

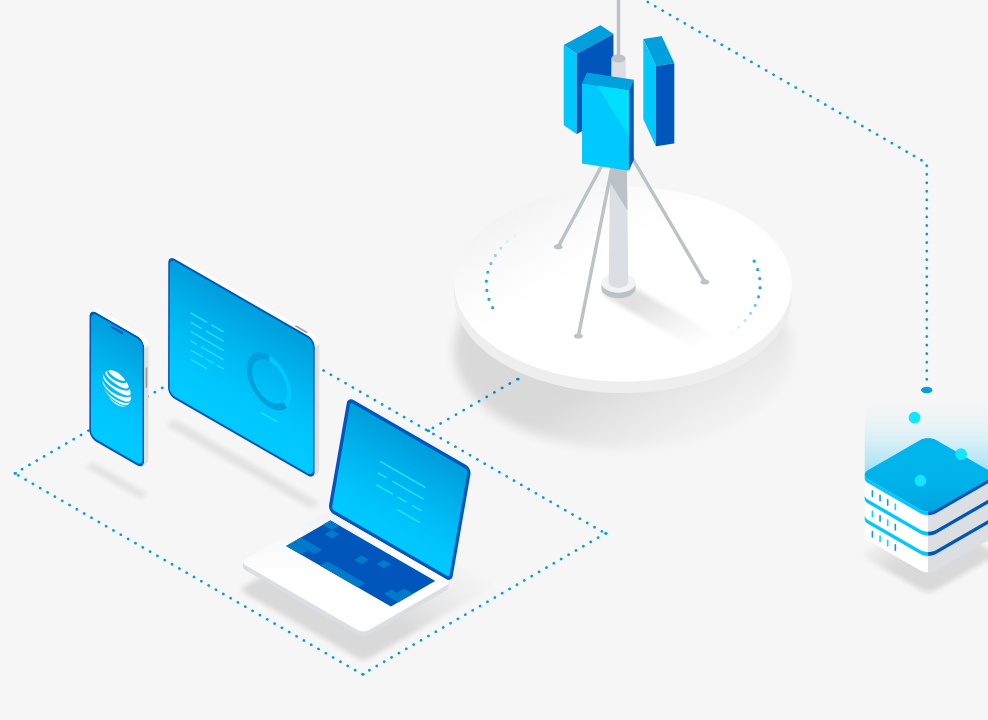
# Understanding Open RAN

Benefit from network providers who embrace an open architecture

The radio access network (RAN) is evolving to allow more accessibility for innovation. Through an open architecture, network providers and developers are able to use the core network to create solutions that can bring a new era of technologies that benefit your business. Understanding Open RAN can help you be future-ready for this mobile network evolution.

## 1 What's a radio access network (RAN)?

A RAN is a collection of equipment that operates a cell site. It receives radio signals from wireless devices then digitizes, amplifies, and routes them to the core network.

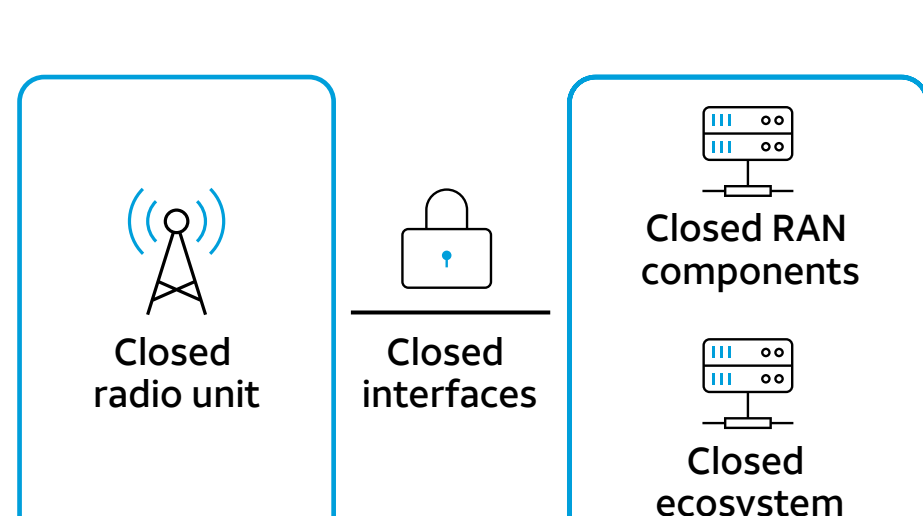


**Core network:** This is the network—today's fiber network—that transmits data to applications in equipment like computers or to the cloud.

## 2 How Open RAN works

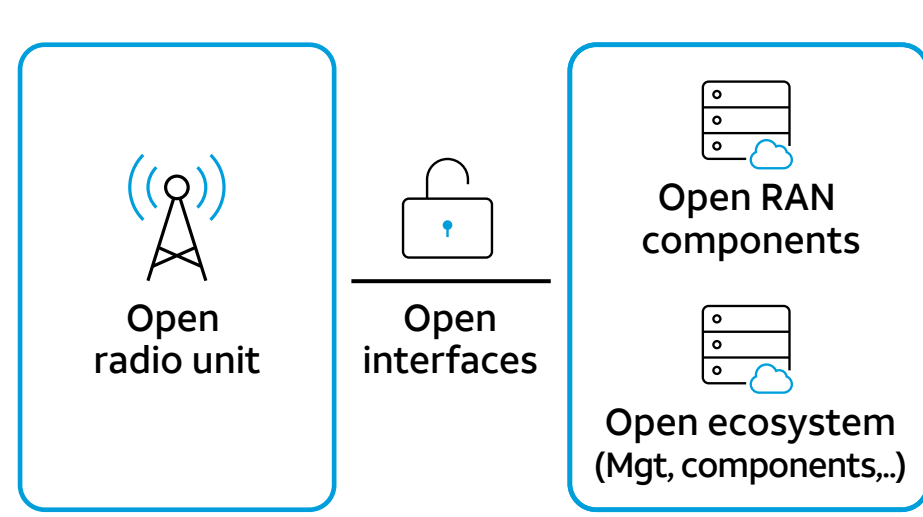
### Traditional RAN

Closed, proprietary components



### Open RAN

Interoperable hardware and software components



Open RAN disaggregates the RAN into components and adds intelligent functions to the network.

**Disaggregates:** Separating the hardware from the software, making sure they no longer depend on each other.

Intelligent functions include:

- Artificial intelligence
- Virtualization
- Machine learning
- Customization

## 3 Why it matters

Future-ready mobile network operators (MNOs) like AT&T use Open RAN to build 5G and other mobile network technologies.



This enables our customers to:

- Stay on the cutting edge of new and emerging technologies
- Adopt ways to better understand and respond to your customers
- Be more agile in exploring and innovating new ideas
- Stay up-to-date with the latest in mobile and other voice solutions

## 4 More than a trend

**49%**

expected Open RAN market growth (2023–2029)<sup>1</sup> from \$4 billion in 2023 to \$44.7 billion by 2029



**49.7%**

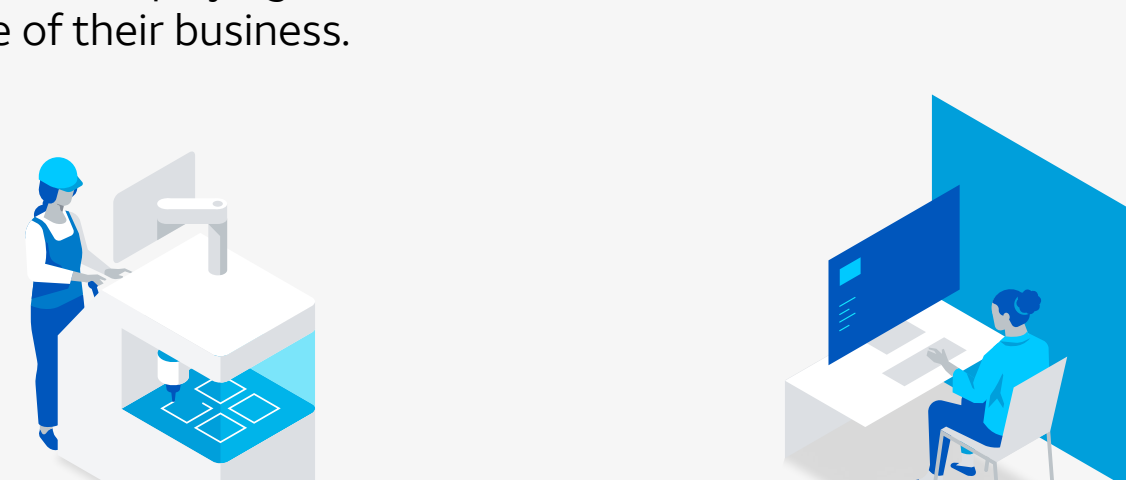
expected growth of private 5G wireless networks (CAGR 2021–2030)<sup>2</sup> from \$1.45 billion in 2021 to \$41.80 billion by 2030

Open RAN is becoming a key factor in expanding 5G wireless networks, which can expand the possibilities for technology in your business.

**Conclusion:** Open RAN is essential to developments in 5G networks and technologies.

## 5 More choices, better performance, and lower costs

Open RAN creates a level playing field for hardware manufacturers and software developers, no matter the size of their business.



### Hardware manufacturers:

- Create platform-agnostic hardware
- Opens the market for a wider range of customers

### Software developers:

- Innovative developers will create specialized solutions for specific use cases or the wider market.

**Conclusion:** More hardware and software choices – at better prices – to suit the unique needs of your business as it evolves.

## 6 Security becomes more complex

A more distributed network means more access points and vulnerabilities. Layered defense that includes security embedded in the network can help you manage them.

- Security that starts at the network as your foundation
- Defense in depth to cover all access to your network
- Layered security to create redundancies
- Zero Trust Network Access to treat all activity with suspicion

**AT&T Dynamic Defense:** Automated, real-time threat detection that stops threats before they hit your business.

## 7 Choose a provider that has you covered



The AT&T network uses Open RAN to help provide our customers innovative, future-ready connectivity. You can build your communications infrastructure with our network, security, and other technology solutions to service your customers and stay competitive.

Choose a future-ready provider that embraces Open RAN and provides the network and security AT&T Business solutions you need. Learn more about AT&T Business solutions at [business.att.com](https://business.att.com). Contact your AT&T Business representative to connect with an expert who know business.

<sup>1</sup> EY, *Open RAN will change the future of the telecom industry*  
<sup>2</sup> "Global Private 5G Network Market 2024–2033," Custom Market Insights, November 2022

## Why AT&T Business?

See how ultra-fast, reliable fiber and 5G connectivity protected by built-in security give you a new level of confidence in the possibilities of your network. Let our experts work with you to solve your challenges and accelerate outcomes. Your business deserves the [AT&T Business difference](#)—a new standard for networking.