



Here's how a 5G E2E Distributed Cloud Network will help you shift markets and scale

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If there's anything positive to be said about our current situation, it's that the world is being put to the test. As a result, businesses and communication service providers (CSPs) are innovating and strengthening their toolsets to prepare for the unique economic and market conditions they will face when this pandemic is over.

Consider the following scenarios. A CSP competes with a fixed broadband provider by delivering fiber-like broadband speeds and reliability to homes and businesses via a 5G fixed-wireless network. Or a highly specialized doctor, wearing a virtual reality headset connected to a 5G network, performs an in-depth diagnostic evaluation on a patient in a remote telehealth setting. Or a local Port Authority uses 5G to connect 4k video surveillance cameras to the network, making it possible to provide real-time monitoring of the area and increase safety at the port.

These are just a few use-cases that are possible thanks to the transformative nature of 5G, and state-of-the-art technologies, like distributed cloud. According to [a study conducted by Omdia and commissioned by Nokia](#), these scenarios — fixed wireless access, eHealth services, video surveillance and analytics — are considered by CSPs to be the top global use cases for 5G.

An open, distributed cloud architecture is effective for reducing operating expenses and capital expenditures, while at the same time allowing CSPs to provide better connectivity to their customers and enable new use cases, like those mentioned above. As COVID-19 forces shifts in the markets and the economy at large, it's more important than ever for businesses to be agile and take advantage of these technologies.

IT industry roots

Mobile operators believe that open networking technologies and distributed cloud architectures will help them develop and deploy telecom networks more quickly. When we consider the explosion in mobile data traffic and growth in wireless connections, an efficient response cannot be understated.

It's important to note that these components are also key to deploying 5G. In fact, many CSPs view 5G as a catalyst for making these changes in the network —the confluence of 5G and the cloud-native world provides the opportunity for CSPs to completely transform their networks.

In November 2019, a [GSMA Intelligence survey](#) of mobile operators from around the world asked participants about their priorities when it comes to their network transformation strategy. Incorporating IT industry strategies such as virtualization of the network and cloud architectures was ranked as a top priority for operators and was only surpassed by network security. In fact,



cloudification of the network was considered a higher priority than energy efficiency, vendor diversity, automation or even regulatory compliance.

But the survey also found that the reality didn't really match the enthusiasm operators had for the cloud. In other words, while the operators surveyed said they considered the cloudification of the network to be a top priority, in reality only 12% of those surveyed had virtualized and cloudified their networks at scale commercially, while 17% had started to commercially deploy the technology. Only 18% of operators were testing the technology and 35% were in the planning stages. And 18% of the operators surveyed said they currently had no plans to deploy the technology.

While this might underline a hesitancy that exists amongst CSPs when it comes to actually making the changes to optimize their networks, it also shows how unprepared many are to deal with massive surges in traffic, or to use cloud's scalability instead of overbuilding to handle surges such as that brought on by the current pandemic. By migrating to a distributed cloud, CSPs can become more efficient, cost effective, and agile.

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Sue Marek is a Denver-based freelance writer that has been reporting on the telecom and tech industries for more than 25 years.

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