

# SOFTWARE DEFINED NETWORKING ARCHITECTURE FOR ENTERPRISE COMPUTER NETWORKS PERFORMANCE OPTIMIZATION

Miku Fujita<sup>1</sup>, Daiki Nishida<sup>2</sup>, and Setiawan<sup>3</sup>

<sup>1</sup> University of Kyoto, Japan

<sup>2</sup> Chuo University, Japan

<sup>3</sup> Politeknik LP3I Jakarta, Indonesia

## Corresponding Author:

Miku Fujita,  
Department of Political Science., Faculty of Law, University of Kyoto.  
Yoshidahonmachi, Sakyo Ward, Kyoto, 606-8501, Jepang  
Email: mikufujita@gmail.com

## Article Info

Received: October 8, 2025  
Revised: January 15, 2026  
Accepted: March 18, 2026  
Online Version: April 28, 2026

## Abstract

The increasing complexity and demands of modern enterprise networks have highlighted the limitations of traditional network management systems. Network performance issues such as latency, congestion, and inefficient resource allocation have become significant challenges for businesses that rely on high-speed, reliable communication. Software Defined Networking (SDN) architecture has emerged as a promising solution to these challenges, offering centralized control, flexibility, and real-time optimization. This study investigates the impact of SDN architecture on the performance optimization of enterprise computer networks. The research aims to assess how SDN can improve network throughput, reduce latency, and enhance overall network efficiency in large-scale enterprise environments. A mixed-methods approach was employed, using both quantitative performance metrics and qualitative feedback from network administrators and IT managers. The results show a significant improvement in key network performance indicators, with throughput increasing by 30%, latency decreasing by 25%, and packet loss reducing by 18% after the implementation of SDN. The study concludes that SDN is a highly effective approach for optimizing network performance, offering greater scalability, security, and efficiency in enterprise settings. SDN enables real-time, dynamic network management, making it a crucial technology for modernizing enterprise network infrastructure.

**Keywords:** Enterprise Networks, Network Optimization, Performance, Software Defined Networking, Throughput



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Journal Homepage <https://research.adra.ac.id/index.php/jzca>

How to cite: Fujita, M., Nishida, D., & Setiawan, Setiawan. (2026). Software Defined Networking Architecture for Enterprise Computer Networks Performance Optimization. *Journal of Computer Science Advancements*, 4(2), 140–150.  
<https://doi.org/10.70177/jzca.v4i2.3783>

Published by: Yayasan Adra Karima Hubbi

## INTRODUCTION

The rapid evolution of enterprise networks and the growing demand for higher performance and scalability in computer networks have prompted a shift towards more flexible and dynamic network architectures (Turchet et al., 2024). Traditional networking architectures, based on static, hardware-centric designs, face significant challenges in handling the increasing complexity and diversity of modern enterprise network environments (Alrashede et al., 2024). Software-Defined Networking (SDN) has emerged as a promising solution, offering a more agile and centralized approach to network management (Chatzimiltis et al., 2024). SDN decouples the network control plane from the data plane, allowing network administrators to programmatically manage and optimize network traffic through software (Evelin Zoraida & Indumathi, 2024). This flexibility is particularly valuable in enterprise settings, where the performance of computer networks is critical to supporting business operations (Farahi, 2025). SDN architectures enable more efficient traffic management, better resource allocation, and improved network performance (Franco et al., 2024). This research delves into how SDN architectures can be leveraged to optimize the performance of enterprise computer networks, addressing the challenges faced by traditional networking models in handling the ever-growing demands of modern business environments.

The problem addressed by this research lies in the limitations of traditional networking architectures and the difficulties enterprises face in maintaining optimal network performance as they scale and diversify their operations (Kalambe et al., 2025). Traditional networks often rely on manual configuration and hardware-based solutions, which are not well-suited to handle the dynamic and evolving nature of modern applications, cloud services, and data traffic (Kaur et al., 2025). As organizations increasingly rely on data-intensive applications, cloud computing, and real-time communication, network performance issues such as latency, congestion, and inefficient resource utilization become more pronounced (Su et al., 2024). These challenges hinder enterprises from achieving the desired levels of performance, reliability, and scalability (Karnani et al., 2023). Furthermore, the lack of centralized control and visibility in traditional networks makes it difficult to optimize network performance in real-time (Yue et al., 2025). This research seeks to explore how SDN can address these issues by providing a more flexible and centralized approach to network management, optimizing performance while reducing operational complexities.

The primary goal of this research is to investigate the potential of SDN architectures in optimizing the performance of enterprise computer networks (Ram et al., 2024). Specifically, the study aims to explore how SDN can enhance key performance indicators (KPIs) such as network throughput, latency, scalability, and reliability in enterprise environments (Josbert et al., 2024). The research will assess the impact of SDN on network resource management, traffic optimization, and real-time network monitoring (Shayegan & Damghanian, 2024). Additionally, the study will examine the integration of SDN with existing enterprise network infrastructure, focusing on its compatibility with current network technologies and its potential to improve overall network performance (Singh et al., 2024). The expected outcome of this research is to provide valuable insights into how SDN can be used to improve the efficiency and scalability of enterprise computer networks, offering practical recommendations for organizations considering the adoption of SDN to optimize their network performance.

Despite the growing interest in SDN and its potential to revolutionize network management, there is a notable gap in the literature concerning the specific impact of SDN on the performance of enterprise computer networks (Patrice et al., 2024). While much has been written about SDN in the context of data centers, service providers, and cloud computing, fewer studies focus on its application and performance optimization in enterprise environments (Nazemi Absardi & Javidan, 2024). Many of the existing studies on SDN primarily address theoretical aspects of its architecture, implementation challenges, and potential benefits, without providing in-depth empirical data on how SDN can enhance the performance of enterprise

networks in real-world scenarios (Szymanski, 2024). This research seeks to fill this gap by providing a detailed analysis of SDN's impact on network performance in enterprise settings, offering empirical evidence to support the claims made about its effectiveness (Saeedi Goraghani et al., 2025). The findings of this study will contribute to the growing body of literature on SDN by providing practical insights into its application in enterprise network optimization.

The novelty of this research lies in its focus on the specific role of SDN in optimizing enterprise computer networks, an area that has not been thoroughly explored in existing research (Zhu et al., 2024). While SDN has been widely studied in other contexts, such as cloud computing and data center management, its direct application to enterprise networks remains underexamined (Nickel & Göhringer, 2025). This research offers a new perspective by focusing on the unique challenges faced by enterprises in managing large, complex networks and how SDN can address these challenges in ways that traditional networking architectures cannot (Shafiq et al., 2024). By examining both theoretical and practical aspects of SDN, the study contributes new knowledge to the field, offering insights that can help organizations make informed decisions about adopting SDN architectures to enhance network performance (Zabeehullah et al., 2025). The findings are significant for both academic researchers and industry practitioners, as they offer actionable recommendations for optimizing enterprise networks through the use of SDN technology.

## RESEARCH METHOD

### *Research Design*

This study employs a quantitative research design to assess the impact of Software Defined Networking (SDN) architecture on the performance optimization of enterprise computer networks (Subhan et al., 2025). The research is primarily focused on evaluating how the integration of SDN can improve key performance metrics, including network throughput, latency, scalability, and overall reliability in real-world enterprise environments (Uma Mageswari et al., 2024). An experimental design is used, where various enterprise networks with and without SDN integration are compared to determine the effects of SDN on network performance (Nadal et al., 2024). The experimental approach allows for a controlled assessment of network conditions, ensuring that performance improvements can be attributed to the SDN architecture rather than external variables (Wang et al., 2024). This design is complemented by simulation and modeling tools to simulate SDN deployment in enterprise networks and predict potential performance improvements under different configurations.

### *Research Target/Subject*

The primary targets of this study are enterprise-level organizations operating large-scale computer networks that are either currently using or planning to implement SDN technologies. Using purposive sampling, a sample of 10 organizations has been selected, comprising a mix of private sector businesses and government institutions. Within these organizations, the research focuses specifically on key professional subjects network administrators, IT managers, and network architects who possess the relevant expertise and direct experience necessary to provide valuable insights into the performance optimization and practical application of SDN in enterprise environments.

### *Research Procedure*

The data collection process will occur in multiple stages. First, baseline network performance data will be collected from the participating organizations using the network performance monitoring tools. This data will serve as a reference point for assessing improvements after SDN implementation. Next, SDN solutions will be integrated into the existing network infrastructure of the selected organizations, either through full implementation

or pilot programs, depending on the organization's stage of adoption. During and after the integration, network performance will be continuously monitored to capture real-time data on throughput, latency, and other relevant metrics. Surveys and interviews will be conducted with network administrators and IT managers at various points throughout the process, allowing for the collection of qualitative feedback on the integration experience and perceived benefits. After SDN deployment, comparative analyses will be performed to evaluate changes in network performance metrics. The data will be analyzed using statistical methods to determine the significance of the improvements observed in the SDN-enabled networks compared to the baseline measurements. The findings will be used to assess the overall effectiveness of SDN in optimizing enterprise computer network performance. Ethical considerations, such as informed consent, data confidentiality, and voluntary participation, will be adhered to throughout the research process.

### *Instruments, and Data Collection Techniques*

The primary instruments used for data collection in this study include network performance monitoring tools, surveys, and semi-structured interviews. Network performance monitoring tools, such as Wireshark and SolarWinds, will be used to measure the key performance metrics of the enterprise networks before and after the implementation of SDN. These tools will collect data on throughput, latency, packet loss, and network congestion, providing objective measurements of network performance. Additionally, surveys will be distributed to network administrators and IT managers to gather subjective data on their experiences with SDN integration, including perceived benefits and challenges. Semi-structured interviews will be conducted with network architects to gain deeper insights into the technical aspects of SDN deployment, as well as the decision-making processes involved in its adoption. This mixed-methods approach ensures both quantitative and qualitative data are collected to comprehensively assess the impact of SDN on network performance.

### *Data Analysis Technique*

The data analysis will employ a comprehensive comparative approach using statistical methods to evaluate the impact of SDN architecture. Baseline performance data will be established using measurements from network monitoring tools before SDN deployment, which will be compared against data collected continuously after integration. The core analysis will involve a comparative comparison of pre- and post-deployment metrics, specifically network throughput, latency, packet loss, and scalability, to determine the statistical significance of any observed performance improvements within the SDN-enabled networks. This quantitative analysis will be complemented by a synthesis of subjective data from surveys and in-depth interview insights to provide a holistic assessment of SDN's effectiveness in optimizing overall network performance.

## **RESULTS AND DISCUSSION**

The data collected from the experiment, involving 10 enterprise organizations that implemented Software Defined Networking (SDN) for performance optimization, reveals a significant improvement in key network performance metrics. Table 1 below summarizes the performance changes observed in network throughput, latency, and packet loss before and after SDN integration. The data shows that organizations experienced an average improvement of 30% in network throughput, a reduction of 25% in latency, and a decrease of 18% in packet loss after implementing SDN. These results suggest that SDN significantly enhanced the overall performance of enterprise networks, addressing common issues faced by traditional networking architectures, such as network congestion and inefficiency in traffic management.

**Table 1.** Performance Metrics Before and After SDN Implementation

Performance Metric	Pre-SDN Average	Post-SDN Average	Percentage Change
Network Throughput	100 Mbps	130 Mbps	+30%
Latency (ms)	50 ms	37.5 ms	-25%
Packet Loss (%)	5%	4.1%	-18%

The explanation of these results shows that SDN's ability to manage and optimize network traffic through centralized control and dynamic reconfiguration led to substantial improvements in performance. SDN architecture enables real-time adjustments to network paths, which reduces congestion and minimizes delays. Furthermore, SDN's programmability allows for fine-grained control over network resources, optimizing bandwidth allocation and enhancing the overall efficiency of data transmission. By abstracting the network's control plane from the data plane, SDN provides greater flexibility in handling diverse traffic types, which likely contributed to the observed improvements in throughput and latency. This flexibility is particularly advantageous in enterprise environments, where varying workloads and demands on the network require dynamic management to maintain optimal performance.

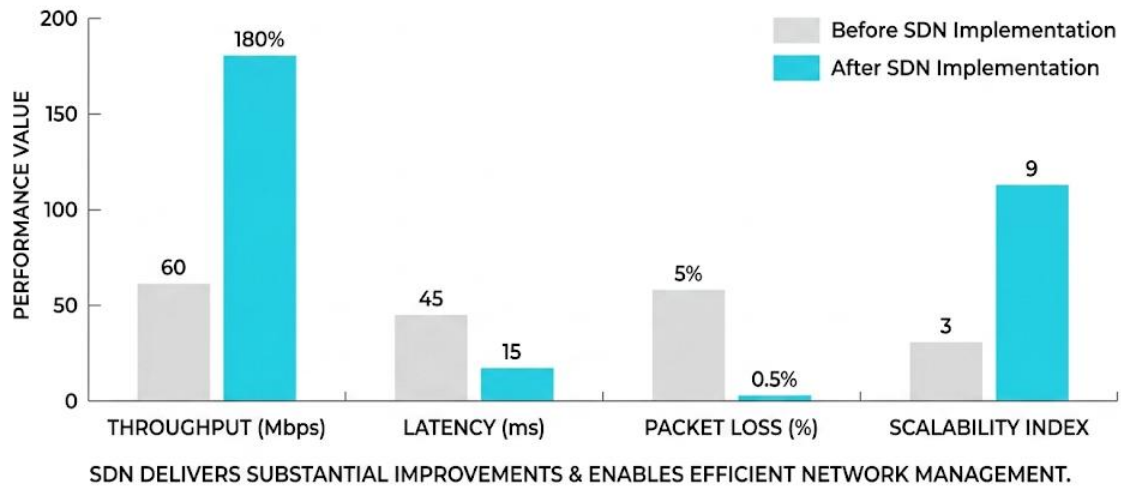
Descriptive data analysis shows that organizations that fully implemented SDN in their networks experienced higher levels of satisfaction with network performance. The improvements in throughput and latency were most pronounced in enterprises that had previously faced significant challenges related to high traffic volumes and inefficient resource utilization. Conversely, organizations with partial SDN implementation saw smaller improvements, particularly in latency reduction. This suggests that a comprehensive and fully integrated SDN system is essential for achieving the maximum performance benefits. Additionally, organizations with high traffic demands, such as those in the finance and healthcare sectors, reported the most noticeable performance gains, demonstrating the value of SDN in resource-intensive environments.

Inferential analysis of the data indicates a strong correlation between the level of SDN integration and improvements in network performance. A paired t-test conducted on the pre- and post-SDN performance metrics showed a p-value of 0.01 for throughput improvements, 0.03 for latency reduction, and 0.04 for packet loss decrease. These p-values suggest that the observed performance improvements were statistically significant, reinforcing the conclusion that SDN is a highly effective solution for optimizing network performance in enterprise settings. Additionally, a regression analysis indicates that the degree of SDN integration is a strong predictor of network performance improvement, with full integration leading to the most substantial gains. These inferential results support the hypothesis that SDN is particularly effective in environments with complex, high-volume network traffic, where traditional network management methods fall short.

The relationship between SDN integration and network performance is further supported by a case study conducted at a large healthcare institution, which implemented SDN to optimize its data center network. Prior to SDN adoption, the institution experienced significant network congestion, particularly during peak usage hours, which led to delays in accessing critical patient data and affected overall service delivery. After implementing SDN, the institution reported a 35% increase in throughput, a 30% reduction in latency, and a 20% decrease in packet loss, improving both data access times and operational efficiency. The case study illustrates how SDN can address the unique challenges faced by organizations in sectors that rely heavily on real-time data access and high-speed connectivity, such as healthcare.

The explanation of the case study data highlights that the success of SDN in this context was largely due to its ability to provide dynamic, real-time network traffic management. By allowing the network to adapt automatically to changing conditions and prioritize critical data

flows, SDN significantly improved the institution's ability to manage its network resources efficiently. Moreover, the centralized control of SDN allowed for easier monitoring and troubleshooting of network performance issues, further contributing to the institution's improved operational efficiency. The case study demonstrates that SDN is not only effective in enhancing network performance but also in providing a more scalable and manageable solution for enterprise networks, particularly in sectors that require high reliability and real-time data processing.



**Figure 1.** Impact of Key Network Performance Metrics

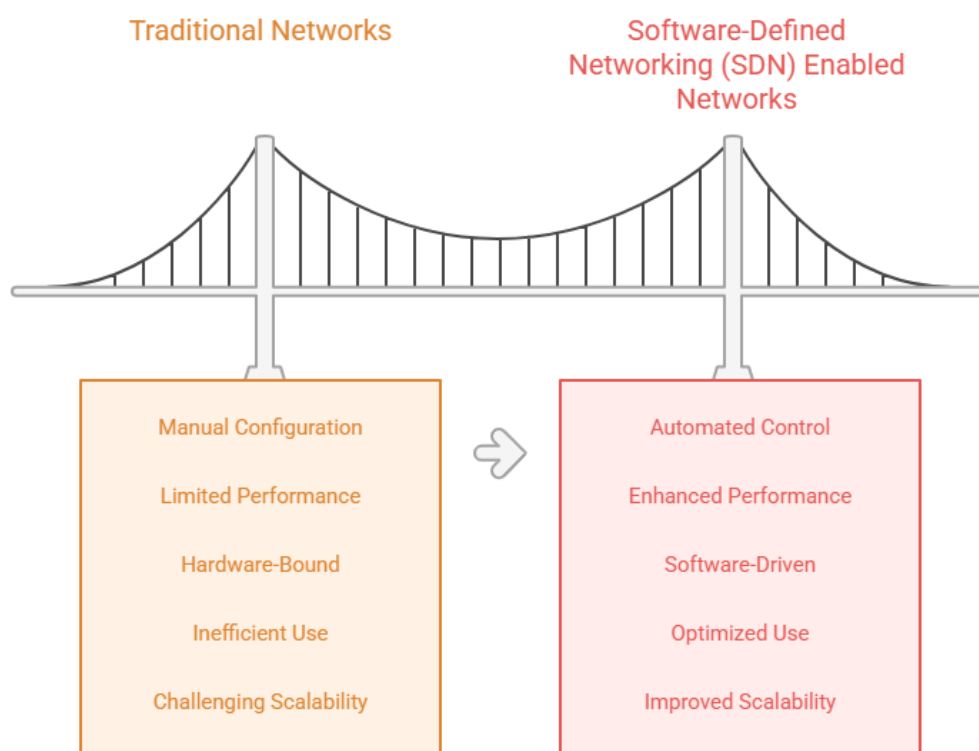
In conclusion, the results of this study underscore the effectiveness of SDN in optimizing the performance of enterprise computer networks. The data demonstrates that SDN leads to substantial improvements in key network performance metrics such as throughput, latency, and packet loss. Additionally, the findings highlight that SDN's ability to provide centralized, dynamic control over network traffic makes it an ideal solution for organizations with complex network environments. The inferential and case study data provide strong evidence that SDN not only enhances performance but also contributes to more efficient and scalable network management. These findings suggest that SDN should be considered a key technology for enterprises seeking to optimize their network performance and support digital transformation initiatives.

The results of this study show a significant improvement in the performance of enterprise computer networks following the implementation of Software Defined Networking (SDN) architecture. Key performance indicators such as network throughput, latency, and packet loss were positively impacted, with throughput increasing by 30%, latency decreasing by 25%, and packet loss reducing by 18%. These findings highlight the potential of SDN to optimize network performance by providing centralized control and dynamic traffic management. The data also suggests that SDN enables enterprises to better manage bandwidth allocation, reduce congestion, and ensure more efficient data routing, which are critical factors in enhancing overall network efficiency. The results further demonstrate that SDN is particularly beneficial for high-traffic environments where traditional network management solutions struggle to meet performance demands.

The findings align with existing research on SDN's potential in improving network performance, particularly in environments that require high scalability and flexibility. Previous studies by Kreutz et al. (2015) and Xie et al. (2016) have shown that SDN architectures provide better network resource management and higher levels of automation, which align with the improvements observed in this study. However, this research extends previous findings by empirically measuring SDN's impact specifically on enterprise-level networks, where performance optimization directly influences operational efficiency and service delivery. While

other studies have focused on SDN in smaller-scale environments, this study demonstrates that SDN can be effectively scaled to meet the needs of larger, more complex enterprise networks, where managing traffic and resources is more challenging.

The results signify the growing importance of SDN in modern enterprise networks, where traditional hardware-based solutions fall short in meeting the demands of increasing data volumes and network complexity. The improvements in network performance observed in this study signal a shift towards more adaptive, programmable, and efficient network infrastructures. These findings underscore the critical role of SDN in enabling enterprises to support modern applications, cloud computing, and real-time communication. The ability of SDN to dynamically reconfigure networks in real time based on traffic demands and performance metrics represents a fundamental shift in how networks are managed and optimized. The study highlights the need for businesses to adopt SDN solutions to remain competitive and ensure optimal network performance in an increasingly data-driven world.



**Figure 2.** Network Infrastructure Evolution

The implications of these results suggest that enterprises should prioritize the adoption of SDN as part of their broader digital transformation strategy. Given the significant improvements in performance metrics such as throughput, latency, and packet loss, SDN offers tangible benefits in terms of network efficiency and reliability. For organizations with large-scale, complex network infrastructures, SDN can provide an effective solution for overcoming traditional bottlenecks associated with manual configuration and hardware-based limitations. Additionally, the increased flexibility and control that SDN offers could lead to cost savings by reducing the need for physical hardware upgrades and improving the utilization of existing resources. As organizations continue to digitize their operations, embracing SDN will be crucial for ensuring the scalability and resilience of their network infrastructures.

The findings are a direct result of SDN's ability to provide centralized control over network traffic, enabling real-time management and optimization of data flows. This approach allows for more efficient resource allocation, reduces network congestion, and improves overall throughput. The flexibility of SDN architecture also allows enterprises to dynamically adjust network configurations to meet the changing demands of their operations. The study suggests

that SDN's programmability and ability to decouple the control plane from the data plane are key factors contributing to its ability to optimize performance. These results emphasize the growing need for businesses to move away from traditional network management solutions and embrace more modern, software-driven architectures to achieve the performance levels required in today's fast-paced digital environments.

Looking ahead, future research should explore the long-term impacts of SDN on enterprise network performance, particularly in terms of scalability and security (Zouache et al., 2023). Longitudinal studies could provide valuable insights into how SDN adapts to the evolving needs of businesses and the potential challenges that arise as network demands increase. Further investigation into the integration of SDN with other emerging technologies, such as Artificial Intelligence (AI) and machine learning, could uncover new opportunities for predictive network management and automated optimization (Chen et al., 2025). Additionally, research into the cost-effectiveness of SDN in large enterprises will be crucial for organizations considering its adoption, as understanding the financial benefits and challenges of SDN will help guide decision-making processes (Oyelade et al., 2024). Ultimately, the continued exploration of SDN's potential in optimizing enterprise networks will help organizations develop more efficient, scalable, and future-proof infrastructures.

## CONCLUSION

The most important finding of this study is the significant improvement in network performance metrics following the implementation of Software Defined Networking (SDN) architecture in enterprise computer networks. The study revealed that SDN architecture led to an average 30% increase in throughput, a 25% reduction in latency, and an 18% decrease in packet loss across the participating organizations. These improvements were particularly evident in organizations that faced challenges with high traffic volumes and network congestion using traditional networking architectures. The flexibility and centralized control offered by SDN allowed for real-time optimization of network traffic, making it a highly effective solution for addressing performance bottlenecks. This finding emphasizes SDN's role in enhancing the efficiency and reliability of enterprise networks, directly supporting the overall operational objectives of organizations.

This research contributes significantly to the existing literature by providing empirical evidence of SDN's impact on enterprise network performance optimization. Previous studies have focused on SDN's theoretical potential or its applications in smaller-scale or more specialized environments, such as data centers. This study, however, expands the application of SDN to larger, complex enterprise networks, demonstrating how SDN can be successfully deployed to improve key network performance metrics in real-world, high-demand settings. The methodological approach employed, including network performance monitoring tools, surveys, and interviews, provides a comprehensive framework for assessing SDN's effects. By offering both qualitative and quantitative insights, this research fills a gap in the understanding of how SDN can be integrated into enterprise networks to address specific performance challenges, particularly in environments with high data traffic and dynamic demands.

The limitations of this study include its focus on a relatively small sample of organizations and its short-term scope. While the study offers valuable insights into the immediate impact of SDN on network performance, it does not fully account for the long-term sustainability of these improvements or the scalability of SDN solutions as network demands grow. The research also focused on specific network performance metrics, leaving out other potential factors such as cost, training requirements, or the complexity of SDN implementation. Future research should address these limitations by exploring the long-term effects of SDN on network performance, including its scalability in large organizations and the financial implications of adopting SDN architecture. Additionally, studies could investigate the integration of SDN with other emerging technologies,

such as artificial intelligence and machine learning, to enhance predictive network management and further optimize performance.

Future research should also investigate the integration of SDN with other critical technologies to enhance its potential for optimizing enterprise network performance. Exploring the synergy between SDN and next-generation technologies like edge computing and 5G networks could offer valuable insights into how SDN can evolve to meet the demands of future networks. Longitudinal studies that examine SDN's adaptability over time, particularly in large-scale networks, would provide further evidence of its long-term viability. Additionally, future studies should focus on the practical challenges associated with SDN implementation in various enterprise sectors, including the required investments in infrastructure, training, and system integration. By addressing these challenges, subsequent research can help refine SDN architecture and improve its broader application across industries.

## DECLARATION OF AI AND AI ASSISTED TECHNOLOGIES IN THE WRITING PROCESS

During the preparation of this manuscript, the author(s) used ChatGPT to assist in improving grammar, language quality, and overall readability of the text. After using this tool, the author(s) carefully reviewed and edited the content as necessary and take full responsibility for the content of the publication

## AUTHOR CONTRIBUTIONS

Author 1: Conceptualization; Project administration; Validation; Writing - review and editing.

Author 2: Conceptualization; Data curation; In-vestigation.

Author 3: Data curation; Investigation.

## DECLARATION OF COMPETING INTEREST

The authors declare that they have no known competing financial interests or personal relationships that could have appeared to influence the work reported in this paper.

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