# How to Transform Your Branch-to-Multicloud Connectivity

## Deliver simplicity, agility and security

InterCloud

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# >> Table of Contents


3 Executive summary

4 Top three challenges connecting branch-to-office

6 Considerations for CIOs when it comes to branch office multicloud connectivity

8 A growing trend: SD-WAN adoption and branch connectivity

10 Top criteria when evaluating a managed cloud connectivity provider

12 The InterCloud approach: EdgeDoorway


# Executive summary

**More and more businesses are looking to create multicloud environments in order to take advantage of the cost and performance benefits offered by multiple cloud providers. But setting up and managing a multicloud environment can be difficult, especially when it comes to connecting branch offices to your cloud applications.**

While you want to simplify, your business requirements and your infrastructure are getting more complex. You are looking to optimize costs, yet both connectivity charges across multiple cloud service providers and management overheads are rapidly growing. Performance and security is a priority, but with more locations and more devices connecting to your clouds things become even more complicated.

As IT Infrastructure evolves and multicloud environments become more prevalent, it is time to think differently about your branch network, the technologies you deploy, and the partners that you work with.

How do you manage these locations in a way that both addresses your immediate challenges whilst ensuring that your business remains fit for the future as your cloud strategy evolves? And how can you enable enterprise-grade connectivity, leveraging both private connectivity and public connectivity in the most reliable, secure way to connect local workloads to local branch offices where the data is produced and consumed with the right balance of business performance vs. cost?

Read this InterCloud guide to find out how you can take a new approach to connecting your branch offices to your cloud applications, while maintaining security, scalability and agility.

# Top three challenges connecting branch-to-office

# **Top three challenges** connecting branch-to-office

## 1

### Multicloud adoption = complexity challenge

When expanding branches over multiple regions, it is even more challenging for businesses to have a uniform multicloud access. The complexity and cost becomes exponentially higher with each new region you need to connect from because there will be many internet branches coming into each cloud provider which means an increase in Cloud Gateways as well as egress fees.

## 2

### Cloud traffic tromboning = performance challenges

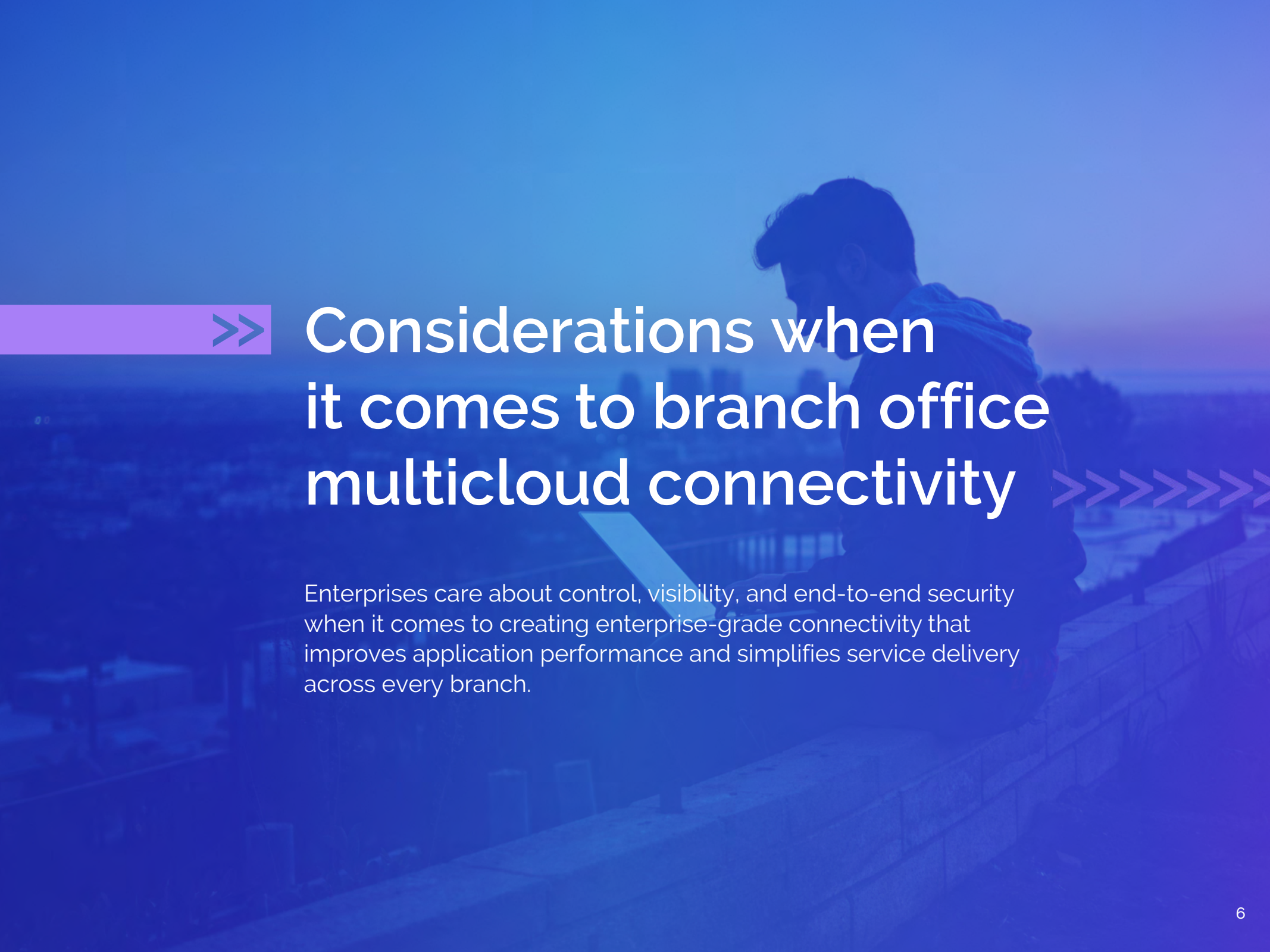
When a company shifts its data to the cloud, data centers are often not optimised for the type of network they use. This results in sub-optimal performance such as increased latency because requests are sent through the HQ or the primary site instead of taking the most optimal route directly between branch sites, which can cause congestion in the data center and slow your business down.

## 3

### Legacy network = deployment challenges

Legacy networks make it difficult to add cloud access when traffic segmentation is required. In these legacy systems, if different branch offices want to access some cloud environments but not others they need Access Control Lists (ACLs) configured on each router which leads towards slow deployment and cumbersome maintenance practices.

All of these challenges can be overcome with the right multicloud connectivity solution. Enterprise customers can benefit from a variety of features, such as direct interconnection to multiple clouds, flexible provisioning, on-demand bandwidth, and more.



# Considerations when it comes to branch office multicloud connectivity

Enterprises care about control, visibility, and end-to-end security when it comes to creating enterprise-grade connectivity that improves application performance and simplifies service delivery across every branch.

# **Considerations** when it comes to branch office **multicloud connectivity**

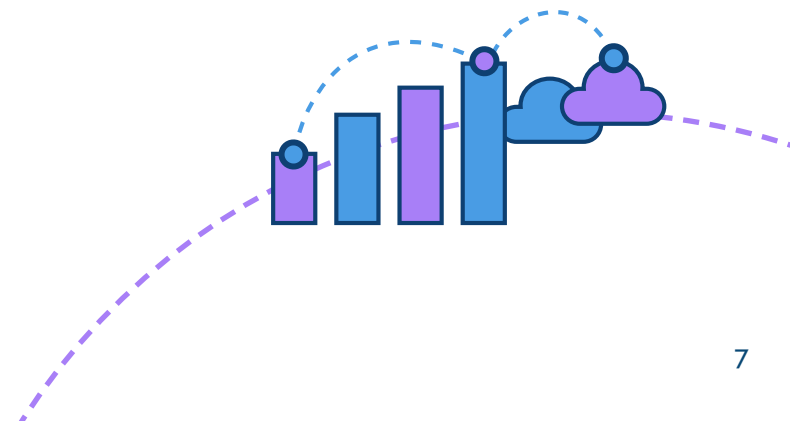
How can I reduce the (performance) distance between where the data is produced and the place where the data is consumed to ensure the same high-quality experience in branch locations and headquarters?

How can I leverage the ubiquity of the cloud and the global reach of the Internet to shift workloads instantly from anywhere to anywhere without compromising on reliability, security and performance?

How can I balance business performance vs. cost when connecting branch offices?

By bearing in mind these considerations, enterprises can ensure that their branch office employees have the same high-quality experience as those at headquarters.

As a result, businesses are turning to alternate solutions – seeking a much higher level of reliability and performance.



# A growing trend: SD-WAN adoption and branch connectivity

For many companies, the need to quickly address digital adoption pressures has led them down temporary paths without considering long-term implications from a network architecture perspective. As a result, many organizations are now relying on VPNs as their remote access technology but these solutions are not always ideal for permanent changes.

# **A growing trend:**
# SD-WAN adoption and branch connectivity

Because of accelerated cloud migration strategies, businesses now seek to optimize networking and security requirements after the fact resulting in an upward shift towards SD-WAN adoption. When it comes to connecting branch offices - where once connectivity was back to head office, today it is a hybrid world of multiple clouds.

The head office is no longer the center - the branch is. Today, intelligence is placed at the branch level to optimize connectivity options and minimise traffic destined for the cloud being backhauled to central locations with the following advantages:

### Flexibility and scalability

SD-WAN offerings are capable not only of scaling to accommodate large numbers of sites, but also of providing multi-tenant and segmentation capabilities that the world's largest enterprises demand for control, manageability and consistent security across multicloud environments.

### Improved security

While traditional WAN works with many applications at various branch offices, SD-WAN is able to integrate with a centrally located web filtering service that offers malware protection and other cybersecurity measures to every branch globally and remote device in the company.

### Cost effectiveness

An SD-WAN offers a much more agile and affordable platform compared with traditional branch office network connectivity, as it avoids organizations having to make relatively costly capital expenditure intensive purchases. With the addition of aggregation technologies, centralised management and application-aware routing, SD-WAN also delivers flexible and scalable connectivity that can be significantly cheaper than a traditional WAN architecture.

# Top criteria when evaluating a managed cloud connectivity provider

Today, enterprises need a platform that helps them connect users to their applications anywhere, in any cloud, aligned with the business needs.

# **Top criteria** when evaluating a managed cloud connectivity provider

Knowing what to look for in a cloud connectivity provider will help organizations get the value they seek when it comes to connecting branch offices to the cloud.

**1**

### Reduced complexity

Can they enable you to simplify your IT infrastructure while not compromising on flexibility and security and ensuring that it is future proof as your cloud strategy evolves?

**2**

### Improved performance

Do they have a modularised approach that enables technology stacks to move at speed to connect and support new sites with clear SLAs?

**3**

### Faster deployment

Will they reduce implementation time, reusing components and simplifying support for your business?

The key elements of any effective security-driven networking strategy must be broad, integrated, automated and future proof. The secret is to find a partner that can layer your architecture in order to allow you to standardise on technology stacks at speed while modularising the components to perfectly meet the unique needs of each site by leveraging a cloud managed infrastructure – for the short, medium and long term as your cloud strategy evolves.

# InterCloud's Edge Dorway

InterCloud's Edge Doorway, deployed via SD-WAN or via VPN IPsec in accordance with your current business processes and requirements, is a new connectivity service available to on-board our customers' branch sites to the InterCloud platform, and extend their network to multicloud access by exchanging encrypted traffic over the Internet between on-premise sites and the InterCloud platform.

### Reduced complexity

- Common connectivity solution to branch sites, data centers and multicloud access through the InterCloud platform.
- Managed multicloud access routing.
- Simple handling of traffic segmentation for subsidiaries or business units.

### Improved performance

- Avoid internet traffic tromboning through a central location of the customer network (data center / HQ).
- Low latency connectivity to multicloud on the middle mile.
- Controlled private access to multicloud with the InterCloud platform SLA.
- Security compliancy and better service assurance to the business units.

### Faster deployment

- Minimize number of appliances in Cloud Service Providers.
- Rapid provisioning of hub devices as needed, closer to the branches.
- Scalability with on-demand upgrade of hub device to support more sites or bandwidth when business demands, as required.
- Central management of the network policies.

Get in touch with InterCloud today **(contact@intercloud.com)** to find out how you can remove roadblocks and transform your approach.


## About InterCloud

InterCloud's end-to-end global connectivity platform eliminates the complexity in deploying the cloud, giving businesses full control over the security, sovereignty, and performance of their critical data trafficwith complete peace of mind.

Working with organizations to help them transform global connectivity, reduce network complexity, and accelerate growth and innovation, InterCloud is a trusted advisor to some of the world's leading brands when it comes to leveraging the cloud for future success

With offices across Europe, the company's platform is underpinned by its team of cloud experts who guide customers to implement effective strategies to leverage the power of the cloud across their organization – making global connectivity a driver for business performance.

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