

SDN ASSESSMENT

Services and Tools that Accelerate SDN Initiatives

PIVOT'S UNIFIED PORTFOLIO OFFERING

Through our Unified Portfolio, we deliver solutions across the full lifecycle of our customer's technology investments.

SERVICE CHANNELS

-  Integration
-  Professional
-  Deployment
-  Workforce
-  Managed

SOLUTION DISCIPLINES

-  Workplace
-  Digital Infrastructure
-  Security
-  Cloud
-  Emerging Technology

SERVICES VALUE STREAM

-  →  →  →  → 
- Assess Design Implement Manage Optimize

Software-defined networking (SDN) has emerged as an alternative to the hardware-centric network architectures that have been used for nearly 30 years. By separating control of the network from data delivery, SDN delivers on the promise of a dynamic, highly scalable network with the intelligence to route traffic according to predefined policies and to allocate resources automatically. However, SDN represents a new approach to networking that requires different skill sets and operational processes than traditional models.

Because SDN can allow organizations to leverage their existing investments in routing and switching technology, many organizations underestimate the cost of an SDN implementation. Pivot's SDN assessment services include an ROI calculator to better determine the costs involved and help decision-makers weigh the pros and cons of adopting SDN technology. Once the organization decides to move forward, the Pivot team can assist with the selection, deployment and integration of SDN solution.

SDN solutions are seeing rapid uptake as organizations seek to rearchitect their networks to support the explosion of virtual machines (VMs), mobile devices and cloud services. According to IDC, the SDN market should see a compound annual growth rate of 53.9 percent through 2020, with the fastest growth in software components.

These organizations are adopting SDN to relieve the network complexity and inefficiency that are hampering their operations. Traditional network designs involve tiers of routers and switches that must be configured and managed at the device level using proprietary interfaces and diverse protocols. Changes can take days or even weeks, making it difficult to support ever-increasing user demands or to apply policies consistently across the network environment.



WHY SDN?

Interest in SDN cuts across a wide range of industries, including manufacturing, energy, finance, retail, healthcare, education and government. The most adopted known items for migration to SDN are:

- Application Focused Networks = Optimized IT & Business Alignment
- Decreased Operational Risk through Operational Simplicity
- Decrease Time to Revenue through Streamlined Workflows
- Increased Security through Scalable & Flexible Policy Architectures
- Optimized Delivery of Applications and Services through Automation/Orchestration
- Increased IT Collaboration
- Decreased OpEX/CapEX

SDN relieves these bottlenecks by moving the network “control plane” to a centralized controller that works with any physical or virtual device. Software controls how packets are forwarded through network switches and provides a global interface for implementing access, Quality of Service and security policies. An open, standards-based approach simplifies operations by eliminating the need to manage specific devices and protocols.

Because everything is controlled through software, SDN enables a high degree of automation, making it possible to rapidly provision network resources while reducing the risk of human error. The SDN controller also provides end-to-end visibility into the network, which appears as one logical switch. Centralized management increases IT efficiency and enables the delivery of innovative applications and services that can have a direct impact on the bottom line.

PIVOT'S SOLUTION

Pivot is helping organizations make the leap to SDN with its comprehensive assessment services. Leveraging their extensive experience in the design, architecture, deployment and support of enterprise networks, Pivot's engineers perform an analysis of the organization's existing environment and processes, and conduct a needs assessment to identify any gaps that could prevent the organization from meeting its SDN objectives. The result is a detailed roadmap that will drive the organization's transition to SDN. The process begins with Pivot ensuring the client has the necessary infrastructure to operate an SDN environment.

To ensure the phases from evaluation to operation are methodically created and followed, we focus on:

- Pre-validation
- Readiness Assessment Questionnaire
- Review and Gather Technical Requirements
- Decision Making Framework (DMF)
- Vision, Strategy Fit, Critical Assumptions, In/Out Scope, Alternatives, Benefits, Risk, Preferred Alternative, Economics, Funding & Cost Recovery, Project Milestones
- Develop High-Level Design
- Review Constraints and Dependencies of HLD
- Develop Low-Level Design
- Integration Planning Resources and Scheduling
- Create Detailed SOW for Preferred Solution
- Post Implementation - Pivot and customer touch points for SDN feature:
 - Adoption
 - Expansion
 - Training
 - Support
 - Managed Services

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