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Optimize Telecom Network Management with Generative Al

Leverage AskNetwork to improve customer experience and reduce OpEx by 30%

Credits Karthik Subbaraman | Priyankaa A





Current state of Telco Network Management

- **Expansive infrastructure and complexity:** Telco networks encompass 5G, fiber, IoT, and Cloud, creating intricate topologies, diverse devices, and layered services.
- Data deluge in modern networks: Networks today produce vast data volumes, from call records to logs and user activity, requiring advanced analytics and processing
- Evolving demands in network management: Technological advancements and increasing complexity necessitate high-performance, secure network management solutions
- **Cost burden of legacy systems:** Telcos are spending **15-20% of revenue** on network operations, primarily due to **manual network management** and outdated systems

Major challenges faced by Telcos in managing complex networks

- Accessing multiple platforms, each housing a fragment of network data, is cumbersome
- Lack of technology to proactively determine the root cause and guided action for the issues in complex networks
- Lack of tools to build dynamic and intuitive visualizations that represent complex network structures and correlations present in the network topology

Impact of current network management systems

- 1. Increased development effort and cost
- 2. Reactive RCA and outage resolutions
- 3. Limited scope for customizations



Traditional network management is cumbersome and time-consuming

Traditional network management has become increasingly cumbersome due to the evolving nature of networks, technology, and organizational demands. For example, viewing and managing alarms in a telco network is hampered by the network complexity, fragmentation of monitoring systems, and high volume of alarms. These challenges make it difficult to maintain a clear, real-time view of the network's health, leading to slower response times and a higher risk of outages.

Sample scenario 1: Rework in viewing and managing alarms increases development effort and cost



Sample scenario 2: Manual intervention and reactive outage resolution lead to extended downtimes and diminished customer experience



To overcome the challenges in traditional network management, Telcos should move towards a Generative AI (GenAI) - driven comprehensive solution. Without this shift, they risk continued overspending on network operations, leading to higher OpEx and increased customer churn due to subpar service quality.

Leverage **AskNetwork**, a GenAl - powered framework for seamless interaction with your network data

"GenAl in Telecom network management can significantly reduce \$20 billion, spent annually on network outages and service degradations" - <u>TM Forum</u>

Implementing **AskNetwork**, a **GenAl-powered** framework, facilitates seamless, **real-time interaction with network data** through a conversational interface. It consolidates fragmented systems, simplifies alarm management, provides automated root cause analysis, and eliminates the need to maintain multiple dashboards, platforms, and integrations. By incorporating schema in prompts, this **network-agnostic** framework helps manage increasingly complex networks, leading to enhanced performance efficiently.

Sample scenario 1: GenAl-based approach of viewing and managing alarms in a Telco network



Sample scenario 2: Automated Root Cause Analysis (RCA) and network outage resolution by leveraging AskNetwork



Key enablers of AskNetwork to redefine network management



The following slides dive deep into the four key enablers for successful implementation of AskNetwork.

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Context - aware network data retrieval engine for improved data accessibility

In modern network management, increasing network components and data distribution across multiple platforms make data retrieval cumbersome, as each platform often requires separate tools/services. Implementing a context-aware data retrieval engine provides **component-agnostic centralized data access**, significantly improving data accessibility across the entire network. As the **network scales**, it eases data retrieval with **minimal changes** in the **prompt template**.

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Sample scenario: Retrieval of critical alarms in the network



Recommendations

- Plugin GenAI LLMs like GPT-3.5 turbo, Llama, and Gemini into AskNetwork for effective interaction with network data
- Maintain a standardized data model across inventory, fault, and performance systems to ensure efficient data retrieval
- · Implement prompt registry and prompt versioning to control and refine the prompts as the network scales
- Automate hallucination detection to check the factuality of the response provided by the AskNetwork

Traditionally, a network engineer spends hours pulling data from different platforms. With the Context-Aware Data Retrieval Engine, a simple query brings all necessary network data within minutes, thereby reducing data retrieval time by up to 40%.

Dynamic network visualization engine for comprehensive network view and enhanced decision making



Modern networks have intricate topologies with diverse devices, making visualization challenging. The Dynamic Network Visualization Engine provides adaptive, real-time visual maps of complex, multi-layered network structures without manual intervention, thus ensuring the most current view of the network. It helps identify potential issues and bottlenecks, reduce network outages and resolution time, and accelerate decision-making.

Sample scenario: Real time visualization of network topology



By leveraging the network visualization engine, Telcos can quickly visualize the networks in real time. This eliminates the need for individual dashboards, thus reducing the development cost.

Context-aware root cause analyzer for automated root cause analysis and enhanced customer experience

Networks have become more intricate with various devices and protocols, making it hard to trace issues to their root cause. Additionally, knowledge bases have grown increasingly complex, making it challenging for network engineers to navigate and pinpoint the root cause. Implementing a context-aware root cause analyzer enables automated and proactive analysis of potential issues by quickly retrieving the relevant trouble-shooting guides for the specified alarms.

Sample scenario: Root Cause Analysis (RCA) of device with critical alarm Logs extracted from the device for the detected alarms Analyze the AskNetwork - Root Cause Analyzer root cause log_message of alarms in device OLT1 ** 32886 REPT ALM ONT "ONT-1-1-1-6-22:MJ, INACT, SA, 3-12, 4-43-Behind لک 26:"OLT1:Signal Degraded from ONT"," ** 32886 REPT ALM ONT "ONT-1-1-1-6-22:MJ,INACT,SA,3-12,4-43-Compares the Extracts the Retrieves the 26:"OLT1:Power Level imbalance"," Notify network Network Prompt the vector with the semantically alarms and outage in device engineer AskNetwork troubleshooting 1. **Signal Degraded from ONT:** logs of the similar trouble (e.g. OLT1) guides, Knowledge - ** Optical Signal Quality:** Poor optical signal quality due to fiber bends, breaks, or dirty device OLT1 shooting base and Standard connectors and converts quides and - **Distance:** The distance between the Optical Network Terminal (ONT) and the Optical Operating SOPs for given it into vector Line Terminal (OLT) may exceed the acceptable range. Procedures (SOP) alarms - **Environmental Factors:** External factors such as temperature fluctuations or moisture in the vector Root Cause ngress affecting the fiber. database Analysis (RCA) of - **Faulty ONT:** The ONT itself may be malfunctioning or misconfigured. - **Interference:** Other electronic devices or networks may be causing interference. the extracted logs 2. **Power Level Imbalance:** - **Fiber Loss:** Excessive loss in the fiber due to bends, splices, or connectors. - ** Split Ratio:** An unbalanced split ratio in the optical splitter can lead to uneven power distribution - **Faulty Components:** Defective splitters, connectors, or patch panels

Recommendations

- Implement a Retrieval-Augmented Generation (RAG) framework to fetch the relevant troubleshooting guides and SOPs
- Leverage vector database to store and facilitate efficient search and retrieval of data
- Continuously monitor the responses from the context-aware root cause analyzer, BLEU, and ROUGE scores to evaluate whether AskNetwork retrieves relevant information from the provided troubleshooting
 guides. This also aids in the quick detection and reduction of hallucinations
- Update the data sources used by the RAG framework by scheduling regular data refreshes
- Design the RAG system architecture to handle scaling up of the network, considering factors like increased data volume and user load

Recommendation engine for automated network outage resolution and reduced Mean Time To Resolve (MTTR)

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Traditional network management has reactive outage resolution, which includes manually diagnosing and fixing network issues after an outage occurs. This results in slower response times, high downtime costs, and increased manual effort for troubleshooting and fixing issues. Implementing a recommendation engine helps with possible solutions for the issue and performs automated actions wherever required, thereby reducing network downtime.



Recommendations

- · Leverage the power of AI agents to automate network actions like health checks and diagnostics, thus enhancing network reliability, performance, and security
- Incorporate a Human-in-the-Loop (HITL) approach for critical network actions like reboots and configuration changes. While AI and automation can handle routine and repetitive tasks efficiently, specific network actions require human intervention to ensure safety, precision, and context-aware decision-making

Business benefits achieved by a leading Telco after successful implementation of AskNetwork

Implementing the key enablers as discussed in this insight resulted in the following benefits



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