

RATIO: CAPGEMINI RIC FOR INTELLIGENT OPEN RAN OPERATIONS

This brochure describes the features of the Capgemini O-RAN-compliant RIC based on the O-RAN Software Community open-source software RIC and the xApp and rApp applications developed over the Capgemini RIC



Figure 1: Capgemini RIC framework – components, context, and ecosystem

Near-real-time RIC

The Capgemini near-RT RIC is a fully containerized microservices-based solution that can be deployed as Kubernetes or Docker containers. It is compliant with O-RAN architecture and specifications, which support multi-vendor xApps and interface with O-CU/O-DU through standard O-RAN interfaces. The entire near-RT RIC is based on a disaggregated architecture that enables flexibility in integration with any third-party O-RAN component.

In addition, it supports high availability and fault tolerance with a horizontally scalable RIC cluster (see Figures 2 and 3).

The RIC platform has a rich user interface to support life cycle management, configuration, and monitoring for xApps and the RIC platform. The platform includes:

- Standardized E2 interface for communication between near-RT RIC and O-CU/O-DU
- Standardized A2 interface for communication between near-RT RIC and non-RT RIC
- Conflict management for conflict resolution of subscription and control procedures across xApps
- Secured E2, A1, and O1 interfaces for communication with E2 nodes, secure onboarding, and role-based access control (RBAC) for xApp access control
- Third-party xApps can be ported on the Capgemini near-RT RIC platform using xApp SDK, which abstracts the complexity of the underlying platform so that xApp application developers can focus on crucial business logic
- Integration with the Capgemini NetAnticipate platform described below, which has support for multiple machine-learning (ML) models and can be leveraged by xApp developers
- Modules that can be hosted on any infrastructure of choice (public/private cloud and on-premises)

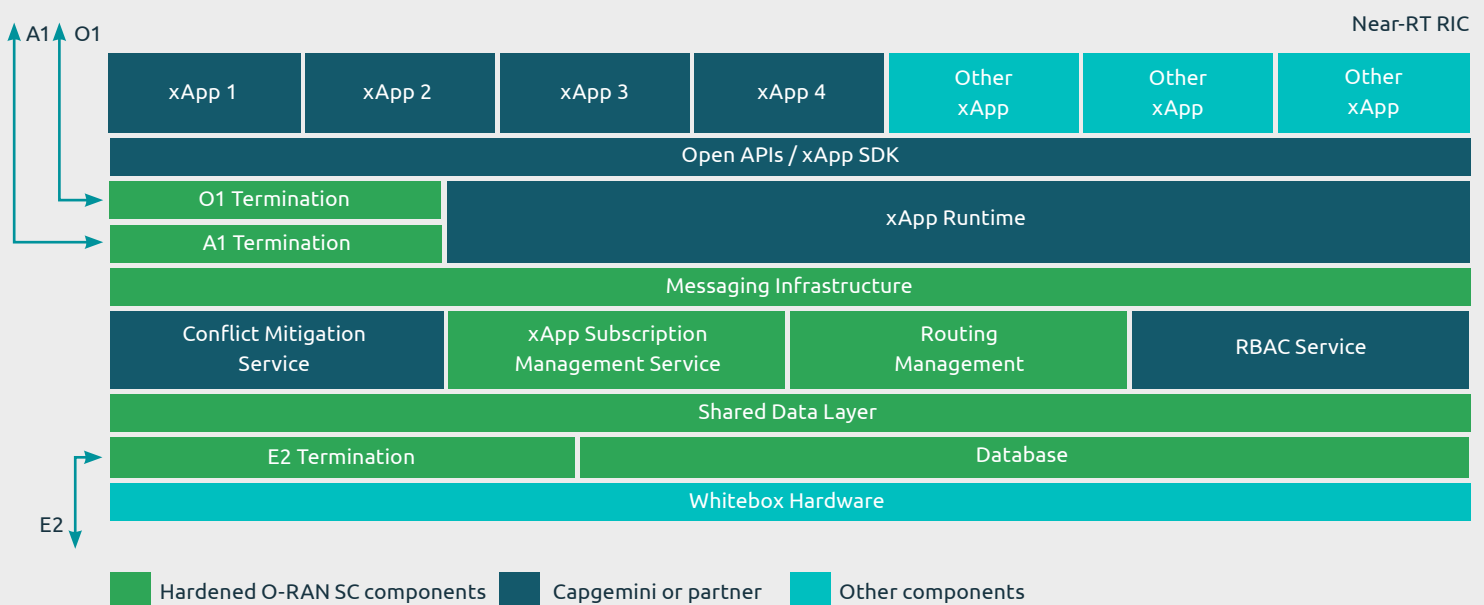


Figure 2: Capgemini near-RT RIC framework – components, context, and ecosystem Source: Capgemini

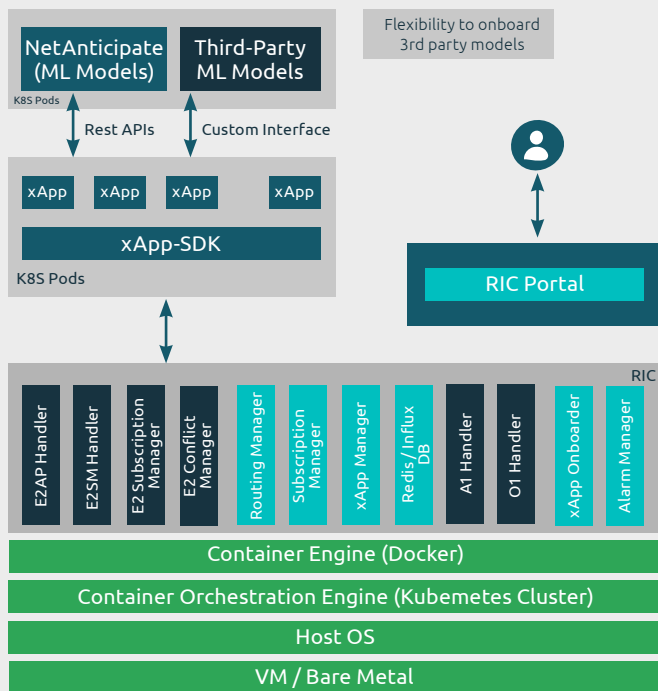


Figure 3: Capgemini near-real-time RIC realized as a set of logical modules

› Hardened RIC Platform

- RIC platform hardened based on RAN-SC
- Support to handle subscription and control procedure conflicts across xApps and xNFs of E2 Node
- Interface with cloud infrastructure for the platform and xApp LCM

› E2 Handler

- Termination of E2AP and E2SM as separate library (NI, RC, KPM)
- Provide relevant parameters as required by xApp via SDK

xApps and SDK

- Development for xApps (QoS, TS, Network Slicing, etc) interfaced with SDK

AI/ML Support

- xApp SDK for abstracting underlying platform

A1/O1 Handler

- Support for A1 interface and FCAPS handling via O1 interface towards SMO

Enhanced RIC Portal UI

- Enhance RIC portal for commissioning and management of Near RT RIC

E2 Simulator

- Simulator for validation of RIC platform and xApps from a functional, performance, and scalability perspective

Non-real-time RIC

The Capgemini non-RT RIC is a fully containerized microservices-based solution that can be deployed as Kubernetes or Docker containers. It is compliant with the O-RAN architecture and specifications, which support multivendor rApps (RAN Automation Applications) working in synchronization with the multi-vendor near-RT RIC through standard O-RAN interfaces. The entire non-RT RIC is realized as a set of logical modules that enable flexibility in integration with any third-party O-RAN component.

It is a fault-tolerant solution with horizontally scalable components to ensure high availability.

The non-RT RIC has a rich UI interface that supports operations on the non-RT RIC, including rApp life cycle management, AI/ML model training, monitoring, and KPIs. The platform includes:

- A rich A1 interface with support of APIs for A1-P (policy management service), A1-ML (ML model management service), and A1-EI (enrichment information service)
- A rich developer experience with an R1 interface and rApp service exposure function. The R1 interface (i.e., Open APIs for rApps) provides an interface between rApps and the non-RT RIC platform, which exposes the comprehensive non-RT RIC platform services to rApps for creating differentiated services

- Third-party rApps can be ported on the Capgemini non-RT RIC platform using rApp SDK, which makes it easy to develop xApps by exposing simplified APIs
- Secured A1 and O1 interfaces for communication with near-RT RIC and SMO
- Integration with the Capgemini NetAnticipate platform, an award-winning flexible self-learning data science platform to manage the life cycle of ML models
- Modules that can be hosted on any infrastructure of choice (public/private cloud and on-premises)

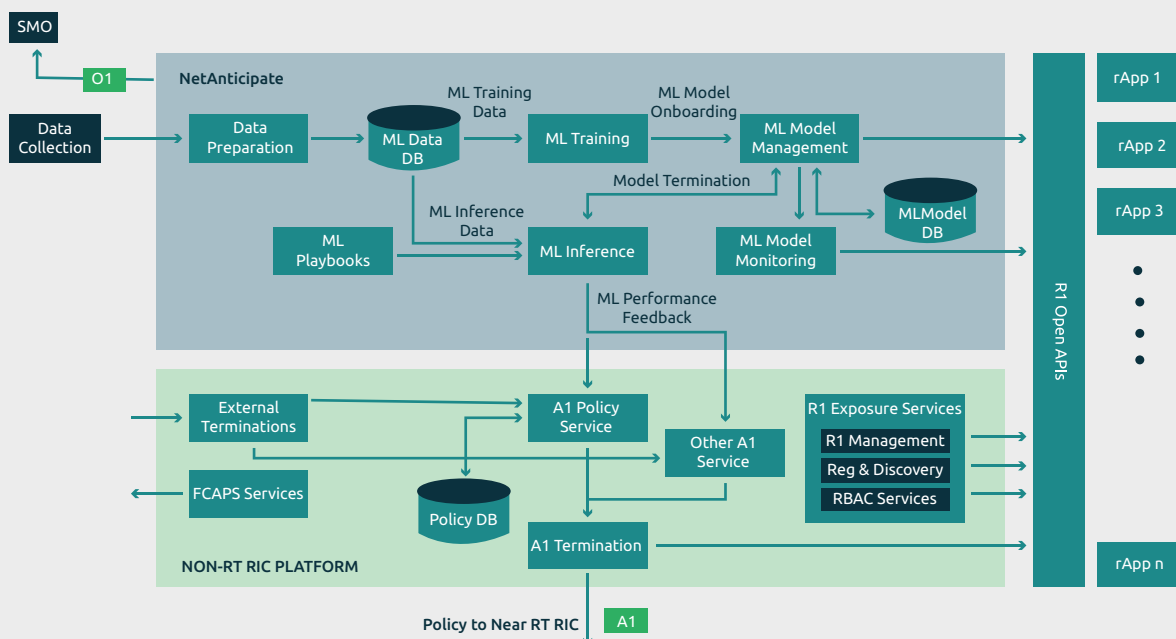


Figure 4: Features of the Capgemini non-RT RIC solution

The NetAnticipate machine-learning platform

The award-winning NetAnticipate platform is a self-learning data science platform that easily manages the life cycle of ML models and O-RAN applications in a distributed environment. The platform enables automated model training and the publishing of models in a catalog for easy searching and deployment in a production environment. Playbooks provide the automation workflows by packaging ML models with the associated business logic (see Figures 4 and 5).

Salient features:

- MLOps to build a comprehensive ML pipeline for continuous operation and self-learning of ML models through feedback loops
- Support for various AI/ML deployment scenarios, including:
 - a. Training at SMO/non-RT RIC and inference in non-RT RIC
 - b. Training at SMO/non-RT RIC and inference in near-RT RIC
 - c. Training at SMO/non-RT RIC and inference in O-CU/O-DU

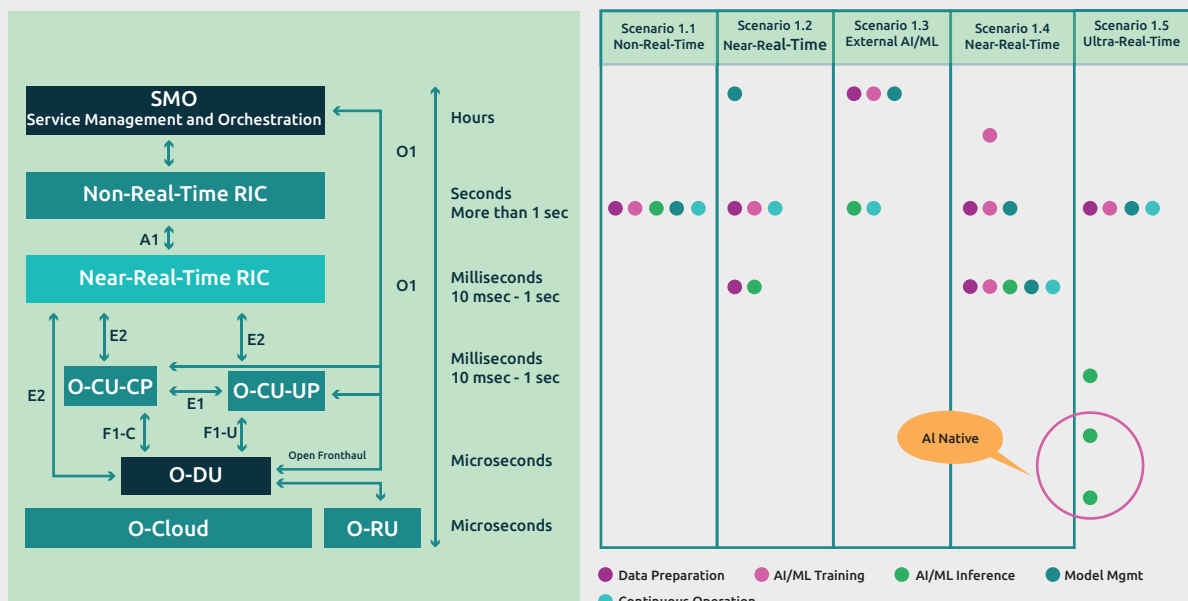


Figure 5: non-RT RIC architecture and AI/ML use cases in O-RAN Source: Capgemini

Capgemini O-RAN use-case portfolio (xApps and rApps)

Capgemini has developed multiple xApps and rApps that are aligned with the O-RAN Alliance specifications.

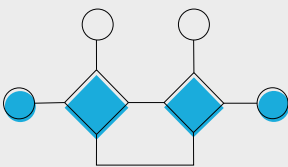
The xApp & rApp architecture allows them to be integrated with any third-party RIC platform. Here are the few use-cases implemented by Capgemini.

Quality of Service (QoS)

- Ensuring the RAN user-plane serves the guaranteed bit rate (GBR) QoS flows with satisfactory performance by keeping track of the RF resource that is already being used by the admitted QoS flows and evaluating admission control for incoming GBR QoS flow requests
- Support based on the latest E2AP and E2SM specifications
- Decision logic to decide whether to reject the new flow request or release some existing flows that are a lower priority in order to admit the new flow
- The xApp-based design allows flexible QoS metric selection as well as algorithm evolution on resource prediction and evaluation, as it is now decoupled from the sophisticated RAN software
- Integrated with the Capgemini RIC platform as well as with third-party RIC platforms

Traffic Steering

- Using intelligent trigger conditions and application logic, the xApp and rApp steers the UEs to the right serving cell to ensure per-use SLAs and QoS requirements are met and in turn improve overall network performance
- The logic is performed on UE or a group of UE cells, and support is based on the latest E2AP and E2SM specifications
- Support for traffic steering is based on measurements and KPIs from O-CU/O-DU
- Handover triggers using E2SM-RC include intra-CU/inter-DU and inter-CU related scenarios
- ML models are used to make predictions based on the KPIs and help in traffic steering decisions made by xApp
- Integrated with the Capgemini RIC platform and with third-party RIC platforms



Decision logic to decide whether to reject the new flow request or release some existing flows that are a lower priority in order to admit the new flow

RAN Slice Assurance

- xApp and rApp ensure RAN slice KPI assurance using AI-based triggers and KPIs received from O-RAN components
- Near-RT RIC shall obtain the SLA objectives as A1 policies from the non-RT RIC and provide guidance or control to the E2 nodes to achieve SLA assurance enforcement at O-CU/O-DU
- Slice-level metrics collected from O-CU/O-DU are used in xApp, and AI-based inference is also made using the trained models
- The xApp(s) shall control the E2 nodes in adjusting PRB allocation levels per slice based on which MAC schedulers are expected to handle the PRB allocation per slice
- Near-RT RIC shall support and interface with SMO requests for the creation, activation, modification, de-activation, and termination of RAN slices
- Slice assurance done per UE or group of UEs is based on the pre-standard version of E2SM specifications and then is migrated to approved specifications when available

Along with the xApps and rApps mentioned above, Capgemini has a rich ecosystem of partner xApps and rApps that can be used along with the Capgemini RIC to realize various O-RAN use cases. These include SON use cases, MU-MIMO, energy-saving, and other potential xApps and rApps. Capgemini is also helping customers in developing and building rApp/xApp use-cases based on their requirements.

Energy Saving

- Energy saving rApp/xApp is an ORAN compliant application developed to enable energy saving in 5G RAN network.
- Even during idle/low traffic time periods, RAN still consumes considerable energy. So, these periods are ideal for triggering energy optimization procedures to maximize energy saving and minimizing impact on Quality of Experience
- Energy Saving xApp/rApp monitors traffic load conditions of the RAN and identifies the cells where energy saving procedures need to be triggered based on predicted traffic patterns
- Using the model and live data, this application intelligently controls the sleep and shutdown of cells or frequency carriers during low cell loads without any impact on Quality of Service
- Capgemini's AI/ML platform NetAnticipate is the core AI/ML engine used for cell traffic model training and inference
- ORAN compliant, to interoperate seamlessly with third-party RIC platforms
- Network topology aware holistic solution with no compromise in Quality of Experience. It has a very low footprint and is highly scalable.

Why Capgemini?

Capgemini has a rich set of software frameworks and product engineering services across many communication technologies, including RAN, transport, core networks, and edge computing. Our software frameworks enable our clients to leverage standard software and components that accelerate the development of connected solutions and reduce development time by 30% to 60%.

Capgemini has more than 125 licensable frameworks that deliver unique value propositions. Our strategy is aligned with the O-RAN Alliance vision of open, intelligent, virtualized, and fully interoperable RAN. The Capgemini RATIO RIC platform is a step toward realizing that vision.



About Capgemini Engineering

World leader in engineering and R&D services, Capgemini Engineering combines its broad industry knowledge and cutting-edge technologies in digital and software to support the convergence of the physical and digital worlds. Coupled with the capabilities of the rest of the Group, it helps clients to accelerate their journey towards Intelligent Industry. Capgemini Engineering has more than 55,000 engineer and scientist team members in over 30 countries across sectors including Aeronautics, Space, Defense, Naval, Automotive, Rail, Infrastructure & Transportation, Energy, Utilities & Chemicals, Life Sciences, Communications, Semiconductor & Electronics, Industrial & Consumer, Software & Internet.

Capgemini Engineering is an integral part of the Capgemini Group, a global leader in partnering with companies to transform and manage their business by harnessing the power of technology. The Group is guided every day by its purpose of unleashing human energy through technology for an inclusive and sustainable future. It is a responsible and diverse organization of over 340,000 team members in more than 50 countries. With its strong 55-year heritage and deep industry expertise, Capgemini is trusted by its clients to address the entire breadth of their business needs, from strategy and design to operations, fueled by the fast evolving and innovative world of cloud, data, AI, connectivity, software, digital engineering and platforms. The Group reported in 2021 global revenues of €18 billion.

For more information please visit:

www.capgemini.com

Contact us at:

engineering@capgemini.com