

## vRAN is not C-RAN, it's Better

### What is Virtualized RAN?

With all the new RAN technologies flying around, it's easy to confuse one acronym with another. So, let's just clear up one of them.

[Virtualized RAN](#) (vRAN), formerly referred to as Cloud RAN, is definitely not the same thing as C-RAN. But what's the difference? For starters, C-RAN stands for "Centralized Radio Access Network," which is a stepping stone to true Virtualized RAN that mega-hardware vendors would have you believe is a necessary first step. It's not, but for the moment, let's just run with it. C-RAN, as the name implies, centralizes the baseband processing so that one physical location can handle hundreds of cells—across a city, for example.

True Virtualized RAN, like Mavenir's solution, is much more advanced. It's where C-RAN wants to be. With our vRAN, baseband processing functions that would otherwise be hardware-dependent are virtualized and located in a cloud. The architecture gives you many advantages. First off, you can use low-cost, commercial off-the-shelf servers (i.e., COTS), a factor that greatly reduces your capex—**up to 49%** according to [our study with Senza Fili](#). Furthermore, it greatly simplifies network management and orchestration (MANO) and enables resource pooling; it's also super-flexible and automatically scalable to meet the demands of even the largest RANs.

So, there you have it. If you'd rather be on the path to **37% TCO** savings and 5G, then step away from big vendor hardware dependency and take your RAN into the Cloud.

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### Interested in Learning More About the TCO Model for Virtualized and Distributed RAN?

Download the [How much can operators save with a Cloud RAN?](#) white paper with the recently released results of the Total Cost of Ownership (TCO) model.