TELCO IS STUCK IN THE PAST

It's time to embrace the future

THE NETWORK DISAGGREGATION MANIFESTO

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We are RtBrick,
and this is our vision

A future where network operators have greater choice, flexibility, and agility - with open hardware and software

Multi-tenant, cloud-managed, and AIOps ready - with self-healing networks

Networks that can adapt and scale to meet the ever-changing demands of users and applications and build a bridge towards profitability

But there is a problem...

Our industry has reached a bridge, hesitant to cross the chasm between present and future. Does it follow the early adopters of disaggregation before the bridge collapses, or does it stay and stick to what it knows best?

Like it or not, the choice has already been made.

Progress is inevitable. Society has one foot in the future, and its networking needs are pushing the boundaries of what traditional networks can handle. Our industry is already falling behind.

To catch up, it needs to unshackle from its legacy past to achieve freedom, and the only way to do this is through **network disaggregation**.

It's time to evolve.

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Why does network disaggregation matter?

Necessity is the mother of invention, and technologies that empower things like computers and smartphones rely on radically new approaches as they must evolve to keep pace with demands. We're witnessing that moment with network disaggregation today.

However, separating hardware from software has begun to gain traction. Already present in mobile RAN (Radio Access Network), it's now taking a firmer hold in the core, at the edge, and eventually in every corner of IP networks.

This seismic shift is bringing about improved flexibility, scalability, and the chance to reduce the total cost of ownership – and a telco operator's bottom line. Crucially, it also helps consumers consume more on their devices and platforms. It will also form the bedrock of future tech innovation, allowing AI to expand into every household.

Those who have joined the revolution have already reaped its benefits. Examples include Turkish fixed and mobile services provider Turkcell partnering with Telecom Infra Project (TIP) to deploy a disaggregated distributed backbone router (DDBR) internet gateway service and Deutsche Telekom connecting the first live customer to its disaggregated broadband network, using routing software from RtBrick running on bare-metal switch hardware, to deliver up to 1000Mbps of internet connectivity.

RtBrick Routing Software

Linux OS

Bare-Metal Switch
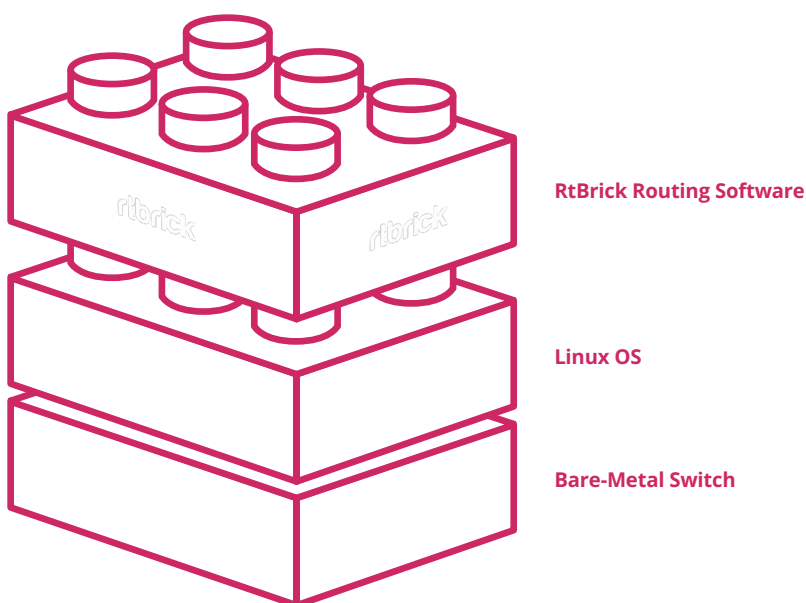
Why is the industry hesitating?

Network disaggregation is one of the industry's biggest opportunities, but crossing the bridge also has its challenges.

Operators: change can be painful. Despite the potential of disaggregation, there is a clear hesitation to adapt – preferring to invest more in the systems and processes that they've had in place for 20+ years. As a result, many operators have chosen not to choose, adopting a "wait and see" approach.

Vendors: seniority is battling youth; experience is battling innovation, and the camp is split between those who view disaggregation as a threat and those who recognise it as the inevitable next stage of network evolution.

Industry press: disaggregation has been a part of specific trade show conversations, such as MWC, but it is far from as popular in the media as it should be. Is this because the technology is too complex to make good reading? Perhaps. More likely, it's a mix of that and the abovementioned resistance.

Hesitation will be the industry's downfall

Change can be difficult, but it can also be necessary for long-term gain. This is one of those times. The world has chosen to evolve. Network disaggregation is now a mountain that operators, vendors, and the market need to climb together, whether they like it or not.

**Fortunately, the view from the top makes it all worth it.**

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A call to action

RtBrick's call to vendors: "embrace change"

Time is running out. You need to finish assessing disaggregation and commit to it. Otherwise, you risk falling too far behind to catch up.

Don't leave everything up to the new innovators such as DriveNets, RtBrick, Edgecore, and Ufispace – traditional telco vendors must also embrace change. One of the great attractions of disaggregation is more vendor choice, and if conventional vendors want to be part of that selection pool, they must act now.
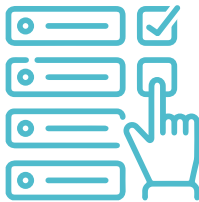
RtBrick's call to operators: "use it or lose it"

Operators must join the revolution instead of waiting and watching its progress. You've had enough time and examples to see the technology succeed in large operational networks (ATT, Deutsche Telekom – the largest in the US and Europe) and even smaller networks (it isn't just for the big guys), so it's time to get off the fence and join the party.

If you continue to hesitate, you'll lose momentum and be saddled with legacy processes forever. Unless you act soon, operators might never be able to benefit from a disaggregated industry.

RtBrick's call to industry press: "shout from the rooftops"

Again, you've seen the technology succeed in big and small operations. Network disaggregation is the most significant change we've seen in networks since the arrival of IP networking. Yet, where's the buzz in the press?

Network disaggregation needs to fly to the top of the agenda immediately, and you need to start talking and writing about it, both internally and externally.