

## **ENHANCE DYNAMIC QOS THROUGH DEEP LEARNING: ADAPTIVE BANDWIDTH MANAGEMENT FOR NETWORK OPTIMIZATION**

MUHAMMAD FENDI OSMAN<sup>1</sup>, MOHD RIZAL BIN MOHD ISA<sup>1,\*</sup>,  
MOHAMMAD ADIB KHAIRUDDIN<sup>1</sup>, MOHD 'AFIZI MOHD SHUKRAN<sup>1</sup>,  
NOOR AFIZA MAT RAZALI<sup>1</sup>, NUR DIYANA BINTI KAMARUDIN<sup>1</sup>,  
KAMARUZAMAN MASKAT<sup>1</sup>, ROZIYANI RAWI<sup>1</sup>; HENDRA HIDAYAT<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup>National Defence University of Malaysia, Faculty of Defence Science and Technology,  
Level 2 Bangunan Lestari, Kem Perdana Sungai Besi, 57000 Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

<sup>2</sup>Department of Electronics Engineering, Universitas Negeri Padang, Padang, Indonesia

\*Corresponding Author: rizal@upnm.edu.my

### **Abstract**

Dynamic Quality of Service (QoS) in computer networks refers to techniques, mechanisms, or technologies that have the ability to automatically adjust QoS requirements or parameters to optimize network performance in real-time without the need for human intervention and manual configuration. As networks grow, maintaining optimal QoS capabilities in the face of high, fluctuating traffic loads and varying application demands becomes increasingly important and challenging. Based on the dynamic QoS that has been developed by the author through previous publications, this paper introduces a new enhancement that leverages deep learning (DL) techniques to analyse bandwidth and jitter (input parameters) to optimise the network automatically, more sophisticatedly, and responsively. Unlike traditional methods that rely on static rules or simple conditional logic, our proposed solution uses a neural network model to predict bandwidth allocation requirements based on real-time network conditions. Indirectly, the proposed solution is significantly able to improve the adaptability and efficiency of the QoS adjustment. Through comprehensive simulation and testing in a Software Defined Network (SDN) test environment that has been developed using the MiniEdit (Mininet Graphical Emulator), the results show that our DL-Enhanced Dynamic QoS Framework not only outperforms conventional QoS management approaches in terms of latency and throughput but also ensures a higher quality of experience for end users. This research highlights the potential for integrating artificial intelligence (AI) with network management practices to address the complexities of modern network infrastructure and pave the way for more resilient and user-centric network solutions.

Keywords: Deep learning, DL, Dynamic QoS, QoS, Quality of service.

## 1. Introduction

Nowadays, in general, all ICT network management faces increasing challenges in ensuring optimal service delivery across complex and modern digital network infrastructures [1-4]. With the rise of the Fourth Industrial Revolution (IR4.0), along with the proliferation of the Internet of Things (IoT), smart home devices and sensors, the need for advanced Quality of Service (QoS) mechanisms that can dynamically adapt to modern network demands is more prominent [4-6]. Therefore, this paper is prepared to contribute to addressing this challenge by introducing a new approach to QoS management by leveraging deep learning (DL) techniques to enable more responsive and real-time network resource allocation.

The conventional QoS mechanisms which are effective in static environments often struggle to meet the diverse and unpredictable demands of modern networks [4-6]. The high traffic variability and the diversity of real-time or online application requirements have spurred the exploration of more adaptive solutions. In response to this, the Software-Defined Networking (SDN) approach, which is a foundation for flexible network management, that comes with centralized control and a comprehensive view of network states was created in the 2010s [4-6]. However, SDN's potential for dynamic QoS remains largely untapped due to its limited predictive capabilities. Motivated by these issues, this paper was written, and research has been implemented to integrate intelligence into SDN to enhance network ability to meet real-time network traffic requirements.

Based on the previous work by Osman et al. [7], a dynamic QoS framework capable of automatically modifying the maximum bandwidth rate limit of a QoS queue was introduced. This framework operates using predefined IF/ELSE conditional logic. To enhance its capabilities, the current paper proposes integrating the existing dynamic QoS framework with a deep learning (DL) approach.

DL approach is a subset of machine learning (ML), and both are a part of AI. It uses artificial neural networks to learn and make predictions from presented data. This approach consists of layers of connected nodes, also known as neurons, where each layer transforms the input data to identify patterns. Through this layered process, DL models can perform complex tasks like image recognition or language processing. In network management, DL is particularly useful because it can automatically adapt to changing conditions, such as varying traffic loads [4-8].

Our enhancement proposal or contribution for this research is to replace the existing IF/ELSE conditional logic used by existing dynamic QoS frameworks with a DL model, in a way to analyse and predict bandwidth and jitter for automatic bandwidth allocation in real-time. This enhancement offers a more efficient and responsive mechanism for bandwidth management. The introduction of DL into dynamic QoS represents a significant step forward in the quest for smarter and autonomous network management systems [4, 6, 8, 9]. By harnessing the power of AI, networks can become more adaptive and more predictive in managing resources, indirectly it will ensure that critical/sensitive traffic application requirements are met without compromising the efficiency and reliability of the network infrastructure.

In contributing to dynamic QoS research, several previous research papers by previous researchers and scholars are relevant. Xie et al. [6] discuss the use of machine learning techniques to enhance dynamic QoS specifically in Software

Defined Networking (SDN). They highlight how this approach can automate, manage, and optimize network systems to address the challenges posed by traditional network configurations.

This research emphasizes the benefits of SDN features such as centralized control and dynamic updating of forwarding rules, which facilitate the implementation of ML algorithms for traffic classification, routing optimization and network resource management. It also suggests that the integration of ML into SDN can lead to smarter network management solutions, improving QoS and overall network performance.

Deva Sarma [4] provides a comprehensive survey on how machine learning (ML) and deep learning (DL) can enhance QoS in Software Defined Networking (SDN) by optimizing traffic management tasks such as classification, routing, and queuing. Unlike the broader ML focus presented by Xie et al. [6], this work offers an in-depth analysis of specific QoS-aware protocols that leverage ML and DL to improve network service quality.

Fadlullah et al. [10] emphasize the transformative impact of deep learning (DL) on network traffic control systems, particularly highlighting its role in enhancing network infrastructure. They describe how DL can be integrated into networks to improve management and efficiency through intelligent routing strategies that dynamically adapt to real-time network conditions. This marks a significant advancement over traditional methods, which lack flexibility and are less capable of handling the complexities of modern network traffic demands.

Arif et al. [11] introduce the DQQS model, which integrates deep reinforcement learning with Software Defined Networking (SDN) in an SDN-IoT environment. The model optimizes both security and performance by allocating bandwidth to critical applications and proves effective in managing multiple devices and variable traffic. It leverages deep learning to enhance overall network efficiency. Rodríguez et al. [12] explore the use of machine learning techniques to optimize path planning in SDN. They highlight how the adaptability of SDN enables rapid responses to network changes by employing support vector machines (SVM), k-nearest neighbours (kNN), and artificial neural networks (ANN) for efficient path management.

Owusu and Nayak [13] developed a framework that integrates Software Defined Networking (SDN) and Virtual Network Functions (VNF) with Deep Neural Networks to achieve optimal routing, reporting an impressive classification accuracy of 99.95%. However, the study focused solely on classification accuracy, without evaluating the impact on overall network performance. In contrast, Alkubaily et al. [14] enhanced SDN multi-path routing by adapting the Uniform Cost Search (UCS) algorithm through artificial intelligence techniques, demonstrating improved performance over traditional Depth First Search (DFS). While effective, their approach is complex, resource-intensive, and presents scalability limitations.

Oh et al. [15] present a U.S. patent that addresses service quality degradation caused by traffic overload in SDN environments. The patent outlines a method for dynamically managing bandwidth at congested nodes by collecting real-time traffic data, detecting congestion, assessing available network resources, and adjusting bandwidth allocations based on Service Level Agreement (SLA) parameters. This method is reactive in nature, targeting specific nodes without improving overall

network performance, and it does not incorporate predictive analytics, machine learning (ML), or deep learning (DL) techniques.

Osman et al. [7], in our previous work, focused on enhancing network performance by dynamically managing Quality of Service (QoS) in enterprise and local area networks. Leveraging Software Defined Networking (SDN), the proposed approach adaptively modifies the maximum bandwidth rate-limit of QoS queues to prioritize latency-sensitive traffic - such as video conferencing, VoIP, and media streaming - during periods of high network utilization. The framework adjusts the bandwidth rate-limit of the best-effort traffic queue based on real-time traffic, allocating more bandwidth to critical applications as needed. Operated within a simulated SDN environment using MiniEdit, the system has demonstrated significant network performance improvements in comparative studies, automatically adjusting bandwidth allocations to maintain high service quality for sensitive traffic without manual intervention.

Several studies [16–19] have focused on the application of machine learning (ML) techniques, while others [20–23] have employed deep learning (DL) approaches specifically for traffic classification—an important but singular aspect of QoS functionality. Additionally, research works [24–27] have investigated the use of ML and DL for traffic prediction in Software Defined Networking (SDN). Meanwhile, studies [28–32] have primarily concentrated on optimizing routing in SDN using both ML and DL methods.

Motivated by the context discussed above, this paper proposes to enhance [7] by integrating with DL techniques. This approach utilises a neural network to more precisely analyse and predict network conditions via jitter and bandwidth in real-time. Thereby enabling more effective bandwidth management strategies.

The new proposed framework known as DL-Enhanced Dynamic QoS Framework aims to not only continue the work of dynamically adjusting QoS based on current network needs, but also to enhance these adjustments' accuracy and efficiency leveraging DL.

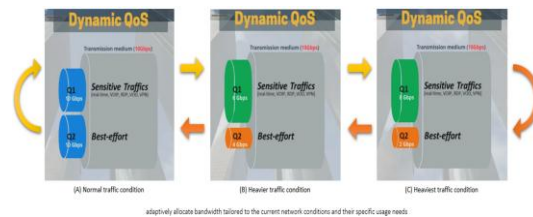
The proposed Framework is developed for SDN-ready networks. It allows seamless integration with existing infrastructure, reduces costs and simplifies deployment. For non-SDN networks, new equipment would be required. The framework is scalable, easy to expand and enables the replacement of devices without major reconfiguration making it ideal for enterprise environments with evolving demands.

With SDN's centralized control, network monitoring and management are simplified. Administration and oversee devices only from a central location, allowing quick responses to changing conditions. The framework's Python-based design also facilitates updates and maintenance ensuring ongoing efficiency and adaptability. Overall, these features make the framework a practical choice for real-world applications, especially for organizations seeking minimal disruption and maximum scalability in enhancing their SDN networks.

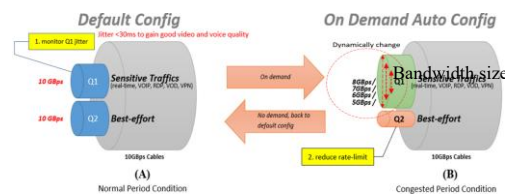
This paper details the methodology of our proposed DL-Enhanced Dynamic QoS Framework, presents findings from extensive simulations within an SDN experimental infrastructure environment, and discusses the implications of our research for the future of network management.

## 2. Methods

The proposed DL-Enhanced Dynamic QoS Framework operates similarly to the approach presented by Osman et al. [7], as illustrated in Fig. 1. During the network router at normal incoming traffic conditions, the configuration of the network router is default, and it works as a best-effort mechanism. When the incoming traffic increases to heavier traffic conditions, the proposed DL-Enhanced Dynamic QoS Framework will expand the bandwidth size of the sensitive traffic queue to accommodate incoming traffic. When the incoming traffic increases to the heaviest traffic conditions, the proposed framework will expand the bandwidth size of the sensitive traffic queue to its maximum. The bandwidth size provided varies and is adaptive depending on the volume of the incoming traffic as depicted in Fig. 2.



**Fig. 1. DL-enhanced dynamic QoS framework mechanism.**



**Fig. 2. DL-enhanced dynamic QoS framework approach.**

The configuration of the routers will return to its default configuration if there is no/less incoming traffic in the network. Incoming traffic conditions are monitored via a Jitter which represents delay variation. Jitter value may increase caused by heavy/high volume of incoming traffic. The higher the jitter value it presents, the longer the delay will be.

The purpose of this mechanism is to guarantee high priority for sensitive traffic (sensitive traffic application example: video conferencing, Live video, VoIP, and media streaming) run successfully under limited network capacity. Jitter must be less than 30 milliseconds for video and voice to gain good quality [33]. By reducing the QoS Queue's Maximum Bandwidth Rate-Limit of the best-effort queue, the rest of the available bandwidth of the transmission medium will be provided as guarantee/adequate bandwidth for the Sensitive Traffic queue [7].

The development and testing of the proposed DL-Enhanced Dynamic QoS Framework will be implemented in the same simulation environment as [7]. The methodology for this research is shown in Fig. 3. and the details explanation of each phase is described in Sections 2.2 to 2.7.

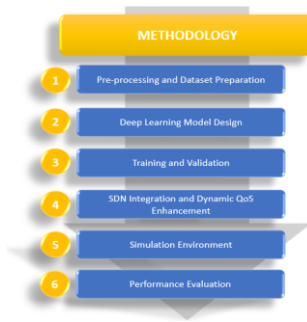


Fig. 3. A research method.

## 2.1. Pre-processing and dataset preparation

Pre-processing and Dataset Preparation are the phases of preparing the DL training dataset and to ensuring the model's input would be clean and structured. Data was collected from the routers directly. The information gathered from each router is (i) the *Q1 jitter value* and (ii) the *current Q2 maximum bandwidth rate-limit* information, as illustrated in Fig. 4. The collected data were stored as CSV file format in SDN Controller which is in the same place DL-Enhanced Dynamic QoS Framework was located.

Figure 5 presents a sample pseudo-code illustrating the method used to capture (i) and (ii). Compared to the previous version discussed in the earlier publication, the DL-Enhanced Dynamic QoS Framework requires data to effectively learn and make accurate predictions. Therefore, we provide a training dataset as shown in Fig. 6.

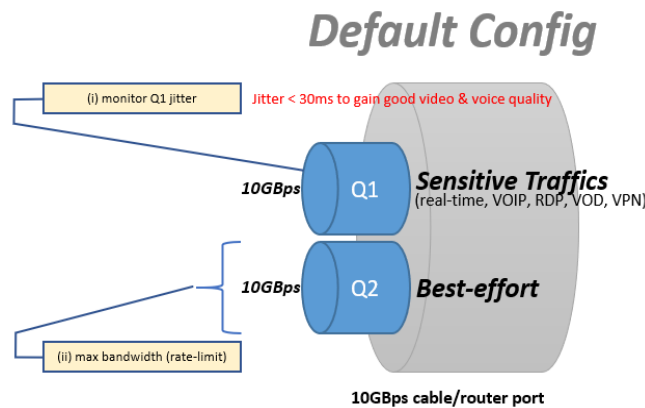


Fig. 4. Maximum bandwidth rate-limit & Jitter.

```

# Pseudo-code for Bash script
while true:
    host = [router_IP_Address]

    # Run the iPerf command and store the output in a variable
    iperf_output = iperf -c [host] -p [port_number] -u -b
    [bandwidth_size] -t [time_in_seconds]

    # Extract the jitter value from the output
    Q1_jitter = extract_latency(iperf_output)

    # Extract the throughput values from the output
    Q1_throughput = extract_throughput(iperf_output)

    # NOTE: Capture 'throughput' is just for monitoring purposes

    # Print the extracted latency and bandwidth values
    print("Q1_Jitter:", latency)
    print("Bandwidth:", bandwidth)

    # Wait for 15 seconds before the next iteration
    # Repeat the process every 15 seconds
    sleep(15)

# PREREQUISITE: The network router must be SDN enabled.
# Define the router/switch to send a GET request to.
router = http://[SDN_Controller_ID]/qos/queue/[Router_ID]

# Send a GET request and store the response.
response = requests.get(router)

# Check if the response status OK
if response = OK:
    # Print a success message.
    print("Command executed successfully.")
    print("Response:", response.text)

    # Parse the response JSON data.
    data = json.loads(response.text)

    # Extract the 'max-rate' value from the JSON data.
    max_rate = data[0]['command_result']['details']['router_port_ID']
    ['Q2_queue']['config']['max-rate']

    # NOTE: 'max_rate' captured is the current Q2 maximum bandwidth
    rate-limit.
else:
    # Print an error message along with the response status code and
    text.
    print("Error message:", response.text)

```

(ii) Capture Q1 jitter

(i) Capture Q2 max bandwidth rate-limit

Fig. 5. Pseudo-code to capture (i) and (ii) [7].

Q2_bandwidth_ratelimit	Q1_jitter	preferred_config
1000000	0	0
1000000	0.854	0
1000000	0.856	0
1000000	28.869	0
1000000	29	0
1000000	30	1
1000000	30.157	1
1000000	31	1
500000	28	1
500000	28.869	1
500000	29	1
500000	30	2
500000	30.157	2
500000	31	2
300000	0.998	2
300000	0.999	2
300000	1	2
300000	1.001	2
300000	1.003	2
300000	121.049	2
300000	129.994	2
300000	136.464	2

Input features (X)
Target prediction (y)

Fig. 6. Training dataset sample.

The DL-Enhanced Dynamic QoS Framework will use a Supervised DL Learning Model. Supervised learning involves training a model on a labelled dataset. It means that each input in the training set is paired with an output label. The DL model learns to map inputs to outputs based on the dataset provided.

Therefore, as shown in Fig. 6, we provide *preferred\_config* as a **DL target prediction (y)** or output label, *Q2\_bandwidth\_ratelimit* and *Q1\_jitter* as a **DL input features (X)**.

For the training dataset, we train the model input to pair with *preferred\_config* either 0, 1 and 2. The definition of each *preferred\_config* is described in Table 1.

Later *preferred\_config* will be used by the DL-Enhanced Dynamic QoS Framework to modify the QoS queue bandwidth of the applicable router/switch to accommodate incoming traffic and to provide guaranteed bandwidth for sensitive traffic to travel across the network on demand.

**Table 1. *preferred\_config* definition.**

<i>preferred_config</i>	Class / Condition
0	Default configuration or return to default;
1	Reduce <i>Q2_bandwidth_ratelimit</i> to 500Mbps and automatically Sensitive Traffic queue will gain 500Mbps guarantee bandwidth;
2	Reduce <i>Q2_bandwidth_ratelimit</i> to 200Mbps and automatically Sensitive Traffic queue will gain 800Mbps guarantee bandwidth.

## 2.2. DL model design

DL tasks are categorized by prediction type: Binary, Multi-Label, or Multi-Class Classification. Binary Classification predicts between two possible outcomes, while Multi-Label Classification assigns multiple labels to each input. In Multi-Class Classification, each input is assigned to one of three or more classes.

Multi-Class Classification suits the DL-Enhanced Dynamic QoS Framework by pairing two inputs (bandwidth, jitter) with a *preferred\_config* {0, 1, 2, or 3}. One-hot encoding is used here, converting each label into a binary vector where the index of the class label is set to 1, and other positions are set to 0, as shown in Table 2.

**Table 2. One-hot encoding.**

Label	Binary
0	: [1, 0, 0]
1	: [0, 1, 0]
2	: [0, 0, 1]

To identify the most suitable DL model for the DL-Enhanced Dynamic QoS Framework, we tested two models: Artificial Neural Network (ANN) and Convolutional Neural Network (CNN). These models were chosen due to their different input processing methods. ANN processes input as flat vectors, while CNN maintains spatial structures, making it ideal for two- or three-dimensional data like images. The Python source code for both models can be accessed at: <https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/16sgJkSmv-Zkb-Rcz3bqW8m2w372tMhbR?usp=sharing>

## 2.3. Training and validation

The training process involves feeding data sets to the ANN and CNN models in batches and evaluating them using classification accuracy (a metric that calculates the proportion of correct predictions). This process aims to identify the best model (with the highest accuracy) to fit the DL-Enhanced Dynamic QoS Framework. By using a dataset of 2,500 rows containing bandwidth and jitter as input features, and



preferred\_config as target label, the ANN shows better accuracy than CNN. Detailed results are discussed in the Results and Discussion section.

## 2.4. SDN integration and dynamic QoS enhancement

The integration of the DL-Enhanced Dynamic QoS Framework with SDN marks a significant advance in network management capabilities. This DL-Enhanced Dynamic QoS Framework leverages the centralized control and flexibility of SDN to implement real-time, intelligent adaptations to network conditions based on predictive analytics provided by the DL model.

This integration allows for dynamic adjustments of bandwidth in real-time, which are crucial for prioritizing sensitive traffic applications under varying network loads. With the neural network, the system can predict potential network congestion and adjust QoS parameters proactively rather than reactive. This ensures high-quality service continuity without manual intervention making the network management process more efficient and effective.

For seamless integration with SDN, our DL-Enhanced Dynamic QoS Framework and DL script (modelANN.h5), have been deployed within the simulation environment. While the conceptual framework aligns with that established in [7] as depicted in Fig. 7, we have transitioned from using IF/ELSE conditional logic to a deep learning model for the *Analysing Bandwidth and Latency* process as shown in Fig. 8. Dynamic QoS is also improved by speeding up the network monitoring process from 15 seconds to 5 seconds.

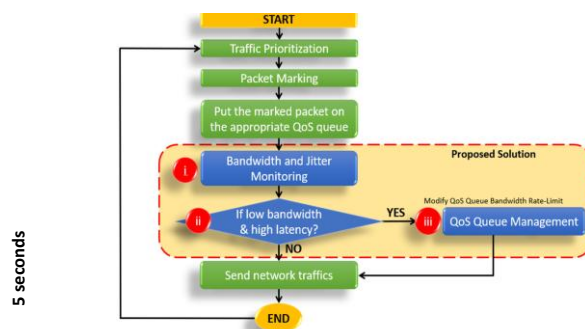


Fig. 7. Conceptual framework [7].

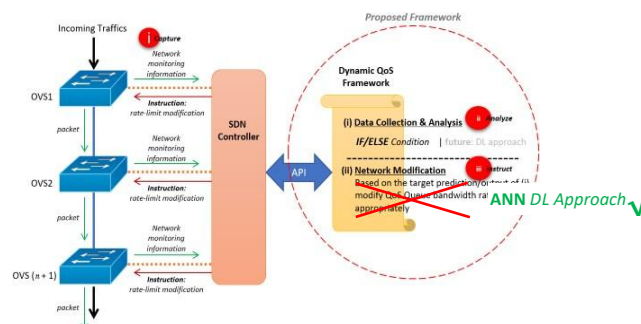


Fig. 8. Process flow diagram.

The overall overview DL process of the DL-Enhanced Dynamic QoS Framework is illustrated in Fig. 9.

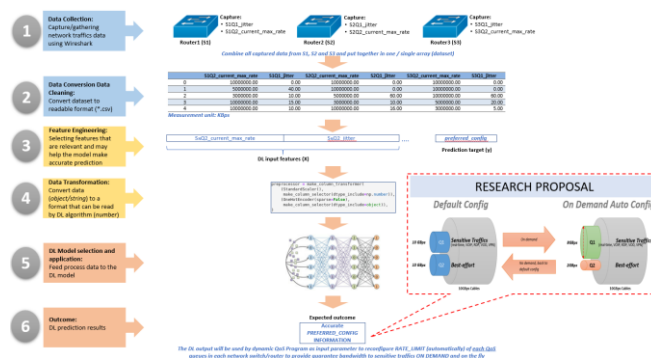


Fig. 9. Deep learning process.

The results of the DL process will be utilised by the DL-Enhanced Dynamic QoS Framework through the *QoS Queue Management process* to adjust/modify the Bandwidth Rate-Limit of the QoS Queue.

The general overview of how the DL-Enhanced Dynamic QoS Framework integrates/works within the simulation environment is shown in Fig. 10. The Python source code for the DL-Enhanced Dynamic QoS Framework is also accessible via a Google Drive link provided.

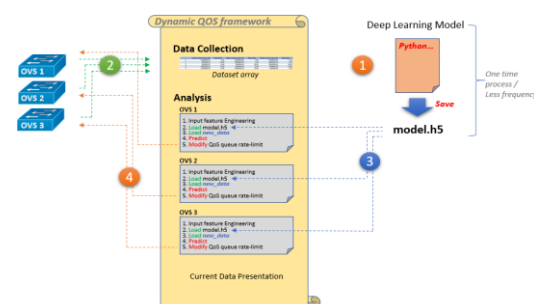


Fig. 10. General overview of how the proposed framework works.

## 2.5. Simulation environment

The simulation environment for evaluating the DL-Enhanced Dynamic QoS Framework mirrors the setup in [7], using MiniEdit (Graphical Mininet emulator) as shown in Fig. 11, to simulate various network conditions, from normal to high congestion. As in [7], the demonstration involves three routers representing the access, distribution/core, and gateway routers of an Enterprise Network, as shown in Fig. 12.

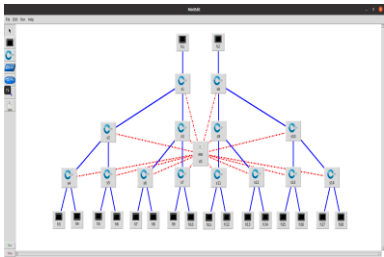


Fig. 11. SDN network topology on miniedit (graphical mininet).

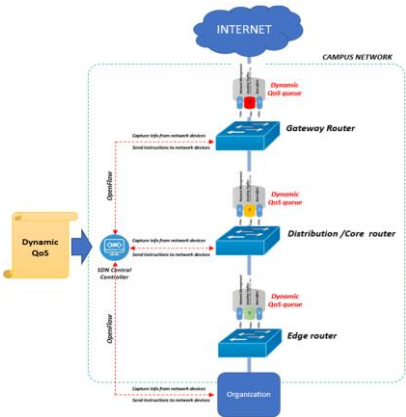


Fig. 12. Simulation/testing environment.

2.6. Performance evaluation

As mentioned in section 2.4, the performance of the DL model was evaluated via Classification Accuracy. We examined that ANN has a better accuracy compared to CNN and the results will be discussed further in the Results and Discussion section.

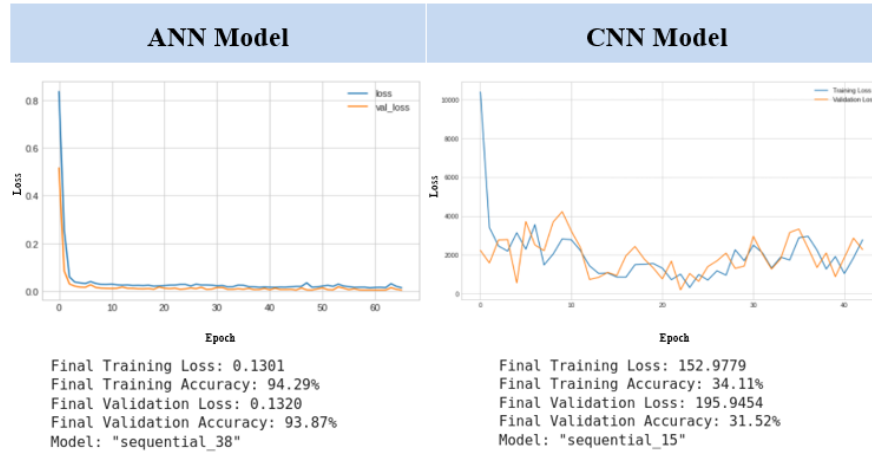
The performance of the DL-Enhanced Dynamic QoS Framework evaluated via comparison study as similar as testing method applied in [7]. The testing script as follows:

TESTING SCRIPT: Throughput and Jitter evaluation.

- Step 1:** Enable the Proposed DL-Enhanced Dynamic QoS framework program.
- Step 2:** Run two iPerf packet generators simultaneously. One of them will represent sensitive traffic (run it for 100 ms) and the other will represent best-effort traffic (run it for 120 ms). The proposed framework uses differentiated service as a classification technique. It classifies based on a 6-bit Differentiated Services Code Point (DSCP) that is located in the IP header.
- Step 3:** Capture the value of *Q2 maximum bandwidth rate-limit* and *Q1 jitter* for every millisecond and tabulate it into a graph.
- Step 4:** Repeat Step 2 to Step 3 without enabling the Proposed Dynamic QoS Framework program.
- Step 5:** Compare the observed differences.

### 3.Results and Discussion

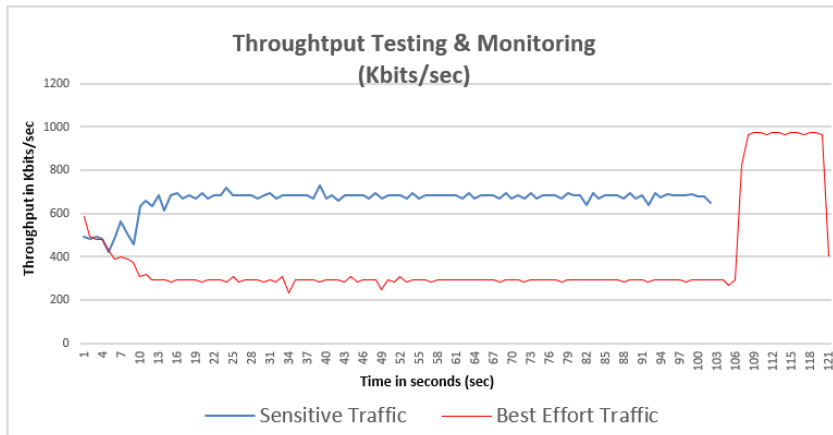
Figure 13 shows the *Classification Accuracy* outcome for ANN and CNN models.



**Fig. 13. Classification accuracy results.**

Based on the results presented, can be concluded that the ANN model is significantly more effective and stable compared to the CNN model for the dataset provided. It archives high accuracy with minimal loss. The CNN model, while typically strong in imaging and spatial data application performs poorly in this scenario. The CNN underperforms because of insufficient complexity and the size dimension of input data (*bandwidth* and *jitter*) is too small. Therefore, for small/low-dimension datasets of this scenario, using simpler models like ANN is more suitable.

The outcome of the *Throughput Evaluation* testing is presented in Figs. 14 and 15.



**Fig. 14. Test with DL-enhanced dynamic QoS framework enable.**

IN summary, the graph in Fig. 14 shows throughput testing for (i) Sensitive Traffic and (ii) Best Effort traffic under the DL-Enhanced Dynamic QoS

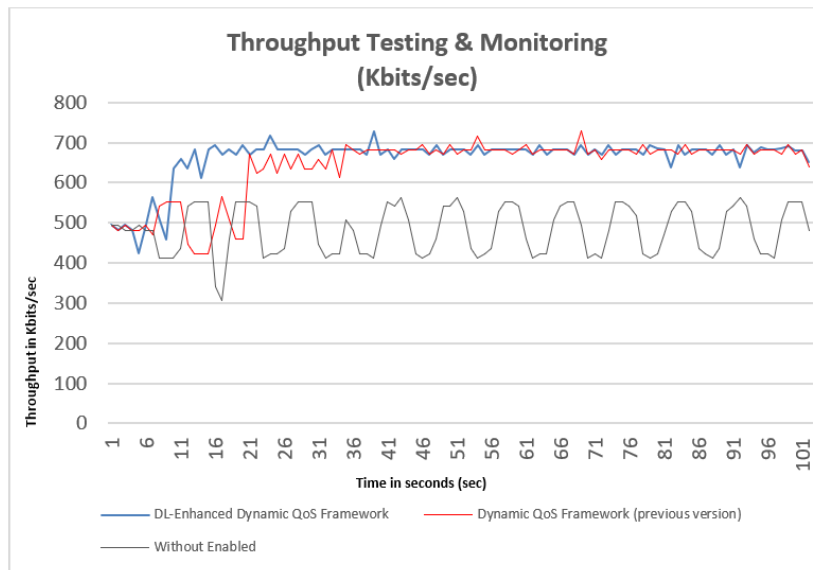
Framework. When priority is given, the sensitive traffic maintains stable throughput, demonstrating the framework's ability to prioritize and allocate bandwidth effectively-crucial for applications like video conferencing and VoIP.

Best-effort traffic, which includes general data tasks, experiences a drop when sensitive traffic is prioritized but shows stability until a spike at the end. This indicates that the framework dynamically reallocates bandwidth, allowing best-effort traffic to use more resources when sensitive traffic demands decrease. The final increase in best-effort throughput reflects this adaptive bandwidth management, optimizing resource utilization.

Overall, this behaviour demonstrates the framework's capacity to adjust to sudden network demand shifts, ensuring high bandwidth for priority traffic while allowing less critical tasks to benefit when network conditions permit, without compromising service quality for sensitive applications.

Figure 15 compares sensitive traffic throughput across three configurations: (i) DL-Enhanced Dynamic QoS Framework (blue), (ii) previous Dynamic QoS Framework (red), and (iii) without QoS (grey). The DL-Enhanced framework consistently maintains a throughput of around 700 Kbits/sec, demonstrating effective bandwidth management. The previous Dynamic QoS framework shows an increase from 500 Kbits/sec at 6 to 21 seconds, 650 Kbits/sec from 21 to 36 seconds, and stabilizes near 700 Kbits/sec. In contrast, the no-QoS setup is highly variable, often below 500 Kbits/sec, indicating poor performance.

Overall, the DL-Enhanced framework outperforms both alternatives, providing improved stability and throughput. It also reduces network monitoring intervals from 15 to 5 seconds, allowing faster responses to network changes and more efficient bandwidth allocation, which enhances network performance and user experience



**Fig. 15. Comparison of sensitive traffic throughput gained via (i) DL-Enhanced Dynamic QoS Framework, (ii) Dynamic QoS Framework (previous version) and without QoS framework enabled.**

#### 4. Conclusion

The DL-Enhanced Dynamic QoS Framework significantly improves network performance by providing stable, high throughput for sensitive traffic and effectively managing real-time bandwidth allocation. These results show that the DL-Enhanced Dynamic QoS Framework is more responsive compared to traditional methods.

Comparative analysis shows that the DL-Enhanced Framework outperforms previous versions of Dynamic QoS and conventional methods. It provides consistent throughput for critical/sensitive traffic applications. Besides, by reducing the monitoring interval from 15 to 5 seconds, results show further improved responsiveness, allowing for immediate adjustments to changing network conditions.

Integrating DL into dynamic QoS is an important step towards smarter and autonomous network management. This research demonstrates the potential of AI in optimizing network performance, paving the way for more adaptive and user-centric solutions. Future work could expand AI-driven QoS management across network infrastructure, increasing predictive capabilities and resilience to meet the complex demands of modern networks.

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