SDWAN EVALUATION CRITERIA

4. THE FRAMEWORK

Leaders like to skip to the end, and just want to know who the top two or three provides are in the **SDWAN** space (or any given technology). The problem with that is three fold. **SDWAN** is still finding its place in the public market. **SDWAN** is still being defined and is a broad spectrum and so are the ways different providers are approaching their delivery and capabilities. Finally, **SDWAN** can accomplish multiple business **OBJECTIVES** and yet different client use cases will result in various providers excelling in different scenarios. Hence the framework provided is what will help leaders determine which provider will best serve the **OBJECTIVES**.

- **SDWAN** plays a **ROLE** in your business by performing a number of **FUNCTIONS** that serve your **OBJECTIVES**.

- By knowing what business **OBJECTIVES** you seek, you can define which **ROLES** **SDWAN** needs to play for you.

- By knowing which **ROLES** **SDWAN** should fill, you can define the appropriate **FUNCTIONS** that need to be performed.

- This list of needed **FUNCTIONS** is your **SDWAN** Evaluation Criteria.

5. START WITH YOUR BUSINESS

■ BUSINESS OBJECTIVES

Before we even begin discussing the actual technology, we need to get clear on what **SDWAN** can do for you.

- Improved Network Fault Tolerance
- Improved Network Performance
- Reduced Network Cost
- Provider–confirmed expiration dates on all of your current telecom contracts (most carriers automatically renew you!)

■ CURRENT ENVIRONMENT

Let's take stock of your current network to see where **SDWAN** can bring you the most value.

- Number of locations and users per location
- How you're currently networking your sites.
- **Firewall strategy:** Premise, Centralized, or Network.
- How many, and what, types of data flow across your network.
- What types of routing protocols are currently being used on your network.
- What network resiliency/recovery options are currently in place.
- Provider confirmed expiration dates on all of your current telecom contracts (most carriers automatically renew you!)