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## Concept-in-a-Nutshell

WANs are often overwhelmed with traffic. Intelligence is needed to prioritize and control the flow of traffic. QoS is the umbrella term for that intelligence.

## Scope

This document aims to provide practical, strategic guidance to enable users to design benchmark scenarios for QoS solutions.

This document is not a step-by-step cookbook for running tests. Tolly provides consulting services that can assist organizations in realizing specific tests.

## Business Goals

Before any discussion of benchmarking specifics the team should spend the required time to understand the business priority of each application. Only with that knowledge can one effectively design a relevant and meaningful set of test scenarios.

## Benchmarking Goals

Outline increasingly granular tests modeling common WAN transport behaviors that will illustrate specific capabilities to provide QoS to applications.

## No Standard Tests

While several IETF and IEEE standards address how QoS priorities are indicated in frames and packets, there are no generally recognized de facto “standard” tests that can be used to benchmark QoS.

## Lab/Environment Requirements

Many QoS tests can be performed using a very basic set of software tools that can be set up quickly and

### About The Tolly Group

*IT experts with over 30 years of experience*  
We provide product benchmarking and analyst services to the end-user and vendor community.  
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The Tolly Group is a vendor neutral organization and works hands-on with a wide range of strategic information technology.

Tolly analyst reports tap into decades of experience in a range of cutting edge technology that is critically important to businesses ranging from SMB to global enterprises and to service providers.

Tolly’s “Benchmarking Best Practices” series brings to bear unique hands-on experience and integrates insights from vendor experts.

Tolly “Market Insights” series provide a multi-vendor look at key decision making criteria for specific vendors and products.

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