## CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A method comprising:

receiving, at a network slicer in a networked system, a first message from a first network node of the networked system;

determining, by the network slicer, a first destination address from the first message, the first destination address corresponding to a first network slice node that is part of a first network slice comprising a first plurality of network elements;

determining, by the network slicer, that ~~if a message type of~~ the first message is a creation request ~~predetermined~~ message ~~type~~;

~~if the determined message type of the first message is not the predetermined message type, routing the first message to a second network node of the networked system associated with the destination address; and~~

~~if the determined message type of the first message is the predetermined message type:~~

determining a destination type from the first message; ~~,~~

identifying~~selecting~~, by the network slicer, ~~a second destination address for the first message~~ based on one or more of a policy of the network slicer or an external policy, a ~~the~~ second ~~destination being associated with a third~~ network slice node of the networked system having the ~~a~~ destination type, wherein the second network slice node is part of a second network slice that is different from the first network slice, the second network slice comprising a second plurality of network elements ; ~~the same as the determined destination type,~~

creating, by the network slicer, a new creation request message, wherein a source address of the new creation request message is a network slicer address, and wherein a destination address of the new creation request message is an address of the second network slice node that is part of the second network slice; ~~predetermined type including the second destination address,~~ and

transmitting ~~routing~~ the new creation request message from the network slicer to the second ~~of the predetermined type to the third~~ network slice node ~~of the networked system associated with the second destination address~~.

~~2. The method of claim 1, wherein the predetermined message type is a creation request message.~~

2.~~3.~~ The method of claim 1, wherein the first network node is one or more of a mobility management entity (MME), a serving general packet radio services (GPRS) support node (SGSN), serving gateway (SGW), enhanced packet data gateway (ePDG), or a trusted WLAN.

3.~~4.~~ The method of claim 1, wherein the determined destination type comprises a gateway general packet radio services (GPRS) support node (GGSN), a serving gateway (SGW), or a packet data network gateway (PGW).

4.~~5.~~ The method of claim 1, wherein identifying ~~the selecting~~ the second ~~destination address for the first message based on the one or more of the policy of the~~ network slice node ~~slicer or the external policy~~ comprises:

determining, by the network slicer, one or more of a throughput capability level of a user equipment (UE) associated with the first message, an enterprise associated with the UE associated with the first message, a traffic speed of the UE associated with the first message, a security level or requirement of the UE associated with the first message, or an employee status of the owner of the UE associated with the first message, and

selecting, by the network slicer, the ~~second~~ destination address associated with one or more of a ~~the~~ capability level of the UE, an ~~the~~ enterprise of the UE, the traffic speed of the UE, the security level or requirement of the UE, or the employee status of the owner of the UE from a plurality of ~~second~~ destination addresses.

5.~~6.~~ The method of claim 1, wherein identifying ~~the selecting~~ the second ~~destination address for the first message based on the one or more of the policy of the~~ network slice node ~~slicer or the external policy~~ comprises determining one or more of an International Mobile Subscriber Identity (IMSI) of a user equipment associated with the first message, location of the user equipment associated with the first message, access point name (APN) associated with the first message, an International Mobile Equipment Identity (IMEI) identification number of the user equipment associated with the first message, a Radio Access Technology type associated with the first message, or a timestamp of the first message.

6.~~7.~~ The method of claim 1, further comprising:

receiving, by the network slicer, a response message from the second ~~third~~ network slice node; and

creating, by the network slicer, a new response message including:

the first destination address corresponding to ~~associated with~~ the first ~~second~~ network slice node as the ~~a~~ source address of the new response message, and

~~an indication of the second destination address associated with the third network node in the~~ message content from ~~of~~ the ~~new~~ response message sent by the second network slice node.

7.~~8.~~ The method of claim 6~~7~~, further comprising:

storing, at the network slicer, one or more of an address associated with the first network node or the destination address prior to the receiving the response message from the second ~~third~~ network slice node; and

deleting, by the network slicer, at least ~~the stored~~ one ~~or more of the~~ address associated with the first network node or the destination address after ~~the creating~~ the new response message is created.

8.~~9.~~ The method of claim 1, further comprising indicating to a next hop router by the network slicer that a router associated with the network slicer has a lower routing cost to a ~~the~~ third ~~second~~ network node than an expected routing cost from other routers in the networked system to the third ~~second~~ network node prior to the receiving the first message, wherein the lower routing cost to the third ~~second~~ network node is lower than an actual routing cost to the third ~~second~~ network node.

9.~~10.~~ A method comprising:

receiving, at a network slicer in a networked system, a creation request message from a first network node, the creation request message having as a first destination address an address associated with the network slicer;

determining a destination type from the creation request message;

selecting, by the network slicer, a second destination address for the creation request message based on one or more of a policy of the network slicer or an external policy, the second destination address being associated with a second network slice node of the networked system having the ~~a~~ destination type, wherein the second network slice node is part of a network slice comprising a plurality of network elements ~~that is the same as the determined destination type~~;

creating, by the network slicer, a new creation request message including ~~the second destination address and the~~ message content from the creation request message, wherein a source address of the new creation request message is a network slicer address, and wherein a destination address of the new creation request message is the second destination address associated with the second network slicer node that is part of the network slice; and

transmitting ~~routing~~ the new creation request message from the network slicer to the second network slice node of the networked system associated with the second destination address.

10.~~11.~~ The method of claim 9~~10~~, further comprising:

receiving, by the network slicer, a response message from the second network slice node; and

creating, by the network slicer, a new response message, wherein a source address ~~including the address associated with the second network node in the message content~~ of the new response message is ~~and the address associated with~~ the network slicer ~~as the source~~ address, wherein a destination address of the new response message is an address of the first network node, and wherein the new response message comprises message content from the response message sent by the second network slice code.

11.~~12.~~ The method of claim 10~~11~~, further comprising:

storing, at the network slicer, one or more of the address associated with the first network node or the second destination address prior to the receiving the response message from the second network slice node; and

deleting, by the network slicer, the stored one or more of the address associated with the first network node or the second destination address after the creating the new response message.

12.~~13.~~ The method of claim 9~~10~~, wherein the first network node is one or more of a mobility management entity (MME), a serving general packet radio services (GPRS) support node (SGSN), serving gateway (SGW), enhanced packet data gateway (ePDG), or a trusted WLAN.

13.~~14.~~ The method of claim 9~~10~~, wherein the determined destination type comprises a gateway general packet radio services (GPRS) support node (GGSN), a serving gateway (SGW), or a packet data network gateway (PGW).

14.~~15.~~ The method of claim 9~~10~~, wherein the selecting the second destination address for the creation request message based on the one or more of the policy of the network slicer or the external policy comprises:

determining, by the network slicer, one or more of a throughput capability level of a user equipment (UE) associated with the creation request ~~first~~ message, an enterprise associated with the UE associated with the creation request ~~first~~ message, a traffic speed of the UE associated with the creation request ~~first~~ message,

a security level or requirement of the UE associated with the creation request ~~first~~ message, or an employee status of an ~~the~~ owner of the UE associated with the creation request ~~first~~ message, and

selecting, by the network slicer, the second destination address associated with one or more of a ~~the~~ capability level of the UE, an ~~the~~ enterprise of the UE, a ~~the~~ traffic speed of the UE, a ~~the~~ security level or requirement of the UE, or an ~~the~~ employee status of an ~~the~~ owner of the UE from a plurality of second destination addresses.

15.~~16.~~ The method of claim 9~~10~~, further comprising indicating to a domain name system of the networked system that the address associated with the network slicer has a higher priority than at least the second network slice node prior to the receiving the creation request message.

16.~~17.~~ A network slicer in a networked system, the network slicer comprising:

a processor; and

a storage medium having instructions contained thereon that cause the processor to ~~perform the following steps~~:

receive, at the network slicer in the networked system, a first message from a

first network node of the networked system;

determine, by the network slicer, a first destination address from the first message, the first destination address corresponding to a first network slice node that is part of a first network slice comprising a first plurality of network elements;

determine, by the network slicer, that ~~if a message type of~~ the first message is a creation request ~~predetermined~~ message ~~type~~;

~~if the determined message type of the first message is not the predetermined message type, route the first message to a second network node of the networked system associated with the destination address; and~~

~~if the determined message type of the first message is the predetermined message type:~~

determine a destination type from the first message;

identify~~select~~, ~~by the network slicer, a second destination address for the first message~~ based on one or more of a policy of the network slicer or an external policy, a ~~the~~ second ~~destination being associated with a third~~ network slice node of the networked system having the ~~a~~ destination type, wherein the second network slice node is part of a second network slice that is different from the first network slice, the second network slice comprising a second plurality of network elements; ~~that is the same as the determined destination type,~~

create, by the network slicer, a new creation request message, wherein a source address of the new creation request message is a network slicer address, and wherein a destination address of the new creation request message is an address of the second network slice node that is part of the second network slice; ~~of the predetermined type including the second destination address,~~ and

transmit ~~route~~ the new creation request message from the network slicer to the second network slice node. ~~of the predetermined type to the third network node of the networked system associated with the second destination address.~~

~~18. The network slicer of claim 17, wherein the predetermined message type is a creation request message.~~

17.~~19.~~ The network slicer of claim 16~~17~~, wherein the first network node is one or more of a mobility management entity (MME), a serving general packet radio services (GPRS) support node (SGSN), serving gateway (SGW), enhanced packet data gateway (ePDG), or a trusted WLAN.

18.~~20.~~ The network slicer of claim 16~~17~~, wherein the determined destination type comprises a gateway general packet radio services (GPRS) support node (GGSN), a serving gateway (SGW), or a packet data network gateway (PGW).

19.~~21.~~ The network slicer of claim 16~~17~~, wherein identifying ~~the selecting~~ the second ~~destination address for the first message based on the one or more of the policy of the~~ network slice node ~~slicer or the external policy~~ comprises causing the processor to:

determine, by the network slicer, one or more of a throughput capability level of a user equipment (UE) associated with the first message, an enterprise associated with the UE associated with the first message, a traffic speed of the UE associated with the first message, a security level or requirement of the UE associated with the first message, or an employee status of the owner of the UE associated with the first message, and

select, by the network slicer, the ~~second~~ destination address associated with one or more of a ~~the~~ capability level of the UE, the enterprise of the UE, the traffic speed of the UE, the security level or requirement of the UE, or the employee status of the owner of the UE from a plurality of ~~second~~ destination addresses.

20.~~22.~~ The network slicer of claim 16~~17~~, wherein identifying ~~the selecting~~ the second ~~destination address for the first message based on the one or more of the policy of the~~ network slice~~r~~ node ~~or the external policy~~ comprises determining one or more of an International Mobile Subscriber Identity (IMSI) of a user equipment associated with the first message, location of the user equipment associated with the first message, access point name (APN) associated with the first message, an International Mobile Equipment Identity (IMEI) identification number of the user equipment associated with the first message, a Radio Access Technology type associated with the first message, or a timestamp of the first message.

21.~~23.~~ The network slicer of claim 16~~17~~, wherein the processor is further caused to:

receive, by the network slicer, a response message from the second ~~third~~ network slice node; and

create, by the network slicer, a new response message including:

the first destination address corresponding to ~~associated with~~ the first ~~second~~ network slice node as a source address of the new response message, and

~~an indication of the second destination address associated with the third network node in the~~ message content from the response message sent by the second network slice node. ~~of the new response message.~~

22.~~24.~~ The network slicer of claim 21~~23~~, ~~wherein the processor is~~ further comprising additional instructions that cause the processor ~~caused~~ to:

store, at the network slicer, one or more of an address associated with the first network node or the destination address prior to the receiving the response message from the second ~~third~~ network slice node; and

delete, by the network slicer, the stored one or more of the address associated with the first network node or the destination address after ~~the creating~~ the new response message is created.

23.~~25.~~ The network slicer of claim 16~~17~~, wherein the processor is further caused to indicate to a next hop router by the network slicer that a router associated with the network slicer has a lower routing cost to a third ~~the second~~ network node than an expected routing cost from other routers in the networked system to the third ~~second~~ network node prior to the receiving the first message, wherein the lower routing cost to the third ~~second~~ network node is lower than an actual routing cost to the third ~~second~~ network node.

24.~~26.~~ A network slicer in a networked system, the network slicer comprising:

a processor; and

a storage medium having instructions contained thereon that cause the processor to ~~perform the following steps~~:

receive, at the network slicer in the networked system, a creation request message from a first network node, the creation request message having as a first destination address an address associated with the network slicer;

determine a destination type from the creation request message;

select, by the network slicer, a second destination address for the creation request message based on one or more of a policy of the network slicer or an external policy, the second destination address being associated with a second network slice node of the networked system having a destination type that is the same as the determined destination type, wherein the second network slice node is part of a network slice comprising a plurality of network elements;

create, by the network slicer, a new creation request message including ~~the second destination address and the~~ message content from the creation request message, wherein a source address of the new creation request message is a network slicer address, and wherein a destination address of the new creation request message is the second destination address associated with the second network slice node that is part of the network slice; and

transmit ~~route~~ the new creation request message from the network slicer to the second network slice node of the networked system associated with the second destination address.

25.~~27.~~ The network slicer of claim 24~~26~~, wherein the processor is further caused to:

receive, by the network slicer, a response message from the second network slice node; and

create, by the network slicer, a new response message, wherein a source address of the new response message is the network slicer ~~including the~~ address, wherein a destination address ~~associated with the second network node in the message content~~ of the new response message is an address of the first network node, and wherein the new response message comprises message content from the response message sent by the second ~~address associated with the~~ network slicer ~~node as the source address~~.

26.~~28.~~ The network slicer of claim 25~~27~~, wherein the processor is further caused to:

store, at the network slicer, one or more of the address associated with the first network node or the second destination address prior to the receiving the response message from the second network slice node; and

delete, by the network slicer, the stored one or more of the address associated with the first network node or the second destination address after the creating the new response message.

27.~~29.~~ The network slicer of claim 24~~26~~, wherein the first network node is one or more of a mobility management entity (MME), a serving general packet radio services (GPRS) support node (SGSN), serving gateway (SGW), enhanced packet data gateway (ePDG), or a trusted WLAN.

28.~~30.~~ The network slicer of claim 24~~26~~, wherein the determined destination type comprises a gateway general packet radio services (GPRS) support node (GGSN), a serving gateway (SGW), or a packet data network gateway (PGW).

29.~~31.~~ The network slicer of claim 24~~26~~, wherein the selecting the second destination address for the creation request message based on the one or more of the policy of the network slicer or the external policy comprises causing the processor to:

determine, by the network slicer, one or more of a throughput capability level of a user equipment (UE) associated with the creation request ~~first~~ message, an enterprise associated with the UE associated with the creation request ~~first~~ message, a traffic speed of the UE associated with the creation request ~~first~~ message, a security level or requirement of the UE associated with the creation request ~~first~~ message, or an employee status of an ~~the~~ owner of the UE associated with the creation request ~~first~~ message, and

select, by the network slicer, the second destination address associated with one or more of a ~~the~~ capability level of the UE, the enterprise of the UE, the traffic speed of the UE, the security level or requirement of the UE, or the employee status of the owner of the UE from a plurality of second destination addresses.

30.~~32.~~ The network slicer of claim 24~~26~~, wherein the processor is further caused to indicate to a domain name system of the networked system that the address associated with the network slicer has a higher priority than at least the second network slice node prior to the receiving the creation request message.