

Stockholm, Sweden
January 20, 2022

Enea: Political Turmoil, Hyperscaler Protocols and Edge Clouds will Drive Operator Thinking in 2022

Crippling cyber attacks, blinding encryption and new opportunities at the edge are amongst the key trends highlighted by top industry analysts in this year's Enea 2022 trends report.

Nation states will ramp up mobile cyber-attacks; hyperscalers will mimic Google and introduce powerful proprietary encryption protocols; and new edge clouds could make the last mile vulnerable. These are amongst the major trends Enea has highlighted in a new report entitled: [7 Trends That Will Shape the Mobile Industry In 2022](#).

Each year, Enea surveys a cross-section of mobile industry thought leaders and experts to identify the key trends for the next 12 months. For 2022, those thought leaders included ABI Research, Analysys Mason and Strategy Analytics. The trends in 2022 include:

State-sponsored cyber-attacks accelerate and evolve: 2022 will undoubtedly bring an increase in the number and sophistication of nation state cyber-attacks on mobile telecom infrastructure. As tensions between global power brokers intensifies in hotspots such as Taiwan, Ukraine and Kazakhstan, mobile networks' value as a target for espionage and disruption will soar. Furthermore, IT/OT/telco convergence and 5G's expanded attack surface including 2G, 3G and 4G weaknesses will all provide ripe terrain for achieving geopolitical ends via cyber warfare.

Hyperscaler protocols dictate terms to operators: Complex encryption protocols, such as Google's QUIC, based on UDP, were meant to keep subscribers safe and improve web and video performance. And they have. But they've left operators scrambling to maintain the traffic visibility they need to stay in the game. Expect more trouble ahead as UDP dominates traffic, and newer encryption protocols like eSNI and DoH /DoT become the norm.

Video delivery shifts to new edge clouds: According to analysts, the edge cloud market for mobile operators is set to grow significantly in 2022. Ultra-low latency applications like live multi-angle sports streaming and cloud gaming will be at the forefront of this growth. While Content Delivery Networks (CDNs) have been bringing content and users closer together for many years, the nature of the edge cloud tilts the game in favor of mobile operators, who have ready-to-go locations across thousands of towns and cities.

Sustain the environment AND the bottom line: Driven by the disruptive impact of climate change, consumer pressure, and a need to cut costs, “greenwashing” is out. Impactful earth-friendly strategies are in – but operators need to go beyond the straightforward savings of virtualization. For example, Subscriber Data Management systems with flexible capacity expansion and smart synchronization between servers can deliver TCO reductions of up to 50 percent. What’s more, RAN congestion management can increase cell site capacity by 15 percent also reducing hardware footprint.

Wi-Fi ties the knot with 5G: As mobile operators deploy 5G, they’re struggling with in-building penetration that is up to 100x worse than 3G/4G. This undermines their ability to displace the residential broadband market and support indoor enterprise IoT use cases. With Wi-Fi 6 tripling the available spectrum of earlier WiFi specifications, 2022 will see operators building their own Wi-Fi 6 capacity in public locations combining Wi-Fi 6 and 5G.

Jan Häglund, CEO of Enea said: “For mobile operators, 2022 will usher in both opportunities and threats that deeply impact their bottom line. In the past, network providers had to grapple with encroaching hyperscalers, now a plethora of attack vectors make security in particular a critical consideration. We trust that the trends highlighted in this year’s [report](#) provide a roadmap for mobile operators to navigate our post-pandemic world.”

References

- [7 Trends That Will Shape the Mobile Industry In 2022.](#)

Contact

Chevaan Seresinhe, Sonus PR for Enea
Email: chevaan.seresinhe@sonuspr.com
Telephone: +44 797 1967 644

Erik Larsson, Senior Vice President Marketing and Communication
E-mail: erik.larsson@enea.com

About Enea

Enea is one of the world’s leading specialists in software for telecommunications and cybersecurity. The company’s cloud-native products are used to enable and protect services for mobile subscribers, enterprise customers, and connected devices. More than 4.5 billion people rely on Enea technologies in their daily lives.

Enea is headquartered in Stockholm, Sweden, and is listed on Nasdaq Stockholm.

For more information: www.enea.com