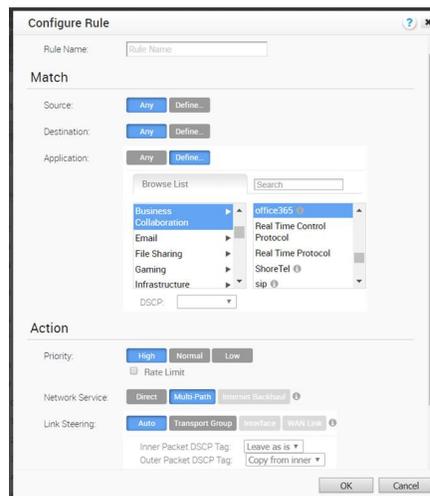

FIGURE 2: Default and automated policy settings for Office 365 in VMware SD-WAN Orchestrator

Overcoming WAN challenges with SD-WAN

VMware SD-WAN mitigates major WAN challenges today with unique application-aware, Dynamic Multipath Optimization technologies and advanced cloud infrastructure that can be extended to SaaS applications, such as Office 365, to ensure consistent performance and an outstanding user experience. This combined solution from VMware and Microsoft enables organizations, across all industries and around the globe, to gain simple to deploy, secure, high-performance connectivity, from branch office locations to Microsoft Office 365 without having to redesign their networks. The VMware SD-WAN Orchestrator allows for easy configuration of VMware SD-WAN Edge devices in branch locations to Microsoft vWAN and enables business policy-based application prioritization for traffic, as well as the ability to directly break out traffic from the branch without backhauling over private links through the enterprise data center, allowing customers to scale across thousands of branches easily and reach their goal of migrating to Microsoft Office 365.

For more information see, *www.velocloud.com*.