CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. An apparatus, comprising:
a memory to store packets; and
a packet forwarding component operatively coupled to the memory, the packet forwarding component to:
receive an encapsulated packet from a tunnel device via a first tunnel, wherein:
the first tunnel is coupled to the tunnel device and the packet forwarding component; and
the encapsulated packet is generated by the tunnel device based on a data packet received from an access point of a plurality of access points; and
the data packet is transmitted to the access point from a client device;
identify a first network access controller from a plurality of network access controllers, wherein the plurality of network access controllers are coupled to the packet forwarding component via a set of tunnels; and
forward the encapsulated packet to the first network access controller via a second tunnel of the set of tunnels, wherein the client device is associated with the first network access controller, and wherein the first access controller enforces a network policy for the client device as the client device moves between the plurality of access points.

2. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein:
the encapsulated packet is for a first data layer;
the data packet is for a second data layer; and
the first data layer is higher than the second data layer.

3. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein:
the encapsulated packet comprises a layer 3 packet; and
the data packet comprises a layer 2 packet.

4. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the packet forwarding component is further to:
establish the first tunnel between the packet forwarding component and the tunnel

device; and

establish the set of tunnels between the packet forwarding component and the plurality of network access controllers.

5. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the packet forwarding component is further coupled to a one or more additional tunnel devices via one or more additional tunnels.

6. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein to identify the first network access controller from the plurality of network access controllers, the packet forwarding component is further to:

identify a source MAC address of the encapsulated packet, wherein the source MAC address indicates a second MAC address of ~~a~~ the client device ~~that transmitted the data packet to the access point~~; and

identify the first network access controller based on the source MAC address.

7. The apparatus of claim 6, wherein to forward the encapsulated packet to the first network access controller, the packet forwarding component is further to:

update a destination MAC address of the encapsulated packet to indicate a third MAC address of the first network access controller; and

forward the encapsulated packet to the first network access controller via the second tunnel.

8. The apparatus of claim 6, wherein the first network access controller is identified further based on a mapping data associating the third MAC address of the first network access controller and the second MAC address of the client device.

9. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein:

the tunnel device communicates data between the packet forwarding component and a plurality of access points located in a geographical area;

data packets from client devices in the geographical area are forwarded to the first network access controller.

10. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein:

the encapsulated packet is decapsulated by the first network access controller to obtain a decapsulated packet; and

the decapsulated packet is forwarded to one or more networks by the first network access controller.

11. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein:

the packet forwarding component is located within a data center;

the packet forwarding component comprises a load balancer for the plurality of network access controllers;

at least two of the plurality of network access controllers are located within the data center; and

at least one additional packet forwarding component is located within the data center.

12. A method, comprising:

receiving an encapsulated packet from a tunnel device via a first tunnel, wherein:

the first tunnel is coupled to the tunnel device and a packet forwarding component; and

the encapsulated packet is generated by the tunnel device based on a data packet received from an access point of a plurality of access points; and

the data packet is transmitted to the access point from a client device;

identifying a first network access controller from a plurality of network access controllers, wherein the plurality of network access controllers are coupled to the packet forwarding component via a set of tunnels; and

forwarding the encapsulated packet to the first network access controller via a second tunnel of the set of tunnels, wherein the client device is associated with the first network access controller, and wherein the first access controller enforces a network policy for the client device as the client device moves between the plurality of access points.

13. The method of claim 12, wherein:

the encapsulated packet is for a first data layer;

the data packet is for a second data layer; and

the first data layer is higher than the second data layer.

14. The method of claim 12, further comprising:

establishing the first tunnel between the packet forwarding component and the tunnel device; and

establishing the set of tunnels between the packet forwarding component and the plurality of network access controllers.

15. The method of claim 12, wherein the packet forwarding component is further coupled to a one or more additional tunnel devices via one or more additional tunnels.

16. The method of claim 12, wherein identifying the first network access controller from the plurality of network access controllers comprises:

identifying a source MAC address of the encapsulated packet, wherein the source MAC address indicates a second MAC address of a client device ~~that transmitted the data packet to the access point~~; and

identifying the first network access controller based on the source MAC address.

17. The method of claim 16, wherein forwarding the encapsulated packet to the first network access controller comprises:

updating a destination MAC address of the encapsulated packet to indicate a third MAC address of the first network access controller; and

forwarding the encapsulated packet to the first network access controller via the second tunnel.

18. The method of claim 12, wherein:

the tunnel device communicates data between the packet forwarding component and a plurality of access points located in a geographical area;

data packets from client devices in the geographical area are forwarded to the first network access controller.

19. The method of claim 12, wherein:

the encapsulated packet is decapsulated by the first network access controller to obtain a decapsulated packet; and

the decapsulated packet is forwarded to one or more networks by the first network access controller.

20. A non-transitory computer-readable storage medium comprising instructions that, when executed by a processing device, cause the processing device to:

receive an encapsulated packet from a tunnel device via a first tunnel, wherein:

the first tunnel is coupled to the tunnel device and a packet forwarding component; and

the encapsulated packet is generated by the tunnel device based on a data packet received from an access point of a plurality of access points; and the data packet is transmitted to the access point from a client device

identify a first network access controller from a plurality of network access controllers, wherein the plurality of network access controllers are coupled to the packet forwarding component via a set of tunnels; and

forward the encapsulated packet to the first network access controller via a second tunnel of the set of tunnels, wherein the client device is associated with the first network access controller, and wherein the first access controller enforces a network policy for the client device as the client device moves between the plurality of access points.