# **Driving Innovation with Open RAN**

A Cisco Knowledge Network Event

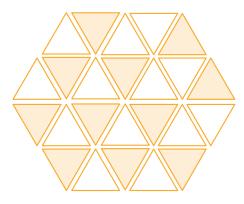
**Bob Everson** Senior Director, Provider Mobility, Cisco January 31, 2023



- State of Open RAN
- Operator Networks
- Private Networks
- Wrap-up, Q&A

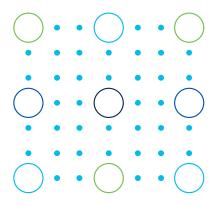
## Systems Evolution $\rightarrow$ Modularity

#### Interdependent



Proprietary interfaces	
Optimized for function and reliability	
Slow adaptation	•••••••••••••••••••••••••••••••••••••••
Fixed value chain	
Creates industries	•••••••••••••••••••••••••••••••••••••••

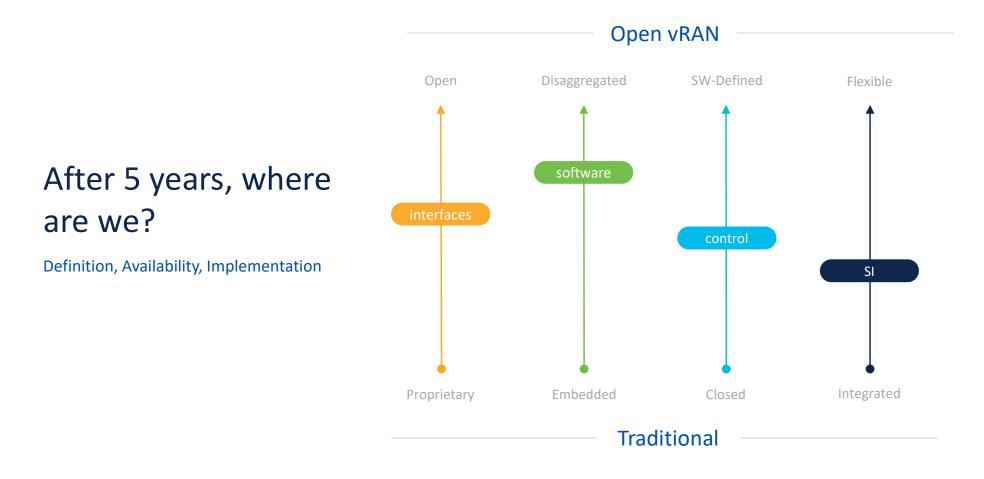
#### Modular



Standardized interfaces Flexible; optimize for cost, functionality, reliability, etc. Rapid adaptation Variable value chain Expands industries

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## Different Markets, Different Needs



Mobile Operators use and value

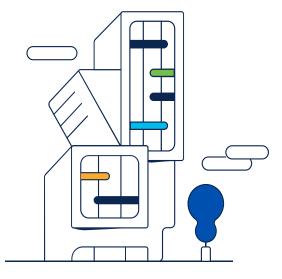
- Network is the business
- Homogeneous
- More measured service iteration
- Broad monetization



## Enterprise and Industry use and value

- Network powers their business
- Heterogeneous
- Move fast, evolve quickly
- Specialized applications drive business value

## Different Markets, Different Needs: Mobile Operators



Mobile Operators



Enterprise and Industry





#### **Greenfield Networks**

Have chosen open RAN

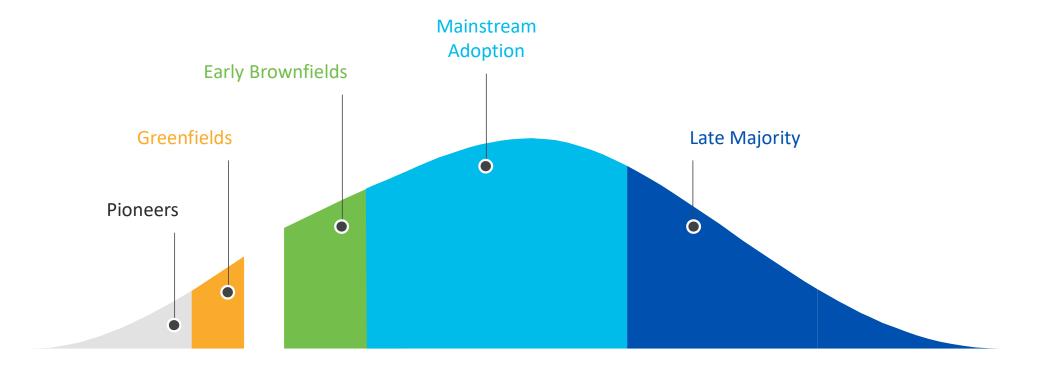
Mobile Operators State of open RAN macro networks



#### **Brownfield Networks**

More complex requirements and integration drive slower adoption

## Open vRAN Market Evolution



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## **Open RAN Macro Options**



#### Build with new Open RAN vendors

- Mix and match vision more challenging for brownfield
- Stack layer dependencies e.g. mMIMO
- Beyond technical Integration and interoperability



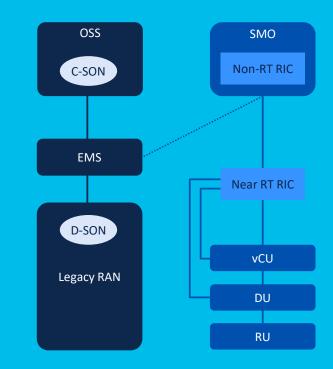
#### Evolve with existing vendors

- Virtualizing software vBBU vCU + vDU
- Splitting RU ORAN splits
- Network modernization

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#### RAN Intelligent Controller

Control, Optimization, Automation



- RIC with ORAN interfaces is enhancing and replacing legacy model
- Software-defined RAN



#### Mobile Operators

#### No longer a question of if, but when

- Some operators are deploying, forecasts are increasing
- Virtualization, programmability, optionality
- Software-defined RAN

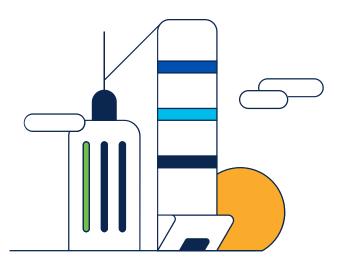
#### What operators are doing now

- Network modernization Transport, data center, automation
- Working with, and supporting open RAN ecosystem
- Pushing incumbents for openness
- Deploying/planning deployments

## Different Markets, Different Needs: Enterprise and Industry



Mobile Operators



Enterprise and Industry



#### **Enterprise and Industry**

#### Challenges

- Hybrid Work
- Industry 4.0
- ML/AI
- Spatial Web / Metaverse

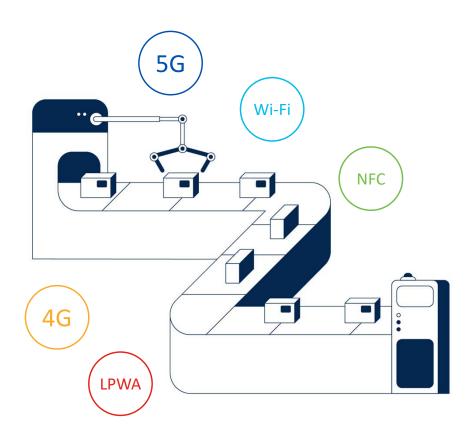


variety of devices | diverse environment | must plug into existing operations Leading edge requirements: positioning accuracy | latency | reliability Must keep pace with state of art – R16, R17, R18  $\rightarrow$  6G

#### **Enterprise and Industry**

#### Need for simplicity!

By 2025, 60% of enterprises will be using five or more wireless technologies simultaneously\*

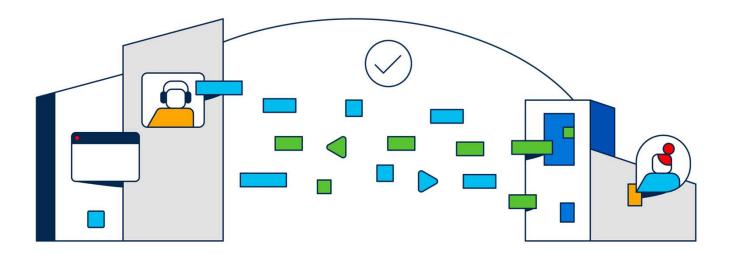


\*Gartner Identifies the Top 10 Strategic Technology Trends for 2023

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## A Collaborative Ecosystem

developing the ecosystem and fostering collaboration

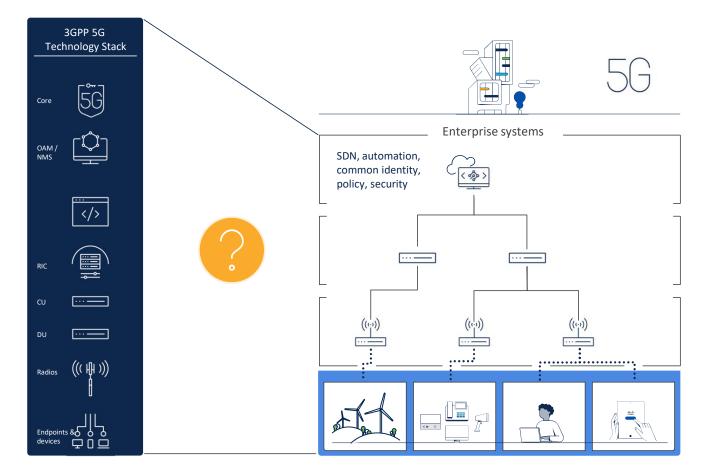


#### **Enterprise and Industry**

#### interoperability and compatibility are crucial

incompatibilities slow us down, cause confusion, and lead to inaction

## Bringing 5G to the Enterprise

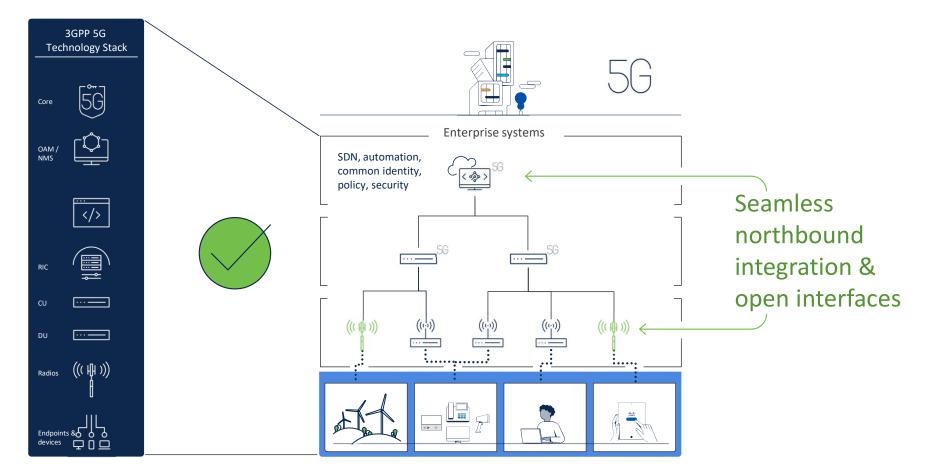


How can 5G transparently integrate into an enterprise world?

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## Bringing 5G to the Enterprise







#### **Enterprise and Industry**

Open RAN will enable greater enterprise adoption

#### Keys to success

- Diverse environment requires flexible options
- Software defined open and programmable
- API-centric, not hardware-centric
- Nimble to keep pace with state of the art
- Delivered by MSP, as-a-service

the velocity of success is dependent on merging into existing operations models

# Open RAN is taking off



- Unlocking innovation and flexibility
  - Stay focused commitment to standards, options, investment, deployments
- Build the foundation for the future don't replicate the past



# The difficulty lies not so much in developing new ideas as in escaping from old ones.

John Maynard Keynes

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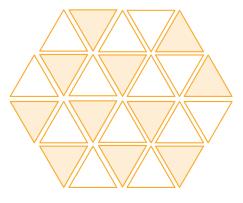
## Questions

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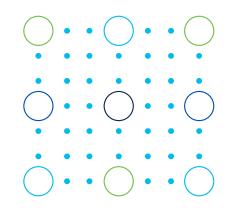
The bridge to possible

## Moving to Modularity



#### Interdependent

Proprietary interfaces Optimized for function and reliability Slow adaptation Fixed value chain Creates industries



#### Modular

Standardized interfaces Flexible; optimize elements for cost, functionality, etc. Rapid adaptation Variable value chain Expands industries

## Addressing Enterprise Challenges

- Hybrid Work
- Industry 4.0
- ML/AI
- Spatial Web / Metaverse



variety of devices | diverse environment | must plug into existing operations | Leading edge requirements: positioning accuracy | latency | reliability Must keep pace with state of art – R16, R17, R18  $\rightarrow$  6G