

# What Is WAN (Wide Area Network)?

## How It Works, Types, Benefits, and Best Practices

### 4 Types of WAN & Their Pros & Cons

#### Leased Line WAN

##### Pros:

- Guaranteed bandwidth and low latency
- Reliable and secure
- Consistent performance

- High cost, especially for long-distance connections
- Lengthy installation and setup times
- Restricted scalability

##### Cons:

#### MPLS (Multiprotocol Label Switching) WAN

##### Pros:

- High performance with predictable latency
- Supports QoS and traffic engineering for prioritizing critical data
- Scalable and flexible, suitable for large enterprises

- Costlier than broadband internet
- Requires highly specialized configuration and management
- Not as flexible as newer, software-defined alternatives

##### Cons:

#### Broadband Internet WAN

##### Pros:

- Cost-effective, especially for smaller businesses
- Widely available and easy to implement
- Flexible, with different types of connection options

- Higher latency and less reliability
- Potential for slower speeds during peak usage times
- Security risks if not properly configured with VPNs

##### Cons:

#### Satellite WAN

##### Pros:

- Present in remote and underserved regions
- Offers global connectivity

- High latency due to the distance data
- Costly and relatively low bandwidth
- Vulnerable to the weather conditions

##### Cons: