

# Advances in Mobility Management for IP Networks

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**Editors:**

**Aisha Hassan Abdalla Hashim**

**Othman Khalifa**

**Shihab A. Hameed**



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Tel: +603-6188 1542 / 44 / 45 Fax: +603-6188 1543

EMAIL: iumprinting@yahoo.com

# TABLE OF CONTENTS

No.	Title	Page No.
	<b>Acknowledgement</b>	v
	<b>Preface</b>	vi
	<b>Part 1: Internet Engineering Task Force (IETF) Approaches for Multicast and Mobility Management</b>	1
1	Introduction to Multicast Mobility Management Aisha Hassan Abdalla Hashim, Shihab A. Hameed, Jamal Ibrahim Daoud	2
2	Research Direction in Mobile IPv6 Azana Hafizah Mohd Aman, Aisha Hassan Abdalla Hashim, Sellami Ali, Wajdi Al-Khateeb	9
3	Operation of Context Transfer Protocol Aisha Hassan Abdalla Hashim, Othman Khalifa, Azana Hafizah Mohd Aman, Farhat Anwar, Shihab A. Hameed	15
4	The Study of Multicast Hierarchical Mobile IPv6 Azana Hafizah Mohd Aman, Aisha Hassan Abdalla Hashim, Akram M. Zeki	21
5	The Study Of Multicast Listener Discovery Aisha Hassan Abdalla Hashim, Imad Fakhri Taha Alshaikhli, Azana Hafizah Mohd Aman, Sellami Ali	27
6	MIPv6 Based Approaches for Mobility Management Azana Hafizah Mohd Aman, Aisha Hassan Abdalla Hashim, Imad Fakhri Taha Alshaikhli	32
7	HMIPv6 Based Approaches for Mobility Management Aisha Hassan Abdalla Hashim, Wajdi Al-Khateeb, Farhat Anwar, Azana Hafizah Mohd Aman	36

## **Part 2: Extensions to Mobile Multicast Schemes**

8	Introduction to Mobility Multicast Schemes Aisha Hassan Abdalla Hashim, Azana Hafizah Mohd Aman, Sellami Ali, Othman Khalifa	42
9	Qualitative Study of Mobility Management Approaches Azana Hafizah Mohd Aman, Aisha Hassan Abdalla Hashim, Imad Fakhri Taha Alshaikhli, Farhat Anwar	48
10	Architecture of M-HMIPv6/CXTP Aisha Hassan Abdalla Hashim, Azana Hafizah Mohd Aman	53
11	Intra Domain Movement of M-HMIPv6/ CXTP Azana Hafizah Mohd Aman, Aisha Hassan Abdalla Hashim	58
12	Inter Domain Movement of M-HMIPv6/ CXTP Azana Hafizah Mohd Aman, Aisha Hassan Abdalla Hashim	64
13	Message Format of M-HMIPv6/CXTP Aisha Hassan Abdalla Hashim, Azana Hafizah Mohd Aman	70
14	Signaling Flow of M-HMIPv6/ CXTP Azana Hafizah Mohd Aman, Aisha Hassan Abdalla Hashim	76
15	Development of the Service Recovery Time and Signaling Cost Function Aisha Hassan Abdalla Hashim, Azana Hafizah Mohd Aman	83
16	Evaluation Methods in Computer Networking Aisha Hassan Abdalla Hashim, Azana Hafizah Mohd Aman	88
17	Ns2 Simulation Environment in M-HMIPv6 Omer Mahmoud, Azana Hafizah Mohd Aman	93
18	Service Recovery of Multicast Hierarchical Mobile IPv6 with Context Transfer Aisha Hassan Abdalla Hashim, Azana Hafizah Mohd Aman	101
19	The Study of Signaling Cost Of M-HMIPv6 with Context Transfer Aisha Hassan Abdalla Hashim, Azana Hafizah Mohd Aman	106
20	Simulation Study of HMIPv6 And M-HMIPv6/CXTP Azana Hafizah Mohd Aman, Aisha Hassan Abdalla Hashim	112

21	Packet Loss in M-HMIPv6 with Context Transfer Azana Hafizah Mohd Aman, Aisha Hassan Abdalla Hashim	118
22	Evaluation of Handover Latency in M-HMIPv6 with Context Transfer Azana Hafizah Mohd Aman, Aisha Hassan Abdalla Hashim	124
23	Future Directions Azana Hafizah Mohd Aman, Omer Mahmoud, Aisha Hassan Abdalla Hashim	128
24	MIPv6 Extensions Abdulrhman Mohammed Bin Mahfodh, Abdi Nasir Ahmed, Aisha Hassan Abdalla Hashim, Omer Mahmoud, Md. Rafiqul Islam	133
25	IP Multicast Abdulrhman Mohammed Bin Mahfodh, Abdi Nasir Ahmed, Aisha Hassan Abdalla Hashim, Md. Rafiqul Islam, Rashid Abdelhaleem Saeed	139
26	Mobility Approaches to Support IP Multicast Abdulrhman Mohammed Bin Mahfodh, Abdi Nasir Ahmed, Aisha Hassan Abdalla Hashim, Rashid Abdelhaleem Saeed, Omer Mahmoud	144
27	Hierarchical Mobile Multicast Context Transfer (HMMCT) Abdulrhman Mohammed Bin Mahfodh, Abdi Nasir Ahmed, Aisha Hassan Abdalla Hashim, Omer Mahmoud, Rashid Abdelhaleem Saeed	152
28	Simulation Evaluation of HMMCT Abdulrhman Mohammed Bin Mahfodh, Abdi Nasir Ahmed, Aisha Hassan Abdalla Hashim, Omer Mahmoud, Rashid Abdelhaleem Saeed	157
29	Analytical Study of HMMCT Abdulrhman Mohammed Bin Mahfodh, Abdi Nasir Ahmed, Aisha Hassan Abdalla Hashim, Faiz Ahmed Mohamed Elfaki, Rashid Saad	165
<b>Part 3: QoS Approaches</b>		
30	Introduction to QoS Approaches in Mobile Ad Hoc Networks Mohammad Qabajeh, Aisha-Hassan A. Hashim, Othman Khalifa, Liana Qabajeh, Akram M. Zeki	171

31	Routing Protocols For Ad Hoc Wireless Networks	176
	Mohammad Qabajeh, Aisha-Hassan A. Hashim, Othman Khalifa, Liana Qabajeh, Gharib Subhi Mahmoud Ahmed	
32	Quality of Service (QoS) Issues In Manets	181
	Mohammad Qabajeh, Aisha-Hassan A. Hashim, Othman Khalifa, Liana Qabajeh, Jamal Ibrahim Daoud	
33	Supporting QoS Multicast Routing Over Mobile Ad Hoc Networks	186
	Mohammad Qabajeh, Aisha-Hassan A. Hashim, Othman Khalifa, Liana Qabajeh	
34	Position-Based Routing Protocols For Ad-Hoc Networks	191
	Mohammad Qabajeh, Aisha-Hassan A. Hashim, Othman Khalifa, Liana Qabajeh	
35	Simulation in Wireless Networks: An Overview	196
	Mohammad Qabajeh, Aisha-Hassan A. Hashim, Othman Khalifa, Liana Qabajeh , Faiz Ahmed Mohamed Elfaki	

# SIMULATION IN WIRELESS NETWORKS: AN OVERVIEW

MOHAMMAD QABAJEH<sup>1</sup>, AISHA-HASSAN A. HASHIM<sup>2</sup>, OTHMAN KHALIFA<sup>3</sup> LIANA QABAJEH<sup>4</sup> AND FAIZ AHMED MOHAMED ELFAKI

*ECE Dept, Fac. of Eng., International Islamic Univ. Malaysia (IIUM), Jalan Gombak, 53100 Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.*

*m\_qabajeh@yahoo.com<sup>1</sup>, aisha@iiu.edu.my<sup>2</sup>, Khalifa@iiu.edu.my<sup>3</sup>, liana\_tamimi@ppu.edu<sup>4</sup>*

## 35.1 INTRODUCTION

Mobile Ad hoc NETWORKS (MANETs) are collections of mobile nodes that communicate with each other over wireless links in the absence of any infrastructure or centralized administration. Each node acts as a router and responsible to forward messages to its neighbors. Adjacent nodes (1-hop) can communicate directly and multi-hop communication requires cooperation between nodes to relay packets to their targets.

In MANETs, evaluating and testing the routing protocols is a mandatory phase to its success in a real world application. To perform this evaluation, Simulation is an essential component of the validation of the design of network protocols. Currently several simulation tools exist for Ad hoc networks, including DIANEmu (Klein), REAL [1], GloMoSim [2], GTNets [3], Jane [4], NS-2 [5], pdns [6], OPNET [7], OMNeT [8] and SWANS [9]. These tools differ in their simulation capabilities, features, environments and scalability. Some are dedicated to MANETs simulation such as Jane and SWANS. Other simulators are results as extensions of wired network simulators such as NS-2 and general-purpose discrete-event simulation engines (such as PARSEC [10] and Maisie [11]).

In the following subsections, a review of four of the most popular simulation tools [12] will be presented. These tools are Network Simulator 2 (NS-2) [5], Global Mobile Information Systems Simulation (GloMoSim) [2], OMNeT[13], and Optimized Network Engineering Tools (OPNET) [7].

## 35.2 Network Simulator 2 (NS-2)

NS-2 [5] is the second version of the Network Simulator (NS). NS is a discrete event simulator targeted at networking research. NS provides substantial support for simulation of TCP, routing, and multicast protocols over wired and wireless networks. NS has always included substantial contributions from other researchers. The NS distribution includes a number of validated protocols, such as different MAC layers for local area networks [8].

NS-2 models systems as list of events. These events are predefined in the simulator. The process is made by taking the next event and running it until it is done. Each event happens in an instant of virtual (simulated) time, but takes an arbitrary amount of real time. The design of the simulator separates the data from the control; C++ is used for data (per packet processing, core of NS, fast to run, detailed, complete control); and OTcl is used for control (simulation scenario configurations, periodic or triggered action, manipulating existing C++ objects, fast to write and change) [15].