Software-defined Networking Development Model

Explore your roadmap to network programmability – with a consulting engagement that assesses your readiness for software-defined networking.
Another obstacle may be the absence of the programmatic control of the network. You probably need to invest in multiple teams of network administrators to manage the network. They need to ensure that it’s configured appropriately for the workloads that are running on top of it, and that workloads are mobile and very dynamic—which are all complex and difficult tasks.

Software-defined networking eliminates the dilemmas of the modern computing infrastructure. It allows some of the functionality in the networking hardware to move into software, thereby creating a software control layer that can be programmed. A programmable network can help you save costs and respond to business requirements more rapidly.

But software-defined networking can also be confusing if your networking and IT teams struggle to understand the benefits, how it can be applied, and where to implement it. Where do you start?

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Our Software-defined Networking Development Model helps you understand just how ready you are for a software-defined future—and what you need to get there.

You will:

- gain a deeper understanding of software-defined networking
- uncover your business needs and readiness for software-defined networking
- gauge the impact of software-defined networking on your business
- identify the current ‘as-is’ and desired ‘to-be’ software-defined networking state
- uncover areas that could benefit from more programmable networking

…because you want the right agility, automation, and architecture to accelerate your digital ambitions.

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‘Business demands are dynamic and many infrastructure elements are virtualised – the servers, storage, and desktops – to cope. The network is still too static, however, and this is starting to hold back our ability to transform.’

- CIO, US-based financial services firm

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Is your network fully optimised?

We’ve seen an increase in the adoption of virtualisation over the last two decades. In computing, and more specifically with desktops and storage, we’ve witnessed a pervasive decoupling of applications from the hardware with virtualisation.

If you’ve invested in virtualisation, you’re now most likely faced with a couple of challenges. Your network isn’t as virtualised as the compute and application workloads running on top of it. Virtualisation enables applications to be mobile, but they’re still bound to a very physical piece of network hardware, and the topology of the network architecture. As a result, you may be experiencing inflexible workload placements and immobility.

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But software-defined networking can also be confusing if your networking and IT teams struggle to understand the benefits, how it can be applied, and where to implement it. Where do you start?
Our Software-defined Networking Model covers it all

We’ve designed and built over 9,000 IP networks worldwide, enabling more than 13 million users to connect to their organisations’ networks. We support and manage more than USD 30 billion of networking infrastructure, 24/7. Our skills in networking are unmatched – we have over 6,000 networking certifications across multiple technology vendors.

So if you have any questions about software-defined networking, we’re your first port of call. We can help you to consider how your network will interface with the rest of your IT infrastructure, what skills will be required to support software-defined networking and what its impact will be on your broader IT strategy.

We also help you answer:
• How is a software-defined network different from my current network?
• What will the impact of software-defined networking be on my organisation?
• How can I take advantage of software-defined networking to improve my operations?
• What are the elements of a well-rounded software-defined networking strategy?
• Where do I start with software-defined networking?

What do you get with our Software-defined Networking Development Model?

Dimension Data’s Software-defined Networking Development Model is a consulting engagement designed to give you greater clarity on software-defined networking and how it can be successfully adopted by your organisation.

Our Model is designed to deliver the following:
• improved knowledge - education about what software-defined networking is, approaches to software-defined networking, and defining terminology to standardise the discussion
• explore motivation - uncovering the need for software-defined networking in your business, and identifying which area of the network it would benefit the most
• understanding of the impact - exploring the effect of software-defined networking on existing IT infrastructure, focusing on operations and management, as well as organisational and business alignment
• clear vision - identifying possible business use cases and your overall goals and strategy related to software-defined networking
• a defined ‘as-is’ and ‘to-be’ state - detailing the current and desired state to ensure more clarity of the approach
• a roadmap - planning a route from the ‘as-is’ to the ‘to-be’ state, which includes recommendations to get started

How do we engage with you?

Our Software-defined Networking Development Model is a strategic process with a consulting-led, facilitated workshop at its core, delivered in three phases:

1. Discover phase
We schedule a pre-workshop call with your key representatives to address general questions, and to ensure that everyone is well prepared and have enough information. We then facilitate a workshop, which includes a software-defined networking masterclass.
We explore your understanding of software-defined networking, the market, your motivation for deploying software-defined networking, and we standardise the language we use for the remainder of the workshop.
We then analyse your organisation’s readiness to deploy software-defined networking through the following lenses:
• infrastructure readiness
• operational and management readiness
• organisation and business alignment

2. Analyse phase
We analyse the data collected, as well as the discussion that took place during the ‘discover’ phase, and prepare a report.

3. Recommend phase
We make recommendations on how you can start your software-defined networking programme, and what specific actions you can take to ensure its success.
We provide these recommendations in the form of a written report, and a presentation delivered in person during a feedback meeting, which allows for further engagement to clarify any questions you may have.

‘With accurate and actionable data, you have visibility to define your software-defined networking roadmap and optimise your infrastructure to ensure a business-ready-network.’
What sets us apart?

We offer a unique blend of capabilities, assets, and experience, which sets us apart from other IT service providers.

We’re a leader in digital transformation

We have a strong heritage in systems integration, mature managed services, and technical expertise – not only in networking, but also in other areas. Our expertise extends to data centres, security, end-user computing solutions, and IT services.

This positions us well to help you determine the most appropriate software-defined networking strategy for your organisation, deploy software-defined network, and manage your network infrastructure, no matter which underlying architecture you choose.

We understand how critical the network is

We have a 30-year history in designing, building, deploying, and managing networks for clients that need reliable, robust, high-performing, and cost-efficient networks to run their operations.

In addition, we have an extensive history in assisting clients through network transitions such as the move to transmission control protocol/internet protocol and the convergence of voice, video, and data. We believe software-defined networking is another shift of this nature.

You reap the benefits of our in-house skills

A move to software-defined networking can be potentially disruptive and complex. Our consultants have the appropriate technical and commercial credentials to provide you with relevant insights and practical advice. Members of our teams have on average 10 years of IT infrastructure and consulting experience.

With our Software-defined Networking Development Model, you get:

• a clear picture how software-defined networking can work in your organisation
• a roadmap to start your transformation journey
• a practical set of recommendations

…so you can make the right decisions about your network – and the future of your business.

Get in touch

Visit us at dimensiondata.com