

INTRODUCTION

Thank you for completing the NTT Communications Next-Generation WAN Advisor, with research and analysis by IDC. As organizations implement digital transformation strategies they are faced with accelerating network requirements and the need for a network that supports the business outcomes they are aiming to achieve. Digital transformation should therefore go hand in hand with network evolution.

IDC has developed the Next-Generation WAN Advisor to help organizations assess the state of their WAN, and benchmark this performance against their peers. This interactive self-assessment tool is backed up by independent end-user research and IDC's in-depth understanding of this market. The research draws upon input from 300 network experts and decision makers to understand how advanced different organizations are in terms of their WAN investment and approach.

IDC has built a comparison framework in which individual responses from the survey are scored to group organizations into 3 levels of WAN maturity, based on their approach to:

- WAN Infrastructure, addressing usage and strategy with regards to connectivity and SD-WAN
- WAN Intelligence, covering usage of data and analytics to improve the performance of networks and applications
- WAN Operations, focusing on operational tasks such as configuration and security policy management

Based on your responses, this report provides you with a benchmark of your organization's WAN. It gives essential and tailored guidance to help you prepare for the requirements of tomorrow and plot your course to a Next-Generation WAN: a network that delivers the scalability, flexibility, manageability, cost-effectiveness, and security that your organization needs to drive digital transformation.

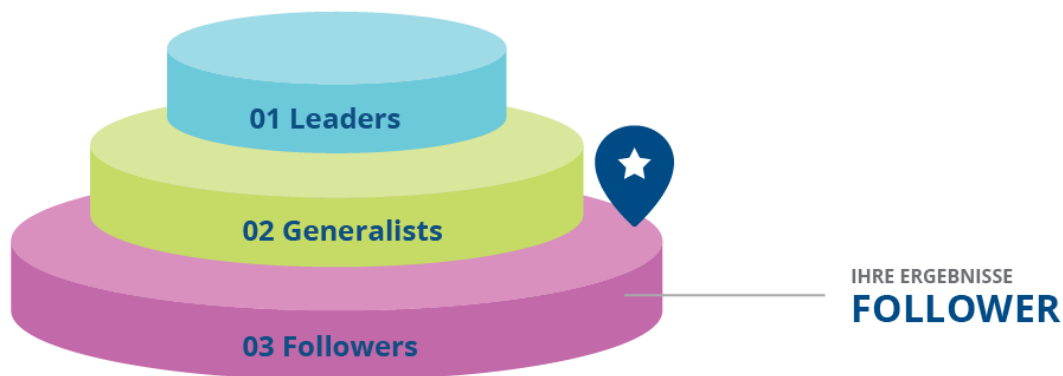
Figure 1 – Next Generation WAN Assessment



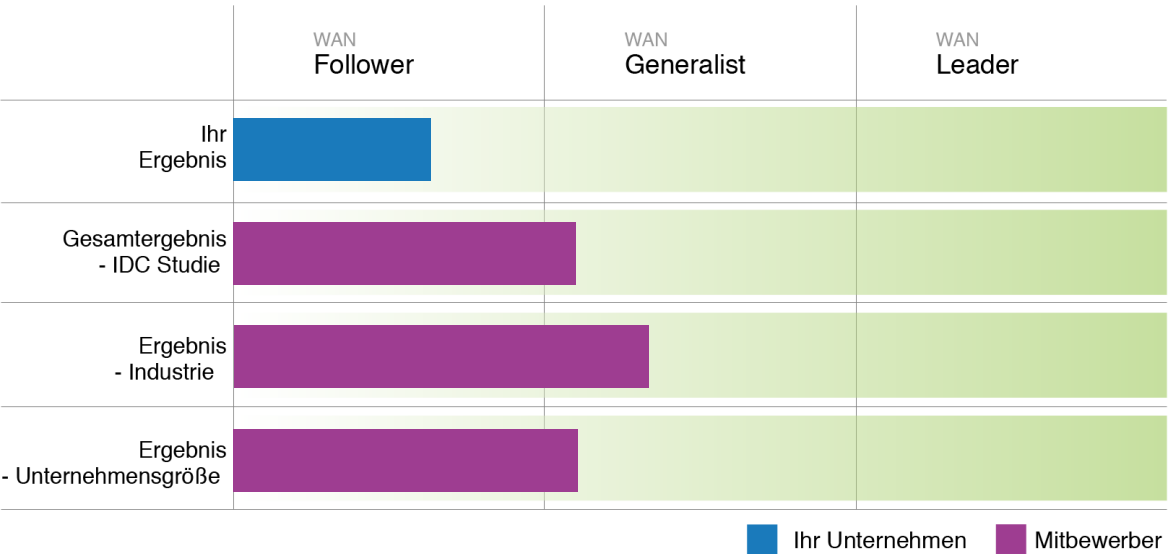
Figure 1 shows that IDC classes 16% of organizations as WAN Leader. These organizations typically differentiate themselves from others with their strategic approach toward the WAN, and a widespread usage of intelligence and automation. 41% of organizations are WAN Generalists, while 43% are considered as WAN Followers.

OVERALL PERFORMANCE

Organizations can only reap the full benefits of digital transformation if this goes hand in hand with an evolution of their WAN. IDC has created the Next-Generation WAN Advisor to help organizations assess the readiness of their WAN for the digital future. It scores organizations on their approach to WAN infrastructure, intelligence and operations. Based on a survey of 300 network influencers and decision makers we class organizations into three levels of maturity: Followers, Generalists, and Leaders.



Based on your responses to IDC's Next Generation WAN Advisor, your organization has been positioned as a WAN Follower (Level 1 of 3), which means your organization is generally lagging behind its peers.



These results indicate that there is plenty of room for improvement for most organizations when it comes to their WAN. To turn your WAN into a driver of digital transformation, you should aspire to outperform your peers and progress on the maturity ladder.