

# Technology Overview

## Class of Service Overview

Release  
11.2



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Release 11.2

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## CHAPTER 1

# Class of Service in the Junos Operating System

This document provides an overview of class-of-service (CoS) concepts and features that can be implemented on devices using the Junos operating system. The information in this document is introductory only. If you need detailed information, examples, and instructions for implementing CoS, refer to the *Junos OS Class of Service Configuration Guide*.

## CoS Overview

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When a network experiences congestion and delay, some packets must be dropped. Junos OS class of service (CoS) enables you to divide traffic into classes and offer various levels of throughput and packet loss when congestion occurs. This allows packet loss to happen according to rules that you configure.

For interfaces that carry IPv4, IPv6, and MPLS traffic, you can configure Junos CoS features to provide multiple classes of service for different applications. On the router, you can configure multiple forwarding classes for transmitting packets, define which packets are placed into each output queue, schedule the transmission service level for each queue, and manage congestion using a random early detection (RED) algorithm.

The Junos CoS features provide a set of mechanisms that you can use to provide differentiated services when best-effort traffic delivery is insufficient. In designing CoS applications, you must give careful consideration to your service needs, and you must thoroughly plan and design your CoS configuration to ensure consistency across all routers in a CoS domain. You must also consider all the routers and other networking equipment in the CoS domain to ensure interoperability among all equipment.

Because Juniper Networks routers implement CoS in hardware rather than in software, you can experiment with and deploy CoS features without adversely affecting packet forwarding and routing performance.

### Related Documentation

- Hardware Capabilities and Limitations

## ATM Interfaces Not Supported

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The standard Junos CoS hierarchy is not supported on ATM interfaces. ATM has traffic-shaping capabilities that would override CoS, because ATM traffic shaping is performed at the ATM layer, and CoS is performed at the IP layer. For more information about ATM traffic shaping and ATM CoS components, see the [Junos OS Network Interfaces Configuration Guide](#).

## CoS Standards

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The standards for Junos class of service (CoS) capabilities are defined in the following RFCs:

- RFC 2474, *Definition of the Differentiated Services Field in the IPv4 and IPv6 Headers*
- RFC 2597, *Assured Forwarding PHB Group*
- RFC 2598, *An Expedited Forwarding PHB*
- RFC 2698, *A Two Rate Three Color Marker*

## CoS Applications Overview

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You can configure CoS features to meet your application needs. Because the components are generic, you can use a single CoS configuration syntax across multiple routers. CoS mechanisms are useful for two broad classes of applications. These applications can be referred to as *in the box* and *across the network*.

In-the-box applications use CoS mechanisms to provide special treatment for packets passing through a single node on the network. You can monitor the incoming traffic on each interface, using CoS to provide preferred service to some interfaces (that is, to some customers) while limiting the service provided to other interfaces. You can also filter outgoing traffic by the packet's destination, thus providing preferred service to some destinations.

Across-the-network applications use CoS mechanisms to provide differentiated treatment to different classes of packets across a set of nodes in a network. In these types of applications, you typically control the ingress and egress routers to a routing domain and all the routers within the domain. You can use Junos CoS features to modify packets traveling through the domain to indicate the packet's priority across the domain.

Specifically, you modify the CoS code points in packet headers, remapping these bits to values that correspond to levels of service. When all routers in the domain are configured to associate the precedence bits with specific service levels, packets traveling across the domain receive the same level of service from the ingress point to the egress point. For CoS to work in this case, the mapping between the precedence bits and service levels must be identical across all routers in the domain.

Junos CoS applications support the following range of mechanisms:

- Differentiated Services (DiffServ)—The CoS application supports DiffServ, which uses 6-bit IPv4 and IPv6 header type-of-service (ToS) byte settings. The configuration uses CoS values in the IP and IPv6 ToS fields to determine the forwarding class associated with each packet.
- Layer 2 to Layer 3 CoS mapping—The CoS application supports mapping of Layer 2 (IEEE 802.1p) packet headers to router forwarding class and loss-priority values.

Layer 2 to Layer 3 CoS mapping involves setting the forwarding class and loss priority based on information in the Layer 2 header. Output involves mapping the forwarding class and loss priority to a Layer 2-specific marking. You can mark the Layer 2 and Layer 3 headers simultaneously.

- MPLS EXP—Supports configuration of mapping of MPLS experimental (EXP) bit settings to router forwarding classes and vice versa.
- VPN outer-label marking—Supports setting of outer-label EXP bits, also known as CoS bits, based on MPLS EXP mapping.

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## Junos CoS Components

Junos CoS consists of many components that you can combine and tune to provide the level of services required by customers.

The Junos CoS components include:

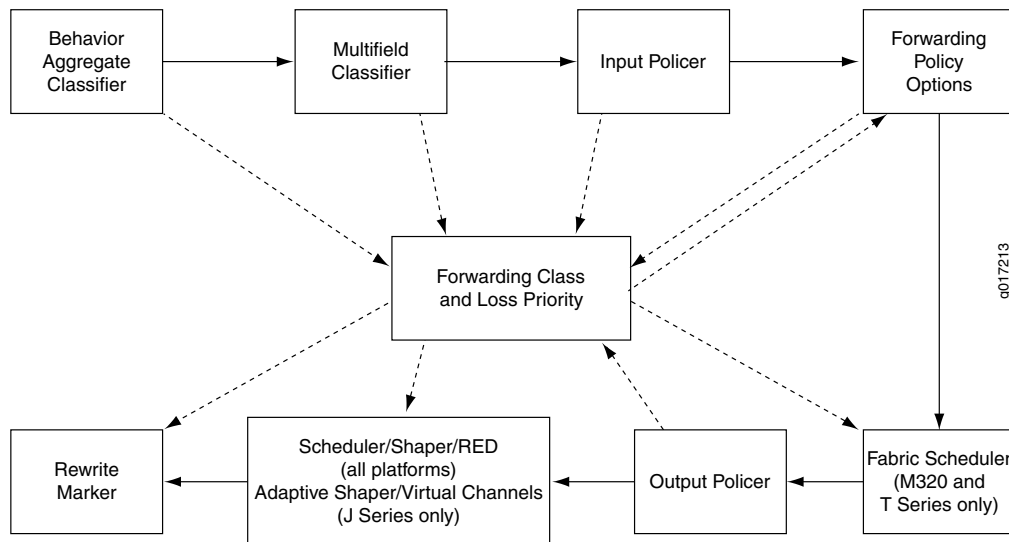
- Code-point aliases—A *code-point alias* assigns a name to a pattern of code-point bits. You can use this name instead of the bit pattern when you configure other CoS components, such as classifiers, drop-profile maps, and rewrite rules.
- Classifiers—*Packet classification* refers to the examination of an incoming packet. This function associates the packet with a particular CoS servicing level. In the Junos OS, classifiers associate incoming packets with a forwarding class and loss priority and, based on the associated forwarding class, assign packets to output queues. Two general types of classifiers are supported:
  - Behavior aggregate or CoS value traffic classifiers—A *behavior aggregate* (BA) is a method of classification that operates on a packet as it enters the router. The CoS value in the packet header is examined, and this single field determines the CoS settings applied to the packet. BA classifiers allow you to set the forwarding class and loss priority of a packet based on the Differentiated Services code point (DSCP) value, DSCP IPv6 value, IP precedence value, MPLS EXP bits, and IEEE 802.1p value. The default classifier is based on the IP precedence value.
  - Multifield traffic classifiers—A *multifield* classifier is a second method for classifying traffic flows. Unlike a behavior aggregate, a multifield classifier can examine multiple fields in the packet. Examples of some fields that a multifield classifier can examine include the source and destination address of the packet as well as the source and destination port numbers of the packet. With multifield classifiers, you set the forwarding class and loss priority of a packet based on firewall filter rules.

- Forwarding classes—The *forwarding classes* affect the forwarding, scheduling, and marking policies applied to packets as they transit a router. The forwarding class plus the loss priority define the per-hop behavior. Four categories of forwarding classes are supported: best effort, assured forwarding, expedited forwarding, and network control. For Juniper Networks M Series Multiservice Edge Routers, four forwarding classes are supported. You can configure up to one each of the four types of forwarding classes. For M120 and M320 Multiservice Edge Routers, MX Series Ethernet Services Routers, and T Series Core Routers, 16 forwarding classes are supported, so you can classify packets more granularly. For example, you can configure multiple classes of expedited forwarding (EF) traffic: EF, EF1, and EF2.
- Loss priorities—*Loss priorities* allow you to set the priority of dropping a packet. Loss priority affects the scheduling of a packet without affecting the packet's relative ordering. You can use the packet loss priority (PLP) bit as part of a congestion control strategy. You can use the loss priority setting to identify packets that have experienced congestion. Typically you mark packets exceeding some service level with a high loss priority. You set loss priority by configuring a classifier or a policer. The loss priority is used later in the workflow to select one of the drop profiles used by RED.
- Forwarding policy options—These options allow you to associate forwarding classes with next hops. Forwarding policy also allows you to create classification overrides, which assign forwarding classes to sets of prefixes.
- Transmission scheduling and rate control—These parameters provide you with a variety of tools to manage traffic flows:
  - Queuing—After a packet is sent to the outgoing interface on a router, it is queued for transmission on the physical media. The amount of time a packet is queued on the router is determined by the availability of the outgoing physical media as well as the amount of traffic using the interface.
  - Schedulers—An individual router interface has multiple queues assigned to store packets. The router determines which queue to service based on a particular method of scheduling. This process often involves a determination of which type of packet should be transmitted before another. Junos OS schedulers allow you to define the priority, bandwidth, delay buffer size, rate control status, and RED drop profiles to be applied to a particular queue for packet transmission.
  - Fabric schedulers—For M320 and T Series routers only, fabric schedulers allow you to identify a packet as high or low priority based on its forwarding class, and to associate schedulers with the fabric priorities.
  - Policers for traffic classes—*Policers* allow you to limit traffic of a certain class to a specified bandwidth and burst size. Packets exceeding the policer limits can be discarded, or can be assigned to a different forwarding class, a different loss priority, or both. You define policers with filters that can be associated with input or output interfaces.
- Rewrite rules—A *rewrite rule* sets the appropriate CoS bits in the outgoing packet. This allows the next downstream router to classify the packet into the appropriate service group. Rewriting, or marking, outbound packets is useful when the router is at the border of a network and must alter the CoS values to meet the policies of the targeted peer.

## Illustration of Packet Flow Through CoS Configurable Components

Figure 1 on page 5 shows the components of Junos CoS and illustrates how they interact.

**Figure 1: Packet Flow Through CoS Configurable Components**



## BA Classifier Overview

The behavior aggregate (BA) classifier maps a class-of-service (CoS) value to a forwarding class and loss priority. The forwarding class determines the output queue. The loss priority is used by schedulers in conjunction with the random early discard (RED) algorithm to control packet discard during periods of congestion.

The types of BA classifiers are based on which part of the incoming packet the classifier examines:

- Differentiated Services code point (DSCP) for IP DiffServ
- DSCP for IPv6 DiffServ
- IP precedence bits
- MPLS EXP bits
- IEEE 802.1p CoS bits
- IEEE 802.1ad drop eligible indicator (DEI) bit

Unlike multifield classifiers (which are discussed in “Multifield Classifier Overview” on page 7), BA classifiers are based on fixed-length fields, which makes them computationally more efficient than multifield classifiers. For this reason, core devices are normally configured to perform BA classification, because of the higher traffic volumes they handle.

In most cases, you need to rewrite a given marker (IP precedence, DSCP, IEEE 802.1p, IEEE 802.1ad, or MPLS EXP settings) at the ingress node to accommodate BA classification by core and egress devices. For more information about rewrite markers, see [Rewriting Packet Header Information Overview](#).

For Juniper Networks M Series Multiservice Edge Routers, four classes can forward traffic independently. For M320 Multiservice Edge Routers and T Series Core Routers, eight classes can forward traffic independently. Therefore, you must configure additional classes to be aggregated into one of these classes. You use the BA classifier to configure class aggregation.

For MX Series Ethernet Services Routers and Intelligent Queuing 2 (IQ2) PICs, the following restrictions apply:

- You can only use multifield classifiers for IPv4 DSCP bits for virtual private LAN service (VPLS).
- You cannot use BA classifiers for IPv4 DSCP bits for Layer 2 VPNs.
- You cannot use BA classifiers for IPv6 DSCP bits for VPLS.
- You cannot use BA classifiers for IPv6 DSCP bits for Layer 2 VPNs.

For the 10-port 10-Gigabit Oversubscribed Ethernet (OSE) PICs, the following restrictions on BA classifiers apply:

- Multiple classifiers can be configured to a single logical interface. However, there are some restrictions on which the classifiers can coexist.

For example, the DSCP and IP precedence classifiers cannot be configured on the same logical interface. The DSCP and IP precedence classifiers can coexist with the DSCP IPv6 classifier on the same logical interface. An IEEE 802.1 classifier can coexist with other classifiers and is applicable only if a packet does not match any of the configured classifiers. For information about the supported combinations, see [Applying Classifiers to Logical Interfaces](#).

- If the classifiers are not defined explicitly, then the default classifiers are applied as follows:
  - All MPLS packets are classified using the MPLS (EXP) classifier. If there is no explicit MPLS (EXP) classifier, then the default MPLS (EXP) classifier is applied.
  - All IPv4 packets are classified using the IP precedence and DSCP classifiers. If there is no explicit IP precedence and DSCP classifiers, then the default IP precedence classifier is applied.
  - All IPv6 packets are classified using a DSCP IPv6 classifier. If there are no explicit DSCP IPv6 classifier, then the default DSCP IPv6 classifier is applied.
- If the IEEE 802.1p classifier is configured and a packet does not match any explicitly configured classifier, then the IEEE 802.1p classifier is applied.



**NOTE:** For a specified interface, you can configure both a multifield classifier and a BA classifier without conflicts. Because the classifiers are always applied in sequential order, the BA classifier followed by the multifield classifier, any BA classification result is overridden by an multifield classifier if they conflict. For more information about multifield classifiers, see “Multifield Classifier Overview” on page 7.

For MX Series routers and IQ2 PICs, the following restrictions on BA classifiers apply:

- IPv4 DSCP markings for VPLS are not supported (use multifield classifiers instead).
- IPv4 DSCP markings for Layer2 VPNs are not supported.
- IPv6 DSCP markings for VPLS are not supported.
- IPv6 DSCP markings for Layer2 VPNs are not supported.

## Multifield Classifier Overview

A multifield classifier is a method of classifying traffic flows. Devices that sit at the edge of a network usually classify packets according to codings that are located in multiple packet header fields. Multifield classification is normally performed at the network edge because of the general lack of DiffServ code point (DSCP) or IP precedence support in end-user applications.

In an edge router, a multifield classifier provides the filtering functionality that scans through a variety of packet fields to determine the forwarding class for a packet. Typically, a classifier performs matching operations on the selected fields against a configured value.

Unlike a behavior aggregate (BA), which classifies packets based on class-of-service (CoS) bits in the packet header, a multifield classifier can examine multiple fields in the packet header—for example, the source and destination address of the packet, and the source and destination port numbers of the packet. A multifield classifier typically matches one or more of the six packet header fields: destination address, source address, IP protocol, source port, destination port, and DSCP. Multifield classifiers are used when a simple BA classifier is insufficient to classify a packet.

In the Junos OS, you configure a multifield classifier with a firewall filter and its associated match conditions. This enables you to use any filter match criteria to locate packets that require classification. From a CoS perspective, multifield classifiers (or firewall filter rules) provide the following services:

- Classify packets to a forwarding class and loss priority. The forwarding class determines the output queue. The loss priority is used by schedulers in conjunction with the random early discard (RED) algorithm to control packet discard during periods of congestion.
- Police traffic to a specific bandwidth and burst size. Packets exceeding the policer limits can be discarded, or can be assigned to a different forwarding class, to a different loss priority, or to both.



**NOTE:** You *police* traffic on input to conform to established CoS parameters, setting loss handling and forwarding class assignments as needed. You *shape* traffic on output to make sure that router resources, especially bandwidth, are distributed fairly. However, input policing and output shaping are two different CoS processes, each with their own configuration statements.

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## Forwarding Classes Overview

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It is helpful to think of forwarding classes as output queues. In effect, the end result of classification is the identification of an output queue for a particular packet.

For a classifier to assign an output queue to each packet, it must associate the packet with one of the following forwarding classes:

- Expedited forwarding (EF)—Provides a low-loss, low-latency, low-jitter, assured bandwidth, end-to-end service.
- Assured forwarding (AF)—Provides a group of values you can define and includes four subclasses: AF1, AF2, AF3, and AF4, each with three drop probabilities: low, medium, and high.
- Best effort (BE)—Provides no service profile. For the best effort forwarding class, loss priority is typically not carried in a class-of-service (CoS) value, and random early detection (RED) drop profiles are more aggressive.
- Network control (NC)—This class is typically high priority because it supports protocol control.

For Juniper Networks M Series Multiservice Edge Routers (except the M320), you can configure up to four forwarding classes, one of each type: expedited forwarding (EF), assured forwarding (AF), best effort (BE), and network control (NC).

The Juniper Networks M320 Multiservices Edge Routers and T Series Core Routers support 16 forwarding classes, enabling you to classify packets more granularly. For example, you can configure multiple classes of EF traffic: EF, EF1, and EF2. The software supports up to eight output queues. Therefore, if you configure more than eight forwarding classes, you must map multiple forwarding classes to single output queues. For more information, see [Configuring Up to 16 Forwarding Classes](#).

By default, the loss priority is low. On most routers, you can configure high or low loss priority. On the following routers you can configure high, low, medium-high, or medium-low loss priority:

- J Series Services Router interfaces
- M320 routers and T Series routers with Enhanced II Flexible PIC Concentrators (FPCs)
- T640 routers with Enhanced Scaling FPC4s

For more information, see the J Series router documentation and [Policer Overview](#).



## Priority Scheduling Overview

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The Junos OS supports multiple levels of transmission priority, which in order of increasing priority are **low**, **medium-low**, **medium-high**, **high**, and **strict-high**. This allows the software to service higher-priority queues before lower-priority queues.

Priority scheduling determines the order in which an output interface transmits traffic from the queues, thus ensuring that queues containing important traffic are provided better access to the outgoing interface.

Higher-priority queues transmit packets ahead of lower priority queues as long as the higher-priority forwarding classes retain enough bandwidth credit. When you configure a higher-priority queue with a significant fraction of the transmission bandwidth, the queue might lock out (or starve) lower priority traffic.

On M Series Multiservice Edge Routers and T Series Core Routers, you can configure one queue per interface to have **strict-high** priority, which works the same as **high** priority, but provides unlimited transmission bandwidth. As long as the queue with **strict-high** priority has traffic to send, it receives precedence over all other queues, except queues with **high** priority. Queues with **strict-high** and **high** priority take turns transmitting packets until the **strict-high** queue is empty, the **high** priority queues are empty, or the **high** priority queues run out of bandwidth credit. Only when these conditions are met can lower priority queues send traffic.

When you configure a queue to have **strict-high** priority, you do not need to include the **transmit-rate** statement in the queue configuration at the **[edit class-of-service schedulers scheduler-name]** hierarchy level because the transmission rate of a **strict-high** priority queue is not limited by the weighted round robin (WRR) configuration. If you do configure a transmission rate on a **strict-high** priority queue, it does not affect the WRR operation. The transmission rate only serves as a placeholder in the output of commands such as the **show interface queue** command.

**strict-high** priority queues might starve **low** priority queues. The **high** priority allows you to protect traffic classes from being starved by traffic in a **strict-high** queue. For example, a network-control queue might require a small bandwidth allocation (for example, 5 percent). You can assign **high** priority to this queue to prevent it from being underserved.

A queue with **strict-high** priority supersedes bandwidth guarantees for queues with lower priority. Therefore, we recommend that you use the **strict-high** priority to ensure proper ordering of special traffic, such as voice traffic. You can preserve bandwidth guarantees for queues with lower priority by allocating to the queue with **strict-high** priority only the amount of bandwidth that it generally requires. For example, consider the following allocation of transmission bandwidth:

- Q0 BE—20 percent, low priority
- Q1 EF—30 percent, strict-high priority
- Q2 AF—40 percent, low priority
- Q3 NC—10 percent, low priority

This bandwidth allocation assumes that, in general, the EF forwarding class requires only 30 percent of an interface's transmission bandwidth. However, if short bursts of traffic are received on the EF forwarding class, 100 percent of the bandwidth is given to the EF forwarding class because of the **strict-high** setting.

## Default Fabric Priority Queuing

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On Juniper Networks M320 Multiservice Edge Routers and T Series Core Routers, the default behavior is for fabric priority queuing on egress interfaces to match the scheduling priority you assign. High-priority egress traffic is automatically assigned to high-priority fabric queues. Likewise, low-priority egress traffic is automatically assigned to low-priority fabric queues.

For information about overriding automatic fabric priority queuing, see [Overriding Fabric Priority Queuing and Associating Schedulers with Fabric Priorities](#).

## Transmission Rate Control

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The transmission rate control determines the actual traffic bandwidth from each forwarding class you configure. The rate is specified in bits per second (bps). Each queue is allocated some portion of the bandwidth of the outgoing interface. This bandwidth amount can be a fixed value, such as 1 megabit per second (Mbps), a percentage of the total available bandwidth, or the rest of the available bandwidth. You can limit the transmission bandwidth to the exact value you configure, or allow it to exceed the configured rate if additional bandwidth is available from other queues. Using this property, you can ensure that each queue receives the amount of bandwidth appropriate to its level of service.

## Allocation of Leftover Bandwidth

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When a forwarding class does not fully use the allocated transmission bandwidth, the remaining bandwidth can be used by other forwarding classes if they receive a larger amount of the offered load than the bandwidth allocated. This use of leftover bandwidth is the default. If you do not want a forwarding class queue to use any leftover bandwidth, you must configure it for strict allocation. With rate control in place, the specified bandwidth is strictly observed.

When more than one forwarding class can use leftover bandwidth, the higher-priority forwarding class takes the bandwidth first. When several forwarding classes of equal priority are contending for leftover bandwidth, more of the leftover bandwidth is allocated to the queues that are configured for lower transmission rates.

## Default Congestion and Transmission Control

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A default congestion and transmission control mechanism is used when an output interface is not configured for a certain forwarding class, but receives packets destined for that unconfigured forwarding class. This default mechanism uses the delay buffer and weighted round robin (WRR) credit allocated to the designated forwarding class, with a default drop profile. Because the buffer and WRR credit allocation is minimal,

packets might be lost if a larger number of packets are forwarded without configuring the forwarding class for the interface.

## RED Congestion Control

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You can configure two parameters to control congestion at the output stage. The first parameter defines the delay-buffer bandwidth, which provides packet buffer space to absorb burst traffic up to the specified duration of delay. Once the specified delay buffer becomes full, packets with 100 percent drop probability are dropped from the head of the buffer.

The second parameter defines the drop probabilities across the range of delay-buffer occupancy, supporting the random early detection (RED) process. When the number of packets queued is greater than the ability of the router to empty a queue, the queue requires a method for determining which packets to drop from the network. To address this, the Junos OS provides the option of enabling RED on individual queues.

Depending on the drop probabilities, RED might drop many packets long before the buffer becomes full, or it might drop only a few packets even if the buffer is almost full.

You specify the delay buffer size for each scheduler associated with an output interface configuration in either temporal units of 1 through 200,000 microseconds, or as a percentage of the entire interface buffer space.

You specify drop probabilities in the drop profile section of the class-of-service (CoS) configuration hierarchy and reference them in each scheduler configuration. For each scheduler, you can configure multiple separate drop profiles, one for each combination of loss priority (low, medium-low, medium-high, or high) and protocol.

You can configure a maximum of 32 different drop profiles.

## Rewrite Markers

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A marker reads the current forwarding class and loss priority information associated with a packet and finds the chosen code point from a table, then writes the code point information into the packet header. Entries in a marker configuration represent the mapping of the current forwarding class into a new forwarding class, to be written into the header.

You define markers in the rewrite rules section of the class-of-service (CoS) configuration hierarchy and reference them in the logical interface configuration. This model supports marking on the DSCP, DSCP IPv6, IP precedence, IEEE 802.1, and MPLS EXP CoS values.

When an interface is not associated with any marker, the ingress classifier decodes the ingress CoS bits into a forwarding class and packet loss priority (PLP) combination, which determines the egress CoS bits. Consequently, the egress CoS information is entirely dependent on the forwarding class and PLP, and is separate from ingress CoS values. As an example, EXP values ranging 0 through 7 on ingress do not result in EXP values 0 through 7 on egress, unless you apply custom classifiers or rewrite markers.

