Validating Commercial Readiness of Open vRAN

VMware and Mavenir Streamline Open vRAN Deployments with Automation

Open RAN Momentum

Although Open RAN has been gaining momentum, it has also faced criticism within the industry. One of the most common misconceptions is that the technology lacks commercial readiness, which has led to concerns about its viability compared to traditional, vendor-locked solutions.

To address criticism and accelerate innovation, it is important to focus on collaboration and validation between technology partners to develop industry solutions and build an open ecosystem. In this way, the benefits of Open RAN can be fully realized, and its commercial readiness can be proven for CSPs to maximize value from their 5G network transformation.

VMware and Mavenir Technology Validation

VMware has an extensive partner ecosystem of RAN vendors and is committed to helping CSPs take advantage of a horizontal platform with consistent operations across distributed RAN sites. One leading technology partner, Mavenir, is helping CSPs deploy Open RAN with an award winning Open virtualized RAN (vRAN).

VMware has fully tested and validated the Mavenir Open vRAN solution on VMware Telco Cloud Platform RAN, which is accelerating the overall time to market for RAN deployments. The collaboration between VMware and Mavenir has resulted not only in lab validation but also in successful deployment in commercial networks, dispelling doubts about the readiness of Open vRAN.

Mavenir Open vRAN Solution

Mavenir's Open vRAN solution brings increased business agility with network elasticity and flexibility in radio access networks and a fully containerized, virtualized Open vRAN Split 7.2 architecture. Mavenir's Open vRAN also supports a containerized architecture for 2G which runs on the same platform with 4G/5G.

Supporting massive MIMO, mmWave, edge micro services and 5G slicing, Mavenir Open vRAN eliminates single vendor lock-in and delivers open interfaces, virtualization, and web-scale containerization to support various deployment scenarios on any cloud (private, public or hybrid), resulting in a 37% savings in total cost of ownership (TCO) over 5 years. (Source: *Senza Fili 2021*).

VMware Telco Cloud Automation

VMware Telco Cloud Automation provides a single tool for multi-layer automation, streamlining the deployment and operation of distributed RAN sites with lifecycle management. The use of automation in the deployment of Open vRAN networks represents a significant advantage over traditional manual methods. Automation accelerates the deployment process, setting up a fully operational cell site with user equipment (UE) connected within a matter of minutes. When comparing manual and
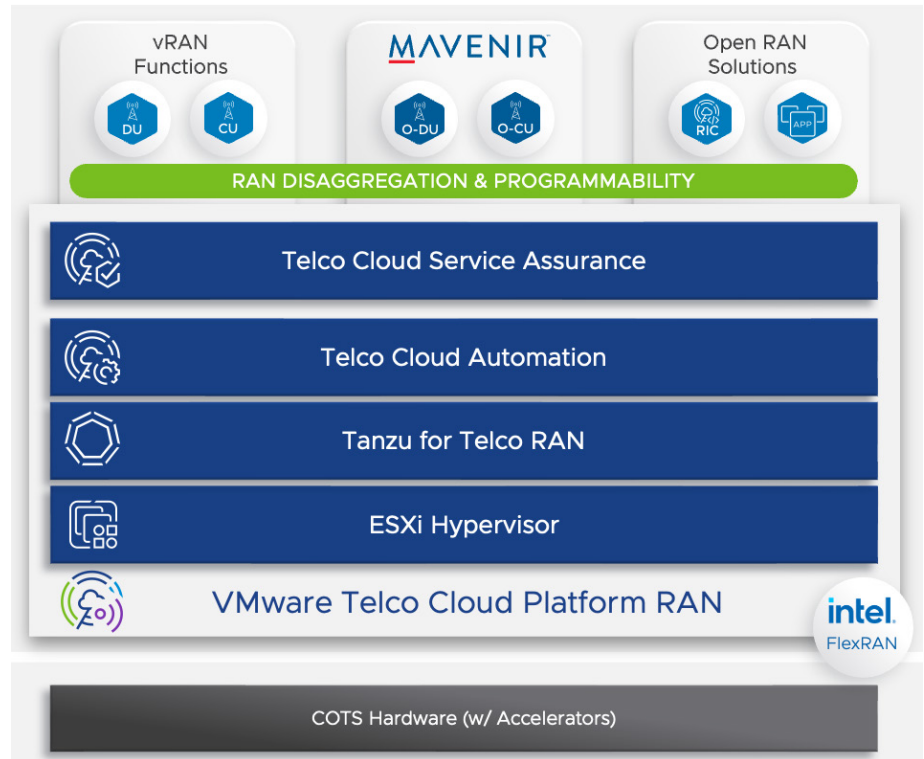
FIGURE 1: The validation of the Mavenir Open vRAN solution on VMware Telco Cloud Platform RAN demonstrates the commercial readiness of Open RAN technology.

automated deployment methods, it becomes clear that automation provides a more efficient and cost-effective solution.

Why Mavenir on VMware Telco Cloud Platform RAN?

Mavenir's choice to run its CU/DU (Control Unit/Distributed Unit) on VMware Telco Cloud Platform RAN provides several advantages for CSPs. The deployment of Mavenir vRAN leverages VMware Telco Cloud Automation to provide multi-layer automation that is easy and reliable. VMware Telco Cloud Automation enables Mavenir to deploy the DU in seconds. Additionally, the use of a single UI allows for multi-cell site deployment and management, making network operations more efficient.

The solution has been jointly tested and validated by Mavenir and VMware, providing a network ready solution for service providers. Furthermore, the close collaboration between Mavenir and VMware R&D teams ensures that any feature enhancements are carefully considered and integrated, ensuring that the solution remains at the forefront of technology innovation.

Open RAN Commercial Readiness

The recent deployment of over 7,100 Open RAN sites in a live commercial network is a strong testament to the scalability and efficiency of Open RAN solutions. The successful deployment of such a large number of sites is a clear indication that Open RAN is commercially ready for widespread adoption. This achievement underscores the potential of Open RAN technology, and it is expected to encourage further investment and research in the field.

Conclusion

Open RAN technology has faced criticism in terms of commercial deployment success, leading to concerns about its viability in comparison to traditional vendor-locked solutions. The validation of the Mavenir Open vRAN solution on VMware Telco Cloud Platform RAN demonstrates the commercial readiness of Open RAN technology. The Mavenir Open vRAN solution brings increased business agility while VMware Telco Cloud Automation streamlines the deployment and operation of distributed RAN sites. The joint testing and validation of the solution, along with the close collaboration between Mavenir and VMware R&D teams, and the market validation with a massive deployment in a live commercial network demonstrates a proven and innovative solution for CSPs looking to maximize the value of their 5G network transformation.

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