

Cisco WAAS Evaluation

Assessment offer. NWN Corporation currently offers no cost/no risk assessments of enterprise networks to reveal the benefits of implementing Cisco's Wide Area Application System (WAAS). The results of an NWN assessment determine if there are potential cost and operational efficiency benefits to be realized by an organization.

Why WAAS. The underlying Wide Area Optimization technology is well established and is gaining widespread acceptance. WAAS can eliminate or reduce the number of servers deployed in your remote offices and deliver performance remotely at a level close to that experienced by a local user. It will dramatically improve the time taken to transfer a file or open a document across the network and will deliver visible improvements to the performance of most interactive applications. WAAS can eliminate the need to backup files within the office and can solve many of the problems with patch distribution.

The assessment provides a view of traffic types and patterns on a WAN. Over a few days we use a non-disruptive appliance to provide visibility of traffic volumes and types to a selection of a Frame Relay, MPLS or VPN locations. The assessment provides very informative, real time and historical reports.

The results. Traffic for up to five selected locations is analyzed in detail (for a hub-and-spoke Frame Relay, MPLS or VPN network) and the aggregate traffic for all remaining locations is also measured and analyzed. The assessment can also provide useful information for a simple (non-VPN) Internet connection. Traffic is divided into classes defined in terms of application server, protocol type or user address range. At very short intervals traffic and network efficiency levels are measured and reported. NWN clients see the major sources of traffic (top 10 classes) and the major contributors to these classes. The results are easy to understand and are presented in graphical format.

Extended evaluation. After the assessment many clients choose to know more about their network. Responding to this, NWN offers a more complete network assessment service, gathering data to all locations over an extended period of time, usually within one week. The extended data gathering phase is followed up with an expert analysis and recommendation report.

Server and Storage Consolidation.

Following the assessment NWN works with clients to assist in identifying and planning out cost savings and efficiencies with the goal of developing a ROI or business case for the use of WAAS.

On-site demonstration. When the assessment and the ROI for consolidation confirm that WAAS can be cost justified and budgeted in an environment NWN provides an on-site demonstration of WAAS. Clients are asked to allocate resources to participate actively in the development of a test scenario and during the testing and demonstration. We generally complete the demonstration within one week.

Pilot project. A network-wide implementation of WAAS can take time and must match the operational constraints of an organization and detailed work is needed to migrate from a distributed to a centralized environment. Therefore we recommend a phased roll out beginning with one or two locations for confirming benefits and ironing out potential difficulties with server consolidation. After that clients roll out additional units at a pace consistent with their ability to manage change and minimize operational impact.

For more information. An NWN Corporation Account Executive will be happy to give you more information on this or any other solutions and services. We have branches throughout the United States which can be seen on our website in the About Us, Locations section.

