



Skype for Business

Preparing for a Skype for Business Deployment

Skype for Business is a disruptive technology which is set to shake up the IP Telephony market and deliver on the promise of truly unified communication. This paper highlights what is required to ensure your network infrastructure is ready for a successful Skype for Business deployment, and the most important things to consider before you invest.

In support, the Infotrak report, which includes a detailed study of the impact of Skype for Business* on the enterprise voice market highlights the following:

- ✓ The majority of enterprises (60% of those polled) are either considering or deploying Skype for Business as its Voice Platform, up from 45% in 2013.
- ✓ One in four enterprises are now reporting Skype as their preferred vendor for IP-PBXs.
- ✓ Skype is now shipping more enterprise voice lines than any other communications vendor, including Cisco and Avaya.

In short, standard IP-PBXs now seem almost archaic in today's unified and mobile society. Skype for Business is a natural progression for companies wishing to deliver Unified Communication.

Is your network ready?

Networks need to cope with this increased mobility and highly latency sensitive voice and video that Skype for Business introduces to the network. Users will expect to use Skype for Business everywhere and at any time without compromise.

This white paper looks into what you need to know to get your network infrastructure ready for a successful Skype for Business deployment.

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Wired Networks (LAN & WAN)



It is estimated that 48% of the Skype for Business support cases received are as a direct result of the network.

There is a finite amount of bandwidth on any network and in order to avoid poor audio and video quality due to latency, jitter and packet loss it is essential to implement Quality of Service (QoS) across the entire network.

WAN optimisation and aggregation technologies can be deployed to reduce or optimise TCP traffic on expensive MPLS or similar connections, leaving more bandwidth for UDP (Voice & Video) traffic.

A Skype for Business network audit and bandwidth calculator is recommended for new and existing deployment.

Wireless LAN



Wireless LAN has become the primary source of connectivity for today's devices, however, voice and video is notoriously difficult to deliver over Wireless LAN, especially in high density multi access point deployment.

Wireless deployments are no longer about coverage; they are about continuous high performance wireless, delivering bandwidth without latency, jitter and packet loss, and ensuring the optimal access point is always correctly serving clients at any instant in time.

Voice and Video requires millisecond delivery to devices on the move in a changing environment. So ensuring continuous coverage, no lower than -54db for 802.11ac access points, is critical for a successful deployment.

Legacy micro-cell wireless networks are no longer fit for purpose; today's wireless networks require a more intelligent virtual-cell architecture to ensure users have a wired experience without wires.

Wireless LAN vendor used to effectively deliver Video, Voice and Data need to meet the following criteria.

- ✓ Skype for Business accredited for 802.11ac access points
- ✓ SDN/OpenFlow certification
- ✓ Seamless hand-off for device roaming
- ✓ Low Latency for Voice and Video
- ✓ High availability Wireless LAN

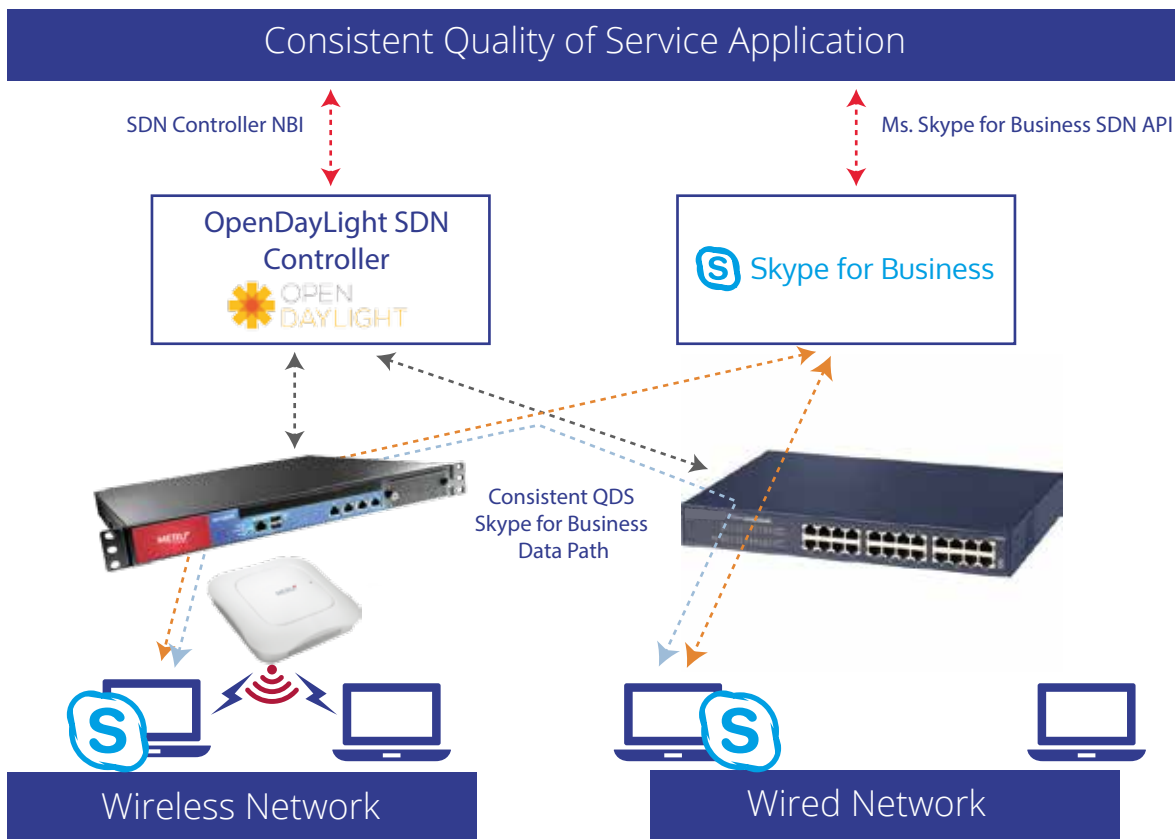
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Software-Defined Networks (SDN)



Software-defined networking (SDN) and OpenFlow is the glue that can ensure QoS across your entire network, bring new levels of agility to organisations.

SDN allows for real-time granular control of data through the entire network through a single interface.



- ✓ End-to-end application QoS enabling enforceable service-level agreements (SLAs)
- ✓ Single-pane-of-glass management of the unified wired and wireless network, with policy automation.
- ✓ Support for Multi-Vendor solutions through the ability to mix-and-match best-of-breed solutions.
- ✓ Complete visibility of flow of data through the network.

...This is a new, and sophisticated, dawn for networking.

Conclusion

It's clear that implementing successful Skype for Business Unified Communication deployments requires careful analysis and selection of wired and wireless vendors with SDN/OpenFlow and Skype for Business certification.

With the introduction of Skype for Business, Wireless LAN is no longer a network of convenience; Wireless LAN has become the primary source of connectivity for the mobile workforce. Ensure the wireless network is single channel and the network controls device roaming from one access point to another.

About Meru Networks



Meru Networks provides a virtualized wireless LAN solution that optimises the enterprise network to deliver the performance, reliability, and operational simplicity of a wired network, with the advantages of mobility.

Meru's innovative approach to wireless networking uses virtualisation technology to create an intelligent and self-monitoring wireless network.

Additionally, Meru can uniquely support context-aware layers, which provide isolated and secure channels dedicated to specific applications. With Meru, enterprises can become all wireless, smoothly migrating their business-critical applications from wired to wireless networks.

About Building Zones



At Building Zones we work with organisations to help them fully understand how wireless technology can enable a more productive and lower cost workspace.

Our vision is to make wireless an incredible experience for everyone, and we pride ourselves on delivering this for all our clients. WiFi is no longer a network of convenience; wireless is a critical form of connectivity for your employees and customers. When it comes down to it, wireless is all about the end user experience.

Working with Building Zones you will get a best fit solution that provides the flexibility to adopt new ways of working, improving productivity and collaboration and create work environment that will attract and retain the best staff.

* Previously Microsoft Lync