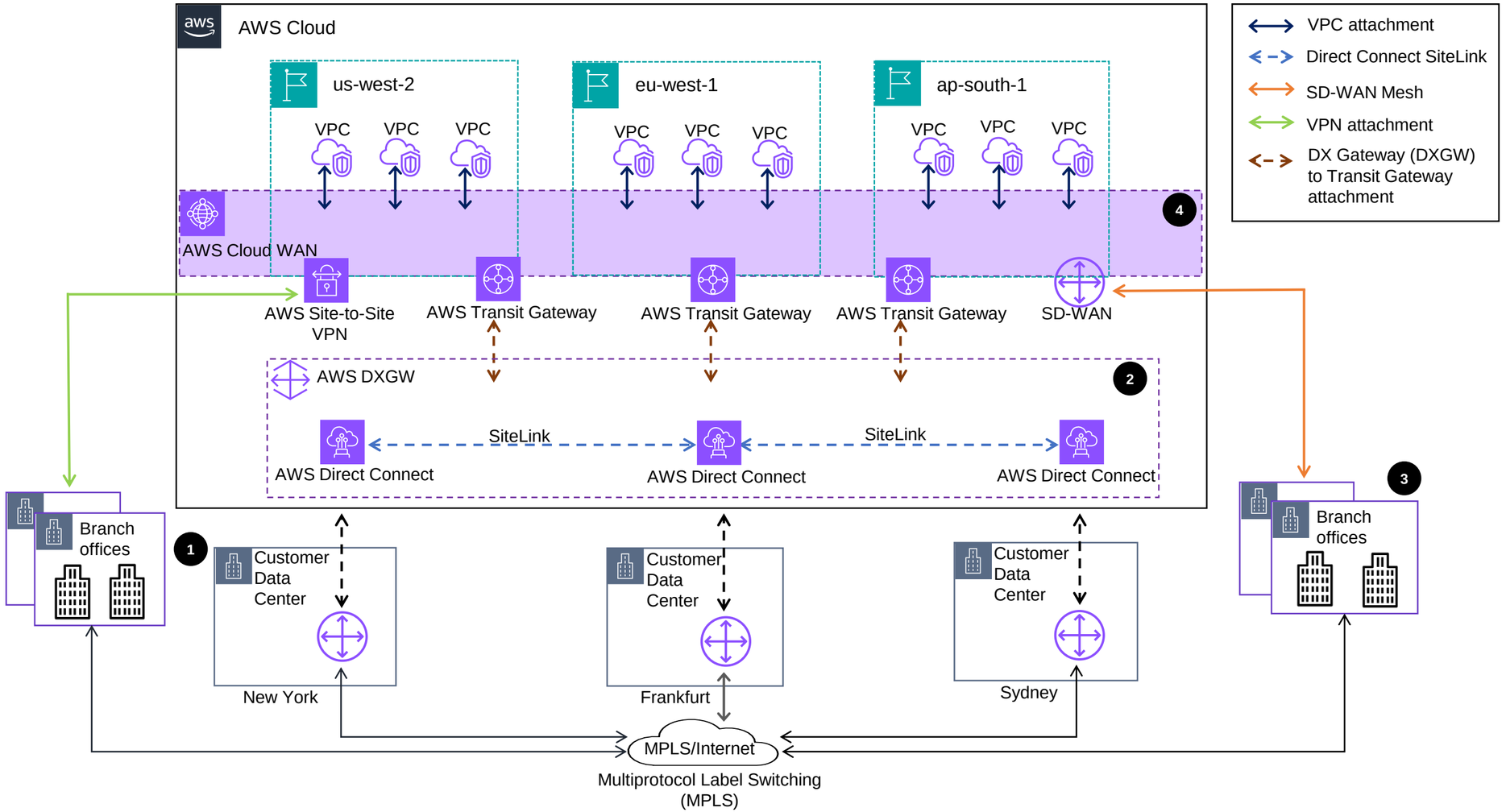
# Guidance for Building Your Enterprise WAN on AWS

This architecture diagram shows this Guidance is deployed throughout four phases. It deploys AWS Cloud WAN, AWS Direct Connect SiteLink, AWS Transit Gateway, AWS Site-to-Site VPN, and software defined wide area networks (SD-WANs) to build a global wide area network (WAN), connecting on-premises locations on AWS.




## Overview

This Guidance takes a four-phased approach to progressively build your enterprise Wide Area Network (WAN) on AWS. These phases are some common steps you can take to optimize costs, reduce complexity, and increase availability during your network modernization journey on AWS.

It deploys several AWS services or features to help you build a global WAN, including **AWS Cloud WAN**, SiteLink, a feature of **AWS Direct Connect** (DX), **AWS Transit Gateway**, **AWS Site-to-Site VPN**, and Software Defined Wide Area Networks (SD-WANs)

The slides that follow describe the following phases in greater detail:

1. **Phase 1: Backup your connectivity between data centers.** This phase deploys SiteLink, which creates an on-demand, consumption-based network connecting all of your data centers. This helps you establish a backup network path for your data centers.

2. **Phase 2: Connect your data centers.** The objective in this phase is to achieve a consumption-based model for your primary on-premises network. It helps you deploy SiteLink as the primary connection between on-premises data centers and migrate your data centers to AWS.

3. **Phase 3: Connect branch offices and segment your enterprise WAN.** On-premises connectivity requires branch office connectivity. In this phase, you can deploy **AWS Cloud WAN**, which provides a central dashboard for making connections between your branch offices, and **Amazon Virtual Private Cloud** (Amazon VPC).

4. **Phase 4: Expand your enterprise WAN footprint.** During this phase, you can extend your WAN to additional cloud Regions and on-premises locations by using a combination of SiteLink and **AWS Cloud WAN**.

*Reviewed for technical accuracy September 25, 2023*


**AWS Reference Architecture**