

METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR EFFICIENT ROUTING IN COMMUNICATION NETWORKS

Claim of Priority under 35 U.S.C. §119

[0001] The present Application for Patent claims priority to Provisional Application No. 60/866,364 entitled "METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR ROUTE OPTIMIZATION IN WIRELESS NETWORKS" filed 11/17/2006, and assigned to the assignee hereof and hereby expressly incorporated by reference herein.

BACKGROUND

Field

[0002] The present application relates generally to the operation of data networks, and more particularly, to methods and apparatus for efficient routing in Internet Protocol (IP) based networks.

Background

[0003] Typically, network mobility management protocols result in the flow of traffic via a central entity in the network. For example, the traffic between two mobile stations may be routed through one or more mobility agents. This may result in inefficient traffic flow between the two mobile stations because routing traffic through these centralized entities may introduce transmission latencies.

[0004] Currently, there is no route optimization capability in a network-based mobility management scenario. It is also important that any such route optimization in the case of network-based mobility not involve the mobile node. In fact, since mobility is handled by the network, the mobile node should remain unaware of the mobility.

[0005] Therefore, it would be desirable to have a system that operates to provide route optimization for efficient routing in IP networks so as to avoid transmission latencies associated with convention systems.

SUMMARY

[0006] In one or more aspects, a routing system is provided that comprises methods and apparatus that operate to provide route optimization to establish efficient routing between two nodes in a communication network.

- [0007] In an aspect, a method is provided for traffic routing between first and second nodes in a communication network. The method comprises detecting traffic transmitted between the first and second nodes, transmitting a request to a mobility agent associated with the first node to request authorization for a route optimization between the first and second nodes, receiving a response that authorizes the route optimization, and establishing an optimized route.
- [0008] In an aspect, an apparatus is provided for traffic routing between first and second nodes in a communication network. The apparatus comprises detector logic for detecting traffic transmitted between the first and second nodes, transmitting logic for transmitting a request to a mobility agent associated with the first node to request authorization for a route optimization between the first and second nodes, receiving logic for receiving a response that authorizes the route optimization, and connection logic for establishing an optimized route.
- [0009] In an aspect, an apparatus is provided for traffic routing between first and second nodes in a communication network. The apparatus comprises means for detecting traffic transmitted between the first and second nodes, means for transmitting a request to a mobility agent associated with the first node to request authorization for a route optimization between the first and second nodes, means for receiving a response that authorizes the route optimization, and means for establishing an optimized route.
- [0010] In an aspect, a computer program product is provided for traffic routing between first and second nodes in a communication network. The computer program product comprises a machine-readable medium embodying a first set of codes for causing a computer to detect traffic transmitted between the first and second nodes, a second set of codes for causing the computer to transmit a request to a mobility agent associated with the first node to request authorization for a route optimization between the first and second nodes, a third set of codes for causing the computer to receive a response that authorizes the route optimization, and a fourth set of codes for causing the computer to establish an optimized route.
- [0011] In an aspect, at least one integrated circuit is provided that is configured for providing traffic routing between first and second nodes in a communication network. The at least one integrated circuit comprises a first module configured for detecting traffic transmitted between the first and second nodes, a second module configured for transmitting a request to a mobility agent associated with the first node to request

authorization for a route optimization between the first and second nodes, a third module configured for receiving a response that authorizes the route optimization, and a fourth module configured for establishing an optimized route.

[0012] In an aspect, a method is provided for traffic routing between first and second nodes in a communication network. The method comprises receiving a request for a route optimization between the first and second nodes, wherein the request identifies a proxy agent, transmitting a response that identifies the first and the second nodes, and establishing an optimized route with the proxy agent.

[0013] In an aspect, an apparatus is provided for traffic routing between first and second nodes in a communication network. The apparatus comprises receiving logic configured to receive a request for a route optimization between the first and second nodes, wherein the request identifies a proxy agent, transmitting logic configured to transmit a response that identifies the first and the second nodes, and connection logic configured to establish an optimized route with the proxy agent.

[0014] In an aspect, an apparatus is provided for traffic routing between first and second nodes in a communication network. The apparatus comprises means for receiving a request for a route optimization between the first and second nodes, wherein the request identifies a proxy agent, means for transmitting a response that identifies the first and the second nodes, and means for establishing an optimized route with the proxy agent.

[0015] In an aspect, a computer program product is provided for traffic routing between first and second nodes in a communication network. The computer program product comprises a machine-readable medium embodying a first set of codes for causing a computer to receive a request for a route optimization between the first and second nodes, wherein the request identifies a proxy agent, a second set of codes for causing the computer to transmit a response that identifies the first and the second nodes, and a third set of codes for causing the computer to establish an optimized route with the proxy agent.

[0016] In an aspect, at least one integrated circuit is provided for traffic routing between first and second nodes in a communication network. The at least one integrated circuit comprises a first module for causing a computer to receive a request for a route optimization between the first and second nodes, wherein the request identifies a proxy agent, a second module for causing the computer to transmit a response that identifies

the first and the second nodes, and a third module for causing the computer to establish an optimized route with the proxy agent.

[0017] In an aspect, a method is provided for traffic routing between first and second nodes in a communication network. The method comprises receiving a request for a route optimization between the first and second nodes, transmitting the request to a proxy agent associated with the second node, receiving a first response from the proxy agent associated with the second node, and transmitting a second response to a proxy agent associated with the first node.

[0018] In an aspect, a method is provided for traffic routing between first and second nodes in a communication network. The method comprises detecting traffic transmitted between the first and second nodes, transmitting a first request to a first proxy agent associated with the first node for a route optimization between the first and second nodes, transmitting a second request to a second proxy agent associated with the second node for the route optimization between the first and second nodes, and receiving a response from each proxy agent.

[0019] Other aspects will become apparent after review of the hereinafter set forth Brief Description of the Drawings, Description, and the Claims.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

[0020] The foregoing aspects described herein will become more readily apparent by reference to the following Description when taken in conjunction with the accompanying drawings wherein:

[0021] **FIG. 1** shows a network that provides network-based IP mobility without host involvement;

[0022] **FIG. 2** shows exemplary mobility proxy agent logic for use in aspect of a routing system;

[0023] **FIG. 3** shows a network that illustrates how efficient routing between two mobile stations is provided by aspects of the routing system;

[0024] **FIG. 4** shows a network that illustrates how efficient routing between two mobile stations is provided by aspects of the routing system;

[0025] **FIG. 5** shows a network that illustrates how efficient routing between two mobile stations is provided by aspects of the routing system;

[0026] **FIG. 6** shows signaling diagram that illustrates network signaling provided in aspects of a routing system;

[0027] **FIG. 7** shows a network that illustrates how efficient routing between a mobile station and a fixed Correspondent Node (CN) is provided by aspects of the routing system;

[0028] **FIG. 8** shows signaling diagram that illustrates network signaling provided in aspects of a routing system;

[0029] **FIGS. 9A-B** illustrate routing messages for use in aspects of a routing system; and

[0030] **FIG. 10** shows an example of MPA logic for use in aspects of a routing system.

DESCRIPTION

[0031] In one or more aspects, a routing system is provided that operates to provide route optimization to establish efficient routing in an IP network. The system is well suited for use in wireless network environments, but may be used in any type of network environment, including but not limited to, communication networks, public networks, such as the Internet, private networks, such as virtual private networks (VPN), local area networks, wide area networks, long haul networks, or any other type of data network.

Introduction

[0032] The routing system described below operates to provide efficient routing of traffic between nodes of a network. The system may be implemented as part of any suitable Network-based Local Mobility Management (NETLMM) Protocol. In various aspects, the system operates to set up an optimized route between Mobility Proxy Agents (MPAs) serving two corresponding mobile nodes, thereby allowing the traffic exchanged between the nodes to bypass a Local Mobility Agent (LMA), which is a centralized entity in the mobility management architecture. In various aspects, a mobile node (MN) may also referred to as a mobile station (MS).

[0033] **FIG. 1** shows a network **100** that provides network-based IP mobility without host involvement. The abbreviations shown in **FIG. 1** are defined as follows.

AAAH – Authentication, Authorization and Accounting Home server

AAAL – Authentication, Authorization and Accounting Local server

AR – Access Router

HA – Home Agent

LMA – Local Mobility Agent

MPA – Mobility Proxy Agent

MS – Mobile Station

PoP – Point of Presence

[0034] As illustrated in FIG. 1, as MS **102** moves around the network **100**, its traffic handled by an associated MPA **104** that sets up a tunnel **106** to route traffic through a centralized agent; namely LMA1 **108**. Unfortunately, routing traffic through LMA1 **108** may result in latencies and/or other inefficiencies. In various aspects, the routing system operates to provide traffic routing over the shortest path between two nodes. Since the shortest path routing need not pass through the centralized agent (i.e., a LMA), greater routing efficiency is achieved. In the following description, four scenarios of route optimization for network-based mobility are discussed. It should be noted that the MPA may be also referred to and/or comprise a Mobile Access Gateway (MAG) that operates to route mobile traffic in the network in accordance with the various aspects.

[0035] FIG. 2 shows exemplary mobility proxy agent logic **200** for use in aspect of a routing system. For example, the MPA logic **200** is suitable for use as the MPA **104** shown in FIG. 1. The MPA logic **200** comprises traffic transceiver **202**, routing request transceiver **204**, routing response transceiver **206**, and route connection logic **202** all coupled to a data bus **210**. It should be noted that all of the elements of the MPA **200** comprise logic to allow communication with other entities over a wireless and/or wired network. It should also be noted that the elements of the MPA **200** may send or receive messages in a secure fashion, (e.g., through the use of integrity protection between entities involved in the messaging). For example, messages may be formatted, encoded, and/or encrypted using any suitable technique or process.

[0036] The traffic transceiver **202** comprises at least one of a CPU, processor, gate array, hardware logic, memory elements, and/or hardware executing software. The traffic transceiver **202** operates to convey traffic between mobile stations and other network entities, such as other mobile stations or other types of nodes. In an aspect, the traffic transceiver **202** comprises detector logic that operates to detect tunneled traffic between a selected mobile station and other network entities. For example, the detector logic may detect tunneled packets transmitted to or from a mobile station. When such traffic is detected, an indication is send to the routing request transceiver **204**.

[0037] The routing request transceiver **204** comprises at least one of a CPU, processor, gate array, hardware logic, memory elements, and/or hardware executing software. The routing request transceiver **204** operates to generate, send, and receive route optimization requests to and from various network entities. In an aspect, the route optimization requests are formatted as illustrated in **FIGS. 9A-B**. The routing request transceiver **204** comprises transmitting logic that is configured to transmit route optimization requests to network entities, such as local mobility agents. In this case, the transmitted route optimization request comprises the identity of two nodes, such as two mobile stations, for which an optimized route is being requested.

[0038] In an aspect, the routing request transceiver **204** comprises receiving logic that is configured to receive route optimization requests from other network entities, such as local mobility agents. In an aspect, the received the route optimization requests identify two nodes for which an optimized route is being requested, and a MPA associated with one of the nodes. For example, the received route optimization request identifies a first mobile station, a second mobile station, and a MPA associates with the first mobile station.

[0039] The routing response transceiver **206** comprises at least one of a CPU, processor, gate array, hardware logic, memory elements, and/or hardware executing software. The routing response transceiver **206** operates to generate, send, and receive route optimization responses to and from various network entities. In an aspect, the route optimization responses are formatted as illustrated in **FIGS. 9A-B**. The routing response transceiver **206** comprises transmitting logic that is configured to transmit route optimization responses to network entities, such as local mobility agents. In an aspect, the transmitted route optimization responses comprise the identity of two nodes, such as two mobile stations, for which an optimized route is being requested.

[0040] In an aspect, the routing response transceiver **206** comprises receiving logic that is configured to receive route optimization responses from other network entities, such as local mobility agents. In an aspect, the received route optimization responses identify two nodes for which a route optimization is being requested, and a MPA associated with one of the nodes. For example, the received route optimization responses identify a first mobile station, a second mobile station, and a MPA associates with the second mobile station.

[0041] The route connection logic **208** comprises at least one of a CPU, processor, gate array, hardware logic, memory elements, and/or hardware executing software. The route connection logic **208** operates to establish optimized routing between MPAs to allow two nodes to efficiently communicate. For example, the route connection logic **208** communicates with similar logic at another MPA to establish an optimized routing path that directly links two MPAs. This optimized link avoids traffic routing through centralized LMAs which improves routing efficiency. In an aspect, the route connection logic **208** operates to route traffic over the established optimized route.

[0042] In an aspect, the routing system comprises a computer program product comprising one or more program instructions (“instructions”) or sets of “codes” stored or embodied on a machine-readable medium, which when executed by at least one processor, for instance, a processor at the MPA logic **200**, provides the functions described herein. For example, the sets of codes may be loaded into the MPA logic **200** from a machine-readable medium, such as a floppy disk, CDROM, memory card, FLASH memory device, RAM, ROM, or any other type of machine-readable medium that interfaces to the MPA logic **200**. In another aspect, the sets of codes may be downloaded into the MPA logic **200** from an external device or network resource. The sets of codes, when executed, provide aspects of a routing system as described herein.

Efficient Routing Within One Mobility Proxy Agent

[0043] **FIG. 3** shows a network **300** that illustrates how efficient routing between two mobile stations is provided by aspects of the routing system. For example, the network **300** illustrates how an efficient (or optimized) route is established between two mobile stations (**302**, **304**) associated with one MPA.

[0044] The two mobile stations (**302**, **304**) communicate under the control of the same MPA; namely MPA1 **306**. Communications between the two mobile stations (**302**, **304**) may occur under the control of a central LMA1 **308**. However, routing traffic through LMA1 **308** may not be very efficient. In an aspect, the MPA1 **306** operates to route traffic packets directly between the mobile stations (**302**, **304**), as shown by route **310**. In an aspect, the MPA1 **306** may need to request authorization from the LMA1 **308** to establish the efficient route **310**. Once authorization is received, the efficient route **310** is established so that traffic will be routed between the two mobile stations (**302**, **304**) without having to pass through the centralized LMA1 **308**.

Efficient Routing Within One Network Domain

[0045] FIG. 4 shows a network 400 that illustrates how efficient routing between two mobile stations is provided by aspects of the routing system. For example, the network 400 illustrates how an efficient (or optimized) route is established between two mobile stations (402, 404) within one network domain.

[0046] The two mobile stations (402, 404) communicate under the control of MPA1 406, and MPA2 408, respectively. Traffic between the two mobile stations (402, 404) may be routed through LMA1 410. However, routing traffic through LMA1 410 may not be very efficient. In an aspect, the MPA1 406 and MPA2 408 operate to communicate with the LMA1 410 to establish more efficient routing. In an aspect, the MPA1 406 and MPA2 408 request authorization from the LMA1 410 to establish more efficient traffic routing. Once authorization is received, the two MPAs (402, 404) communicate with each other to establish the efficient route 412 so that traffic will be routed directly between the two MPAs (402, 404).

Efficient Routing Across Network Domains

[0047] FIG. 5 shows a network 500 that illustrates how efficient routing between two mobile stations is provided by aspects of the routing system. For example, the network 500 illustrates how an efficient (or optimized) route is established between two mobile stations (502, 504) across Network domains.

[0048] The two mobile stations (502, 504) communicate under the control of MPA1 506, and MPA2 508, respectively. The MPA1 506 is associated with LMA1 510 and the MPA2 508 is associated with the LMA2 512. Traffic between the two mobile stations (502, 505) may be routed through their associated LMAs. However, routing traffic through the LMAs may not be very efficient. In an aspect, the MPA1 506 and MPA2 508 operate to communicate with their respective LMAs to establish more efficient routing. In an aspect, the MPA1 506 and MPA2 508 request authorization from the LMA1 510 and LMA2 512, respectively, to establish more efficient traffic routing. Once authorization is received, the MPA1 506 and MPA2 508 communicate with each other to establish the efficient route 514 so that traffic will be routed directly between the two MPAs (506, 508) without passing through the LMAs (510, 512).

Network Signaling for Efficient Routing Between Mobile Stations

- [0049] FIG. 6 shows signaling diagram 600 that illustrates network signaling provided in aspects of a routing system. For clarity, the signaling diagram 600 is discussed below with reference to the network 500 of FIG. 5. Furthermore, it will be assumed that the MPAs 506 and 508 are configured as the MPA 200 shown in FIG. 2. The signaling diagram 600 shows network signaling provided to enable efficient routing of traffic between the mobile stations 502 and 504. It should be noted that although the signaling diagram 600 is discussed with reference to FIG. 5, minor modifications may be made to obtain network signaling to provide efficient routing for the network configurations illustrated in FIG. 3 and FIG. 4 as well. It should also be noted that the signaling described with reference to FIG. 6 may be performed in a secure fashion, (e.g., through the use of integrity protection between entities involved in the messaging). For example, messages may be formatted, encoded, and/or encrypted using any suitable technique or process.
- [0050] The signaling diagram 600 illustrates signaling between the MPA1 506, the LMA1 510 that is associated with MPA1 506, the MPA2 508, and the LMA2 512 that is associated with MPA2 508. In an aspect, the following operations are performed.
- [0051] At 602, tunneled packets transmitted between the first and second mobile stations (502, 504) are detected by the MPA1 506. In an aspect, the detector logic of the traffic transceiver 202 operates to detect the tunneled packets.
- [0052] At 604, a route optimization request is transmitted from the MPA1 506 to the LMA1 510. In an aspect, the routing request transceiver 204 operates to transmit the route optimization request to the LMA1 510. The route optimization request identifies the MS1 502 and the MS2 504.
- [0053] At 606, the LMA1 510 authorizes the routing optimization and at 608, identifies LMA2 512 from the request message.
- [0054] At 610, a route optimization request is transmitted from LMA1 510 to LMA2 512. The request identifies MS1 502, MS2 504, and MPA1 506.
- [0055] At 612, the LMA2 512 authorizes the routing optimization and at 614, identifies MPA2 508 from the request message.

- [0056] At **616**, a route optimization request is transmitted to MPA2 **508** that identifies MS1 **502**, MS2 **504**, and MPA1 **506**. In an aspect, the route optimization request is received at the MPA2 **508** by the routing request transceiver **204**.
- [0057] At **618**, a route optimization response message is transmitted from the MPA2 **508** to the LMA2 **512** that acknowledges the routing optimization. In an aspect, the route optimization response is transmitted by the routing response transceiver **206**.
- [0058] At **620**, the route optimization response message is transmitted from the LMA2 **512** to the LMA1 **510** to acknowledge the routing optimization. The route optimization response message identifies MS1 **502**, MS2, **504**, and MPA2 **508**.
- [0059] At **622**, the route optimization response message is transmitted from the LMA1 **510** to the MPA1 **506** to acknowledge the routing optimization.
- [0060] At **624**, the MPA1 **506** communicates with the MPA2 **508** to establish an optimized routing for traffic between MS1 **502** and MS2 **504**. In an aspect, the route connection logic **208** operates to establish the routing connection between the MPA1 **506** and the MPA2 **508**. In the optimized routing, traffic is routed directly between the MPA1 **506** and MPA2 **508** without having to be routed through LMA1 **510** or LMA2 **512**. In an aspect, route connection logic **208** operates to route the traffic over the optimized route **624**.
- [0061] Thus, the signaling diagram **600** operates to provide aspects of a routing system to establish efficient routing in a wireless network. It should be noted that the signaling diagram **600** represents just one implementation and that other implementations are possible within the scope of the aspects.

Alternative Network Signaling

- [0062] In various aspects, the signaling diagram **600** can be modified to provide network signaling to support the network configurations illustrated in **FIG. 3** and **FIG. 4**. In these configurations, two mobile stations are associated with a single LMA (i.e., LMA1).
- [0063] With respect to the network configuration of **FIG. 3**, the signaling diagram **600** is modified so as to remove the operations of **608** through **620**. Once the LMA1 receives the route optimization request **604**, it authorizes the optimization at **606**, and then transmits the route optimization response at **622**. The MPA1 then provides the optimized route **310** shown in **FIG. 3**.

[0064] With respect to the network configuration shown in **FIG. 4**, the signaling diagram **600** is modified to remove communications to LMA2. The LMA1 transmits the route optimization request **610** to the MPA2, and the MPA2 transmits its route optimization response message **618** back to LMA1. The other signaling shown in **FIG. 6** remains the same, and the result is that the optimized route **412** shown in **FIG. 4** is established between MPA1 and MPA2.

[0065] In another aspect, the signaling diagram **600** can be modified to support a network configuration where an LMA initiates the route optimization process. In this configuration, the LMA1 **510** is configured like the MPA **200** shown in **FIG. 2**. The signaling diagram **600** is then modified to remove the operations at **602** and **604**. These operations are replaced by operations **626**. In operations **626**, the LMA1 operates to detect tunneled packets **628** associated with a mobile station, authorizes route optimization at **606**, and transmit a route optimization request message **630** to MPA1. In response to the route optimization request message **630**, the MPA1 transmits a response message **632**. The remaining operations of the signaling diagram **600** remain the same. For example, the MPA2 also transmits a response message **618** that is received by the LMA1 **510** as shown at **620**. As a result, the LMA1 operates to initiate the route optimization process to establish the route optimized path **624**.

Efficient Routing to a Fixed Correspondent Node

[0066] **FIG. 7** shows a network **700** that illustrates how efficient routing between a mobile station and a fixed Correspondent Node (CN) is provided by aspects of the routing system. For example, the network **700** illustrates how an efficient (or optimized) route is established between the mobile station **702** and the fixed CN **704**.

[0067] The mobile station **702** communicates in the network **700** under the control of MPA1 **706**, which is associated with LMA1 **708**. The CN **704** communicates in the network **700** under the control of a network routing agent (NRA) **710**. In an aspect, the MPA1 **706** and NRA **710** are configured as the MPA **200** shown in **FIG. 2**. Traffic between the mobile station **702** and the CN **704** may be routed through the LMA1 **708**. However, routing traffic through LMA1 **708** may not be very efficient. In an aspect, the MPA1 **706** and the NRA **710** operate to establish more efficient routing. To do this, the MPA1 **706** and the NRA **710** obtain authorization from the LMA1 **708** to establish more efficient traffic routing. Once authorization is received, the efficient route **712** is

established so that traffic will be routed directly between the MPA **706** and the NRA **710** while bypassing LMA1 **708**.

Network Signaling for Efficient Routing to Fixed Correspondent Nodes

- [0068] **FIG. 8** shows signaling diagram **800** that illustrates network signaling provided in aspects of a routing system. For clarity, the signaling diagram **800** is discussed below with reference to the network **700** of **FIG. 7**. Furthermore, it will be assumed that the MPA **706** and NRA **710** are configured as the MPA **200** shown in **FIG. 2**. However, since packets set to and from the NRA **710** are not tunneled, the NRA **710** may not be configured to initiate route optimization. For example, the NRA **710** may not be aware that the CN **704** is corresponding with a mobile node that is using NETLMM protocols. Thus, it will be assumed that the MPA **706** initiates route optimization.
- [0069] The signaling diagram **800** shows network signaling provided to enable efficient routing of traffic between the mobile station **702** and the CN **704**. The signaling diagram **800** illustrates signaling between the MPA1 **706**, the LMA1 **708**, and the NRA **710**. In an aspect, the following operations are performed.
- [0070] At **802**, tunneled packets transmitted between the MS **702** and the CN **704** are detected by the MPA1 **706**. In an aspect, the detector logic of the traffic transceiver **202** operates to detect the tunneled packets.
- [0071] At **804**, a routing optimization request is transmitted from the MPA1 **706** to the LMA1 **708**. In an aspect, the routing request transceiver **204** operates to transmit the routing optimization request to the LMA1 **708**. The routing request identifies the MS **702** and the CN **704**.
- [0072] At **806**, the LMA1 **708** authorizes the routing optimization, and at **808**, identifies the NRA **710** from the request message.
- [0073] At **810**, a routing optimization request is transmitted from LMA1 **708** to the NRA **710**. The request identifies MS1 **702**, CN **704**, and MPA1 **706**.
- [0074] At **812**, the NRA **710** authorizes the requested optimized routing.
- [0075] At **814**, a routing optimization response message is transmitted from the NRA **710** that acknowledges the routing optimization and identifies the MS **702** and the CN **704**.

- [0076] At **816**, a routing optimization response message is transmitted from the LMA1 **708** to the MPA1 **706** that acknowledges the routing optimization. The response message identifies the MS **702**, CN **704**, and the NRA **710**.
- [0077] At **818**, the MPA1 **706** communicates with the NRA **710** to establish an optimized routing for traffic between MS1 **702** and the CN **704**. In an aspect, the route connection logic **208** operates to establish the routing connection between the MPA1 **706** and the NRA **710**. In the optimized routing, traffic is routed directly between the MPA1 **706** and NRA **710** without having to be routed through LMA1 **708**.
- [0078] Thus, the signaling diagram **800** operates to provide aspects of a routing system to establish efficient routing in a wireless network. It should be noted that the signaling diagram **800** represents just one implementation and that other implementations are possible within the scope of the aspects.
- [0079] FIGS. **9A-B** illustrate request and response messages for use in aspects of a routing system. A route optimization request message **902** is shown in FIG. **9A**. In an aspect, the route optimization request message **902** is generated by and transmitted from the routing request transceiver **204**. In another aspect, the route optimization request message is received by the routing request transceiver **204**. The route optimization request message **902** identifies a first node **904** and a second node **906** between which an optimized routing path is desired. For example, the first and second node identifiers (**904**, **906**) may identify mobile stations or fixed correspondent nodes.
- [0080] FIG. **9B** shows a route optimization response message **908**. In an aspect, the route optimization response message **908** is generated and transmitted by routing response transceiver **206**. In another aspect, the route optimization response message **908** may be received by the routing request transceiver **204**. The routing message **908** comprises node identifiers **910** and **912**, and an agent identifier **914**. In an aspect, the node identifiers **910** and **912** may identify mobile stations or fixed CNs, and the agent identifier **914** may identify MPAs or NRAs. It should be noted that the messages shown in FIGS. **9A-B** may be formatted in any suitable format, scrambled or encrypted, and transmitted over a network using any desired transmission mechanism.
- [0081] FIG. **10** shows an example of MPA logic **1000** for use in aspects of a routing system. For example, the MPA logic **1000** is suitable for use as the MPA logic **200** shown in FIG. **2**. In an aspect, the MPA logic **1000** is implemented by at least one

integrated circuit comprising one or more modules configured to provide aspects of a routing system as described herein.

[0082] The MPA logic **1000** comprises a first module comprising means (**1002**) for detecting traffic transmitted between the first and second nodes. In an aspect, the means **1002** comprises the traffic transceiver **202**. The MPA logic **1000** also comprises a second module comprising means (**1004**) for transmitting a request to a mobility agent associated with the first node to request authorization for a route optimization between the first and second nodes. In an aspect, the means **1004** comprises the routing request transceiver **204**. The MPA logic **1000** also comprises a third module comprising means (**1006**) for receiving a response that authorizes the route optimization and identifies a proxy agent associated with the second node. In an aspect, the means **1006** comprises the routing response transceiver **206**. The MPA logic **1000** also comprises a fourth module comprising means (**1008**) for establishing an optimized route with the proxy agent. In an aspect, the means **1008** comprises the route connection logic **208**.

[0083] The various illustrative logics, logical blocks, modules, and circuits described in connection with the aspects disclosed herein may be implemented or performed with a general purpose processor, a digital signal processor (DSP), an application specific integrated circuit (ASIC), a field programmable gate array (FPGA) or other programmable logic device, discrete gate or transistor logic, discrete hardware components, or any combination thereof designed to perform the functions described herein. A general-purpose processor may be a microprocessor, but, in the alternative, the processor may be any conventional processor, controller, microcontroller, or state machine. A processor may also be implemented as a combination of computing devices, e.g., a combination of a DSP and a microprocessor, a plurality of microprocessors, one or more microprocessors in conjunction with a DSP core, or any other such configuration.

[0084] The steps of a method or algorithm described in connection with the aspects disclosed herein may be embodied directly in hardware, in a software module executed by a processor, or in a combination of the two. A software module may reside in RAM memory, flash memory, ROM memory, EPROM memory, EEPROM memory, registers, a hard disk, a removable disk, a CD-ROM, or any other form of storage medium known in the art. An exemplary storage medium is coupled to the processor, such that the processor can read information from, and write information to, the storage medium. In

the alternative, the storage medium may be integral to the processor. The processor and the storage medium may reside in an ASIC. The ASIC may reside in a user terminal. In the alternative, the processor and the storage medium may reside as discrete components in a user terminal.

[0085] The description of the disclosed aspects is provided to enable any person skilled in the art to make or use the present invention. Various modifications to these aspects may be readily apparent to those skilled in the art, and the generic principles defined herein may be applied to other aspects, e.g., in an instant messaging service or any general wireless data communication applications, without departing from the spirit or scope of the invention. Thus, the present invention is not intended to be limited to the aspects shown herein but is to be accorded the widest scope consistent with the principles and novel features disclosed herein. The word “exemplary” is used exclusively herein to mean “serving as an example, instance, or illustration.” Any aspect described herein as “exemplary” is not necessarily to be construed as preferred or advantageous over other aspects.

[0086] Accordingly, while aspects of a routing system have been illustrated and described herein, it will be appreciated that various changes can be made to the aspects without departing from their spirit or essential characteristics. Therefore, the disclosures and descriptions herein are intended to be illustrative, but not limiting, of the scope of the invention, which is set forth in the following claims.

CLAIMS

1. A method for traffic routing between first and second nodes in a communication network, the method comprising:
 - detecting traffic transmitted between the first and second nodes;
 - transmitting a request to a mobility agent associated with the first node to request authorization for a route optimization between the first and second nodes;
 - receiving a response that authorizes the route optimization; and
 - establishing an optimized route.
2. The method of claim 1, further comprising:
 - receiving the response that authorizes the route optimization, wherein the response identifies a proxy agent associated with the second node; and
 - establishing the optimized route with the proxy agent.
3. The method of claim 1, wherein said detecting comprises detecting one or more tunneled packets transmitted between the first and second nodes.
4. The method of claim 1, wherein said transmitting comprises generating the request to comprise a first identifier associated with the first node and a second identifier associated with the second node.
5. The method of claim 1, wherein said receiving comprises receiving the response from the mobility agent.
6. The method of claim 1, wherein said establishing comprises routing the traffic between the first and second nodes over the optimized route.
7. An apparatus for traffic routing between first and second nodes in a communication network, the apparatus comprising:
 - detector logic for detecting traffic transmitted between the first and second nodes;

transmitting logic for transmitting a request to a mobility agent associated with the first node to request authorization for a route optimization between the first and second nodes;

receiving logic for receiving a response that authorizes the route optimization;
and

connection logic for establishing an optimized route.

8. The apparatus of claim 7, wherein said receiving logic is configured to receive the response that authorizes the route optimization, wherein the response identifies a proxy agent associated with the second node, and said connection logic is configured to establish the optimized route with the proxy agent.

9. The apparatus of claim 7, wherein said detector logic is configured to detect one or more tunneled packets transmitted between the first and second nodes.

10. The apparatus of claim 7, wherein said transmitting logic is configured to format the request to comprise a first identifier associated with the first node and a second identifier associated with the second node.

11. The apparatus of claim 7, wherein said receiving logic is configured to receive the response from the mobility agent.

12. The apparatus of claim 7, wherein said connection logic is configured to route the traffic between the first and second nodes over the optimized route.

13. An apparatus for traffic routing between first and second nodes in a communication network, the apparatus comprising:

means for detecting traffic transmitted between the first and second nodes;

means for transmitting a request to a mobility agent associated with the first node to request authorization for a route optimization between the first and second nodes;

means for receiving a response that authorizes the route optimization; and

means for establishing an optimized route.

14. The apparatus of claim 13, further comprising:
means for receiving the response that authorizes the route optimization, wherein the response identifies a proxy agent associated with the second node; and
means for establishing the optimized route with the proxy agent.

15. The apparatus of claim 13, wherein said means for detecting comprises means for detecting one or more tunneled packets transmitted between the first and second nodes.

16. The apparatus of claim 13, wherein said means for transmitting comprises means for generating the request to comprise a first identifier associated with the first node and a second identifier associated with the second node.

17. The apparatus of claim 13, wherein said means for receiving comprises means for receiving the response from the mobility agent.

18. The apparatus of claim 13, wherein said means for establishing comprises means for routing the traffic between the first and second nodes over the optimized route.

19. A computer program product for traffic routing between first and second nodes in a communication network, the computer program product comprising:

a machine-readable medium embodying:

a first set of codes for causing a computer to detect traffic transmitted between the first and second nodes;

a second set of codes for causing the computer to transmit a request to a mobility agent associated with the first node to request authorization for a route optimization between the first and second nodes;

a third set of codes for causing the computer to receive a response that authorizes the route optimization; and

a fourth set of codes for causing the computer to establish an optimized route.

20. The machine-readable medium of claim 19, wherein the third set of codes are configured to cause the computer to receive the response that authorizes the route optimization, wherein the response identifies a proxy agent associated with the second node, and the fourth set of codes are configured to cause the computer to establish the optimized route with the proxy agent.

21. The machine-readable medium of claim 19, wherein said first set of codes are configured to cause the computer to detect one or more tunneled packets transmitted between the first and second nodes.

22. The machine-readable medium of claim 19, wherein said second set of codes are configured to cause the computer to generate the request to comprise a first identifier associated with the first node and a second identifier associated with the second node.

23. The machine-readable medium of claim 19, wherein said third set of codes are configured to cause the computer to receive the response from the mobility agent.

24. The machine-readable medium of claim 19, wherein said fourth set of codes are configured to cause the computer to route the traffic between the first and second nodes over the optimized route.

25. At least one integrated circuit configured for providing traffic routing between first and second nodes in a communication network, the at least one integrated circuit comprising:

- a first module configured for detecting traffic transmitted between the first and second nodes;

- a second module configured for transmitting a request to a mobility agent associated with the first node to request authorization for a route optimization between the first and second nodes;

- a third module configured for receiving a response that authorizes the route optimization; and

a fourth module configured for establishing an optimized route.

26. The at least one integrated circuit of claim 25, wherein said third module is configured for receiving the response that authorizes the route optimization, wherein the response identifies a proxy agent associated with the second node, and said fourth module is configured for establishing the optimized route with the proxy agent.

27. The at least one integrated circuit of claim 25, wherein said first module is configured for detecting one or more tunneled packets transmitted between the first and second nodes.

28. The at least one integrated circuit of claim 25, wherein said second module is configured for generating the request to comprise a first identifier associated with the first node and a second identifier associated with the second node.

29. The at least one integrated circuit of claim 25, wherein said third module is configured for receiving the response from the mobility agent.

30. The at least one integrated circuit of claim 25, wherein said fourth module is configured for routing the traffic between the first and second nodes over the optimized route.

31. A method for traffic routing between first and second nodes in a communication network, the method comprising:

receiving a request for a route optimization between the first and second nodes, wherein the request identifies a proxy agent;
transmitting a response that identifies the first and the second nodes; and
establishing an optimized route with the proxy agent.

32. The method of claim 31, wherein said receiving comprises receiving the request from a mobility agent.

33. The method of claim 31, wherein said transmitting comprises transmitting a first identifier associated with the first node and a second identifier associated with the second node.

34. The method of claim 31, wherein said transmitting comprises transmitting the response to a mobility agent.

35. The method of claim 31, wherein said establishing comprises routing the traffic between the first and second nodes over the optimized route.

36. The method of claim 31, wherein said receiving comprises receiving the request for the route optimization, wherein the request identifies a network routing agent (NRA), and said establishing comprises establishing the optimized route with the NRA.

37. An apparatus for traffic routing between first and second nodes in a communication network, the apparatus comprising:
receiving logic configured to receive a request for a route optimization between the first and second nodes, wherein the request identifies a proxy agent;
transmitting logic configured to transmit a response that identifies the first and the second nodes; and
connection logic configured to establish an optimized route with the proxy agent.

38. The apparatus of claim 31, wherein said receiving logic is configured to receive the request from a mobility agent.

39. The apparatus of claim 31, wherein said transmitting logic is configured to transmit a first identifier associated with the first node and a second identifier associated with the second node.

40. The apparatus of claim 31, wherein said transmitting logic is configured to transmit the response to a mobility agent.

41. The apparatus of claim 31, wherein said connection logic is configured to route the traffic between the first and second nodes over the optimized route.

42. The apparatus of claim 31, wherein the proxy agent is a network routing agent (NRA).

43. An apparatus for traffic routing between first and second nodes in a communication network, the apparatus comprising:

means for receiving a request for a route optimization between the first and second nodes, wherein the request identifies a proxy agent;

means for transmitting a response that identifies the first and the second nodes; and

means for establishing an optimized route with the proxy agent.

44. The apparatus of claim 43, wherein said means for receiving comprises means for receiving the request from a mobility agent.

45. The apparatus of claim 43, wherein said means for transmitting comprises means for transmitting a first identifier associated with the first node and a second identifier associated with the second node.

46. The apparatus of claim 43, wherein said means for transmitting comprises means for transmitting the response to a mobility agent.

47. The apparatus of claim 43, wherein said means for establishing comprises means for routing the traffic between the first and second nodes over the optimized route.

48. The apparatus of claim 43, wherein said means for receiving comprises means for receiving the request for the route optimization between the first and second nodes, wherein the request identifies a network routing agent (NRA), and said means for establishing comprises means for establishing the optimized route with the NRA.

49. A computer program product for traffic routing between first and second nodes in a communication network, the computer program product comprising:

a machine-readable medium embodying:

a first set of codes for causing a computer to receive a request for a route optimization between the first and second nodes, wherein the request identifies a proxy agent;

a second set of codes for causing the computer to transmit a response that identifies the first and the second nodes; and

a third set of codes for causing the computer to establish an optimized route with the proxy agent.

50. The machine-readable medium of claim 49, wherein said first set of codes are configured to cause the computer to receive the request from a mobility agent.

51. The machine-readable medium of claim 49, wherein said second set of codes are configured to cause the computer to transmit a first identifier associated with the first node and a second identifier associated with the second node.

52. The machine-readable medium of claim 49, wherein said second set of codes are configured to cause the computer to transmit the response to a mobility agent.

53. The machine-readable medium of claim 49, wherein said third set of codes are configured to cause the computer to route the traffic between the first and second nodes over the optimized route.

54. The machine-readable medium of claim 49, wherein said first set of codes are configured to cause the computer to receive the request for the route optimization between the first and second nodes, wherein the request identifies a network routing agent (NRA), and said third set of codes are configured to cause the computer to establish the optimized route with the NRA.

55. At least one integrated circuit for traffic routing between first and second nodes in a communication network, the at least one integrated circuit comprising:

a first module for causing a computer to receive a request for a route optimization between the first and second nodes, wherein the request identifies a proxy agent;

a second module for causing the computer to transmit a response that identifies the first and the second nodes; and

a third module for causing the computer to establish an optimized route with the proxy agent.

56. The at least one integrated circuit of claim 55, wherein said first module is configured for receiving the request from a mobility agent.

57. The at least one integrated circuit of claim 55, wherein said second module is configured for transmitting a first identifier associated with the first node and a second identifier associated with the second node.

58. The at least one integrated circuit of claim 55, wherein said second module is configured for transmitting the response to a mobility agent.

59. The at least one integrated circuit of claim 55, wherein said third module is configured for routing the traffic between the first and second nodes over the optimized route.

60. The at least one integrated circuit of claim 55, wherein said first module is configured for receiving the request for the route optimization between the first and second nodes, wherein the request identifies a network routing agent (NRA), and said third module is configured for establishing the optimized route with the NRA.

61. A method for traffic routing between first and second nodes in a communication network, the method comprising:
receiving a request for a route optimization between the first and second nodes;
transmitting the request to a proxy agent associated with the second node;

receiving a first response from the proxy agent associate with the second node;
and
transmitting a second response to a proxy agent associated with the first node.

62. The method of claim 61, further comprising authorizing the route optimization.

63. The method of claim 61, further comprising generating the second response to be identical to the first response.

64. The method of claim 61, wherein the proxy agent associated with the second node is a network routing agent (NRA).

65. A method for traffic routing between first and second nodes in a communication network, the method comprising:
detecting traffic transmitted between the first and second nodes;
transmitting a first request to a first proxy agent associated with the first node for a route optimization between the first and second nodes;
transmitting a second request to a second proxy agent associated with the second node for the route optimization between the first and second nodes; and
receiving a response from each proxy agent.

66. The method of claim 65, further comprising authorizing the route optimization.

67. The method of claim 65, wherein the second proxy agent is a network routing agent (NRA).

68. The method of claim 65, wherein said transmitting the first request comprises generating the first request to comprise an identifier of the second proxy agent, and wherein said transmitting the second request comprises generating the second request to comprise an identifier of the first proxy agent.