Claims

1. A method comprising:

receiving routing data by a routing element of a point to point wireless network, the routing data comprising routing criteria and a plurality of path identifiers which identify a plurality of paths through the point to point wireless network;

storing the routing data by the routing element;

receiving a packet of data;

determining a destination node of the packet of data, the destination node being identified using the routing data as accessible by two or more paths of the plurality of paths;

determining, based on the routing criteria of the routing data, at least one path of the plurality of paths to transmit the packet of data to reach the destination node; and

transmitting the packet of data to a first node of the determined at least one path of the point to point wireless network.

2. The method of claim 1, wherein the routing criteria comprises a rule to transmit over a second path of the plurality of paths if a first path of the plurality of paths is not functional.

3. The method of claim 1, wherein the routing criteria comprises a rule to transmit over a second path of the plurality of paths if a first path of the plurality of paths is congested.

4. The method of claim 3, further comprising determining, by the ~~network~~ routing element, congestion of the first path by tracking network traffic transmitted from the ~~network~~ routing element to one or more nodes of the first path.

5. The method of claim 4, wherein determining, based on the routing criteria of the routing data, at least one path of the plurality of paths to transmit the packet of data comprises determining to transmit the packet of data over a second path of the plurality of paths when congestion of the first path exceeds a predetermined limit.

6. The method of claim 1, wherein the routing criteria comprises a capacity of the destination node associated with a first path of the plurality of paths.

7. The method of claim 6, wherein determining, based on the routing criteria of the routing data, at least one path of the plurality of paths to transmit the packet of data comprises determining to transmit the packet of data over a second path of the plurality of paths based on an amount of traffic reaching the capacity of the destination node associated with the first path of the plurality of paths.

8. The method of claim 1, wherein the routing criteria comprises a time of day when at least one path of the plurality of paths may be congested.

9. The method of claim 1, wherein the routing criteria comprises a performance metric.

10. The method of claim 9, wherein determining, based on the routing criteria of the routing data, at least one path of the plurality of paths to transmit the packet of data comprises determining to transmit the packet of data over a second path of the plurality of paths when a path performance value of a first path of the plurality of paths falls below the performance metric.

11. The method of claim 1, wherein each path of the plurality of paths comprises a VLAN.

12. The method of claim 1, wherein the point to point wireless network comprises an MPLS network.

13. The method of claim 1, wherein the point to point wireless network is a microwave network.

14. The method of claim 1, wherein the point to point wireless network is a backhaul for a cellular communication network.

15. The method of claim 1, wherein the point to point wireless network is a WiMax network.

16. A ~~point to point wireless network~~ system comprising:

a network interface configured to receive routing data of a point to point wireless network, the routing data comprising routing criteria and a plurality of path identifiers which identify a plurality of paths through the point to point wireless network and configured to receive a packet of data;

a storage configured to store the routing data;

a data module configured to determine a destination node of the packet of data, the destination node being identified as accessible by two or more paths of the plurality of paths;

a routing module configured to determine, based on the routing criteria of the routing data, at least one path of the plurality of paths to transmit the packet of data to reach the destination node; and

a transmission module configured to transmit the packet of data to a first node of the determined at least one path of the point to point wireless network.

17. The system of claim 16, wherein the routing criteria comprises a rule to transmit over a second path of the plurality of paths if a first path of the plurality of paths is not functional.

18. The system of claim 16, wherein the routing criteria comprises a rule to transmit over a second path of the plurality of paths if a first path of the plurality of paths is congested.

19. The system of claim 18, further comprising a congestion module configured to determine congestion of the first path by tracking network traffic transmitted from the ~~network~~ routing element to one or more nodes of the first path.

20. The system of claim 19, wherein the routing module configured to determine, based on the routing criteria of the routing data, at least one path of the plurality of paths to transmit the packet of data comprises the routing module configured to determine to transmit the packet of data over a second path of the plurality of paths when congestion of the first path exceeds a predetermined limit.

21. The system of claim 16, wherein the routing criteria comprises a capacity of the destination node associated with a first path of the plurality of paths.