

# Service Brief Technical



# 2024

## ALLIANCE CONNECT VIRTUAL

Move to cloud



Prepared By:

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# INTRODUCTION TO ALLIANCE CONNECT

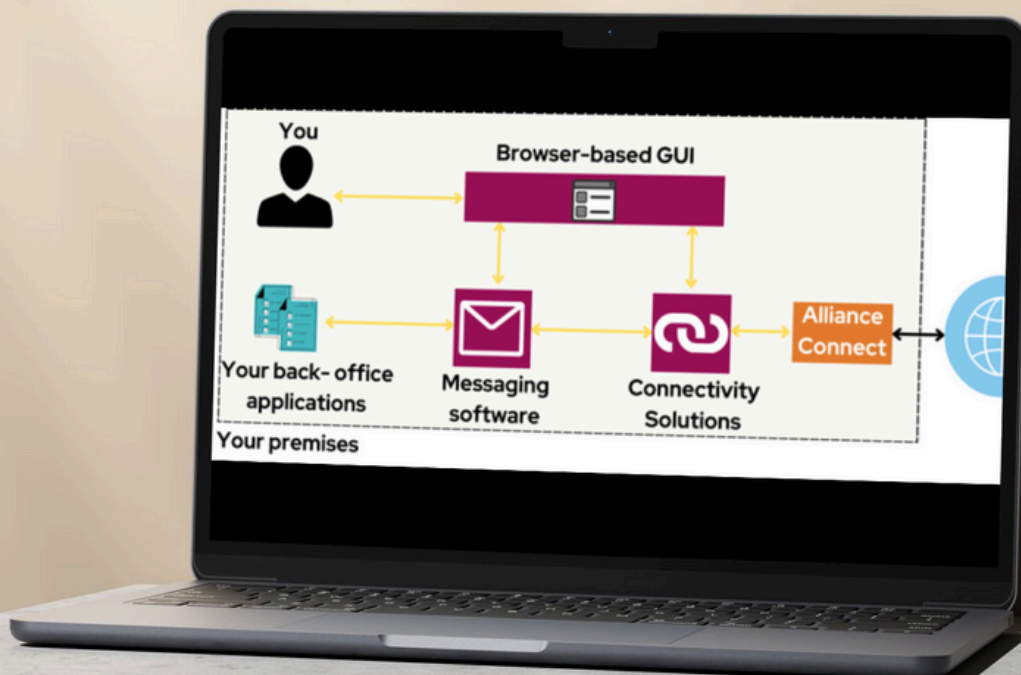


## ABOUT ALLIANCE CONNECT

Where is [Alliance Connect](#) in your local infrastructure.

Alliance Connect is **the last node** between your infrastructure and the SWIFT network.

Consequently, Alliance Connect is an indispensable part of the **message flow** of your institution.



# INTRODUCTION TO ALLIANCE CONNECT VIRTUAL

## ABOUT ALLIANCE CONNECT VIRTUAL

### What is Alliance Connect Virtual?

Alliance Connect Virtual is a network connectivity product that enable users to deploy **virtual VPN instances** in public cloud environments, while benefiting from the same security and functionality as its hardware alternative.

Alliance  
Connect



Hardware on premises



Your premises

Alliance  
Connect  
Virtual



Software in the public cloud



SWIFT Cloud Infrastructure  
Definitions (CID) file

## WHY ALLIANCE CONNECT VIRTUAL?

### Deploy connectivity to SWIFT through the public cloud.

With Alliance Connect Virtual, SWIFT enables you to deploy your connectivity to SWIFT through one of the three approved providers in the SWIFT Cloud Provider Programme.

This is aligned with SWIFT's commitment to support the customer journey to the cloud. You are now able to host almost all SWIFT software and applications in the public cloud\*.



### Secure, resilient, agile; experience the public cloud

#### A smarter way to connect

We want you to be able to connect to our network as easily as possible. Whether that means deploying our connectivity solutions in your data centres or hosting them virtually in the cloud. Building off the successes of Alliance Connect, Alliance Connect Virtual provides a lighter, more agile way of connecting to our network. The solution enables you to deploy your Swift VPNs virtually with Microsoft Azure, Amazon Web Services or Google Cloud – whilst benefitting from the same security and functionality as its hardware alternative.

### Streamline compliance

Reference architectures are **agreed** with the **three cloud providers** on the right.

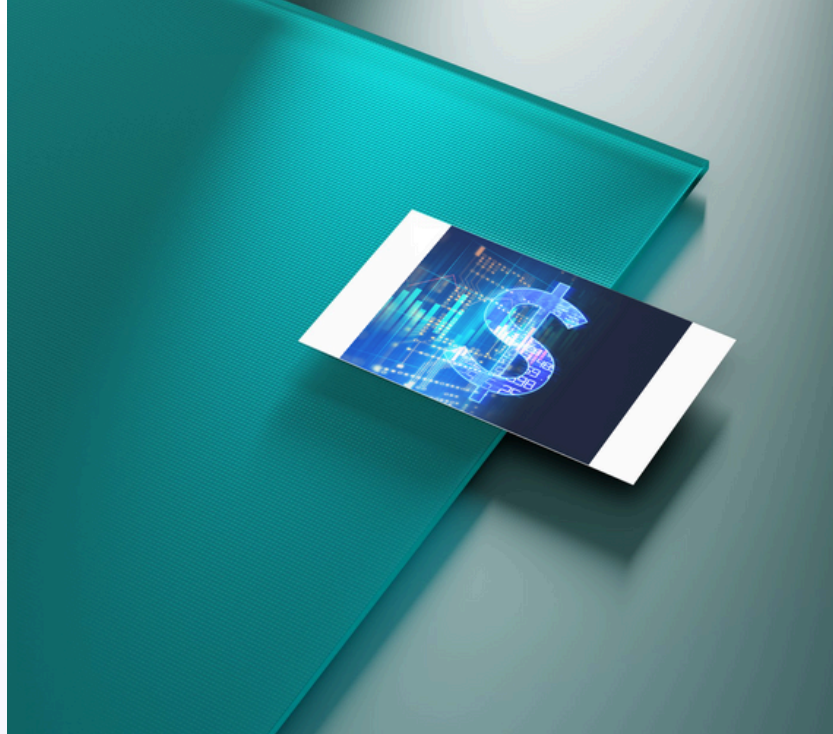
**Customer Security Programme (CSP) controls** are considered with the Public Cloud deployment.

**CSP conformance statements are available** from the SWIFT approved cloud providers to assist you with the completion of your CSP attestation.

## Features and Benefits

Moving to the public cloud using Alliance Connect Virtual has the potential to unlock significant benefits for financial institutions, without compromising security or availability.

- Reduce on-premises footprint.
- Deploy quickly
- Approved cloud providers
- Secure & reliable
- Increase agility
- Global availability
- Faster time to market
- Reduced cost of ownership
- Streamline compliance
- Simple monthly fee



## Reduce on-premises footprint.

**Physical VPN boxes** are **no longer required** on your premises.

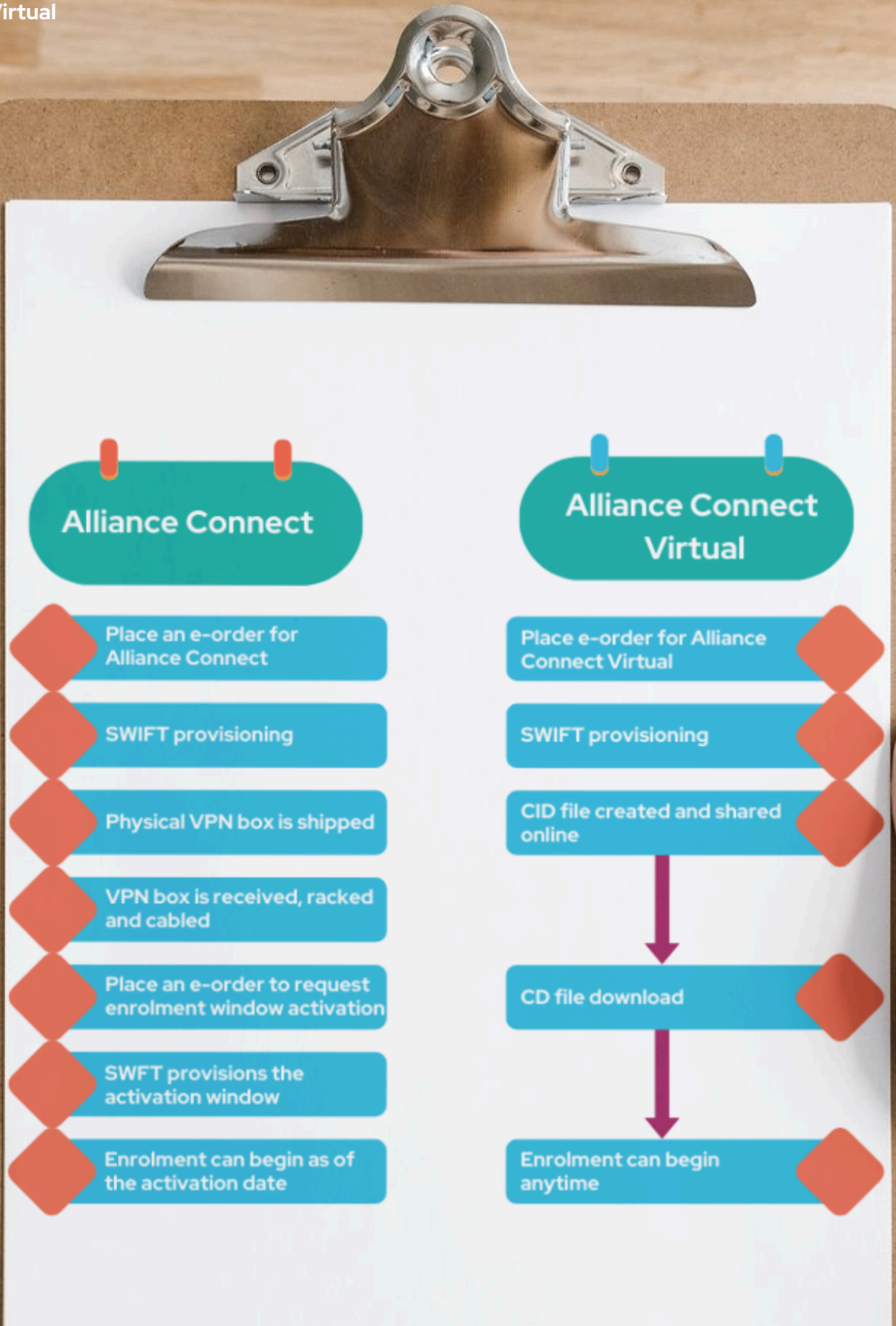
The implementation and set-up of a VSRX VPN instance is straightforward.

The customer installs the VSRX VPN instance and sets up the secure connection to SWIFT using a SWIFT Cloud Infrastructure Definition (CID) file in its cloud environment.



## Increase agility

The ordering and provisioning process for Alliance Connect Virtual enables more agility. This simplified comparison shows the number of steps involved using Alliance Connect versus Alliance Connect Virtual



## CONNECTIVITY PACKS

### Alliance Connect Virtual products

Three Alliance Connect Virtual packs are available.

The **difference** between them is **how** the **connection** to SWIFT from the cloud provider is **established**: through the internet, private connectivity (pseudo leased lines), or a combination of both.

#### Alliance Connect Virtual Bronze

- **Two virtual** VPN instances and **two** ISP connections.
- This product is an **internet-based** product designed for customers that exchange **up to 1,000 messages per day** or for a higher volume of non-critical business flows.

#### Alliance Connect Virtual Silver

- **Two virtual** VPN instances, **one** pseudo leased line and **one** internet connection
- This product is designed for customers that exchange between **1,000 and 40,000 messages per day** and require the **strong reliability** of a managed and guaranteed line, with a **cost-effective** internet connection.

#### Alliance Connect Virtual Gold

- **Two virtual** VPN instances with **two** pseudo leased lines connections
- This product is designed for customers that exchange **more than 40,000 messages per day** and that require the **highest resilience and service levels**.

### Price components comparison

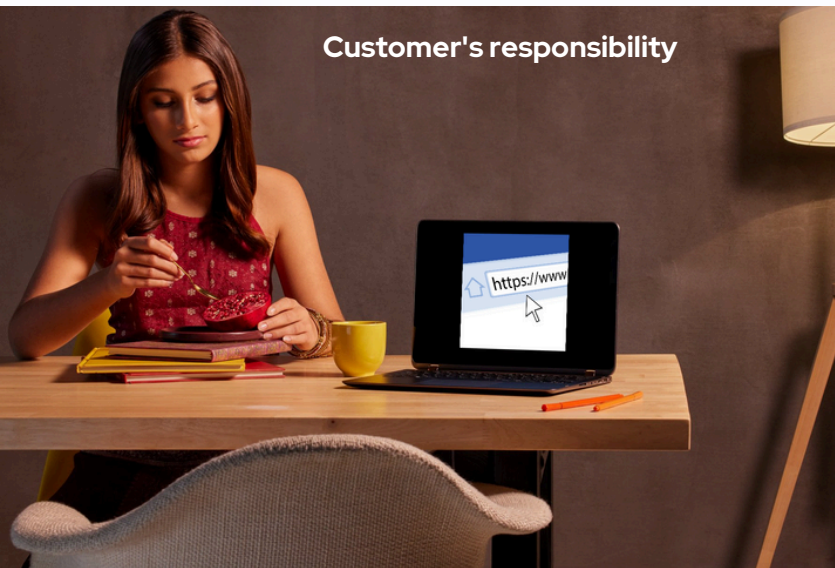
#### Price component

Component	Provided By	Alliance Connect	Alliance Connect Virtual
VPN Box or Instance	SWIFT	One time + Monthly re-occurring (MRC1)	Monthly re-occurring fee (MRF)
Spare management	SWIFT	One time (box + shipment)	--Included in MRF...
Port and Service management	SWIFT	Monthly re-occurring (MRC2)	--Included in MRF...
Connectivity	ISP/NP/SWIFT	OTC + re-occurring*	--Included in MRF...
Deployment Infrastructure	Customer or Cloud Provider	Data centre* + equipment* (Capex+Opex)	Opex* from Public cloud provider

\*Depends on customer contractual agreements

## KEY ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

The following parties play a role in delivering Alliance Connect Virtual.



- Order and instantiate Alliance Connect Virtual
- Maintain a subscription/account/Project with chosen SWIFT approved Cloud Providers
- Maintain a Premium level of support with the Cloud Provider
- Notify SWIFT of any planned maintenance, which may cause an interruption to connectivity.

- Cater to customer's infrastructure and connectivity needs to effectively deploy Alliance Connect Virtual.
- Provide Virtual Trust Platform for VSRX VPN instances.
- Cloud environment as per agreed reference architecture and CSCF guidance
- Provide assurances and information for CSCF control objectives.



- VSRX instances for Alliance Connect Virtual.
- Offer SWIFT backbone access points and IPsec tunnel termination for SWIFTnet connectivity.
- Provide customer support and problem management.
- Provide and manage Network Partner connection(pLL).

\*For Leased line connectivity only (Gold or Silver)





## SECURITY AND OPERATIONS

The **monitoring and maintenance** of Alliance Connect Virtual are done in **exactly the same way** as the traditional hardware-based Alliance Connect.



24/7 VPNs and PSEC tunnel status **monitoring**.



SWIFT acts as the **point of contact** in case of connectivity issue.



Maintenance and security **updates** for VPNs performed remotely by SWIFT.



**Secure channel** (IPsec session) established between the SWIFT BAP and virtual VPN (vSRX) instance.

- Encrypts data.
- Check authenticity and integrity of packets.

vSRX prevents the connection of non-IPsec based external sessions.

Post VPN enrolment, lock down any access to the VPN instance



Listen



Architect



Automate



Audit