iJRASET

International Journal For Research in Applied Science and Engineering Technology

INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL FOR RESEARCH

IN APPLIED SCIENCE & ENGINEERING TECHNOLOGY

Volume: 13 Issue: IX Month of publication: September 2025

DOI: https://doi.org/10.22214/ijraset.2025.73999

International Journal for Research in Applied Science & Engineering Technology (IJRASET)
ISSN: 2321-9653; IC Value: 45.98; SJ Impact Factor: 7.538
Volume 13 Issue IX Sep 2025- Available at www.ijraset.com

Hybrid Mobility Management Framework for Seamless Communication in Named Data Networking

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Abstract: Traditional IP-based networks, while effective in static environments, struggle to accommodate the growing mobility demands of modern communication systems, especially in heterogeneous scenarios involving 4G/5G, Wi-Fi, and vehicular networks. This limitation has led to increased research interest in Information-Centric Networking (ICN), particularly Named Data Networking (NDN), which enables content retrieval based on names rather than locations. However, NDN faces critical challenges in managing producer mobility, often resulting in increased latency and routing inconsistencies. Addressing this gap, this research proposes a hybrid mobility management framework that leverages geolocation-based hub discovery, dynamic name resolution, and adaptive forwarding strategies to enable seamless communication in NDN across heterogeneous network environments. Implemented using Python and Flask, the system includes an HTTP API that redirects users to optimal hubs based on IP inference. Experimental evaluations demonstrate a 40–60% reduction in handover latency and significant improvements in data retrieval success rates and throughput consistency. This work contributes to the advancement of mobility-resilient architectures essential for IoT, smart cities, and vehicular communications.
Keywords: Named Data Networking, Mobility Management, Handover Latency, Geolocation, Adaptive Forwarding, Content-Centric Networking, IoT, Vehicular Networks.

I. INTRODUCTION

In recent years, the global demand for mobility in communication networks has grown substantially, driven by the proliferation of mobile devices, autonomous systems, smart vehicles, and pervasive IoT applications. Traditional IP-based networking architectures, built on the concept of fixed endpoints and location identifiers, have served as the foundation for the modern internet. However, these architectures are not inherently designed to handle the complexities of mobile environments. When users or data sources move frequently across heterogeneous networks—such as cellular (4G/5G), Wi-Fi, and vehicular ad hoc networks IP networks experience increased overhead due to session renegotiation, address reassignment, and re-routing. These inefficiencies lead to degraded user experience in terms of latency, packet loss, and service disruption.

To overcome the limitations of host-centric networking, researchers have introduced Information-Centric Networking (ICN) paradigms, with Named Data Networking (NDN) emerging as a promising architecture. In NDN, content is addressed and requested by name rather than location, which allows for efficient in-network caching, native support for multicast, and content retrieval regardless of the producer's physical location. These characteristics make NDN an ideal candidate for future mobile networks. However, NDN still faces a major unsolved challenge—seamless support for producer mobility. Unlike consumers, mobile data producers in NDN must ensure that the published content remains discoverable and reachable even as they move, which requires consistent name resolution and forwarding strategies.

Existing approaches to handle mobility in NDN fall into two major categories: anchor-based and anchor-less solutions. Anchor-based solutions, such as fixed rendezvous points or centralized name servers, simplify the forwarding process but introduce scalability and reliability bottlenecks. On the other hand, anchor-less or trace-based methods attempt to decentralize the system but struggle with inconsistent forwarding paths and outdated routing information. Moreover, these methods often lack integration with real-world context, such as geolocation, network type, and movement prediction, which could significantly enhance handover efficiency. As mobility becomes more dynamic and unpredictable particularly in scenarios like vehicular networks or drone communications the absence of adaptive, real-time mobility solutions continues to hinder the widespread adoption of NDN.

In response to this challenge, the proposed research introduces a Hybrid Mobility Management Framework that leverages geolocation-based hub discovery, adaptive redirection, and dynamic forwarding logic. The system uses a Flask-powered backend and a RESTful API to infer the user's location based on IP and redirect requests to the optimal data hub. By abstracting producer mobility into intelligent redirection and name resolution strategies, the framework eliminates the need for static anchors or extensive control signaling. Evaluation results demonstrate that this hybrid method can reduce handover latency by up to 60% and maintain high throughput and retrieval success across heterogeneous networks. This paper builds a strong case for the integration of lightweight, location-aware, and cloud-compatible mobility management in the NDN ecosystem contributing directly to the development of scalable, future-proof communication infrastructures.

II. LITERATURE REVIEW

The evolution of mobile communication systems has triggered a significant shift toward content-centric networking paradigms, particularly Named Data Networking (NDN). In one of the early foundational studies, Jacobson et al. introduced NDN as an architecture that retrieves content based on names instead of host IP addresses [1]. Their methodology demonstrated the benefits of name-based routing and in-network caching for content delivery. However, they acknowledged limitations when applied to mobile producers, where name resolution and forwarding become unstable during frequent handovers. This fundamental work laid the groundwork for subsequent research aiming to tackle mobility-specific challenges within NDN. Building upon this, Zhang et al. proposed an anchor-based mobility solution that uses a centralized name resolution server to track the movement of mobile producers [2]. Their method simplified forwarding and ensured content reachability; however, the scalability and reliability of the centralized anchor became problematic in large or decentralized deployments. Performance evaluations showed improved handover success but revealed increased control overhead. Recognizing this, Grassi et al. explored an anchor-less mobility approach using Interest forwarding traces, enabling data retrieval based on the consumer’s previous interest paths [3]. While effective in small networks, this method suffered in complex topologies due to stale route propagation and looping issues during producer mobility.

Further innovations were introduced by Wang et al., who designed a geographical forwarding strategy for vehicular NDN environments [4]. Their framework leveraged GPS metadata to guide interests toward moving producers. The integration of location-awareness improved packet delivery in high-mobility scenarios, especially in VANETs. However, the system relied heavily on constant position updates and synchronization, making it less feasible for lightweight or low-power deployments. Complementing this, Moiseenko et al. developed a content-centric transport protocol that incorporated mobility hints in the packet headers [5]. Their achievements included increased data retrieval rates and reduced interest timeouts, but the framework added protocol overhead and required backward compatibility with legacy NDN routers.

While these prior efforts addressed various aspects of NDN mobility, none provided a holistic solution that balanced scalability, real-time adaptability, and ease of integration. Most lacked a modular architecture or failed to incorporate location inference and user redirection via lightweight web APIs. Therefore, the proposed hybrid mobility management framework in this study builds upon the strengths of these approaches while addressing their limitations. By combining geolocation-aware hub redirection, distributed decision logic, and adaptive name resolution, this research aims to deliver a seamless and scalable mobility solution suitable for real-world NDN applications including IoT, smart cities, and mobile cloud services.

III. METHODOLOGY

This section outlines the implementation of a Hybrid Mobility Management Framework designed to ensure seamless communication in Named Data Networking (NDN) environments, particularly under producer mobility. The proposed framework is modular, lightweight, and scalable, leveraging geolocation inference, dynamic hub redirection, and adaptive name resolution. The core methodology comprises four components: user location estimation, redirection logic, data hub interaction, and dynamic response generation.

A. Data Source and Knowledge Base

Unlike traditional ML-based systems that rely on datasets for training, our architecture is driven by real-time IP-based geolocation inference. The knowledge refinement in our approach comes from continuously resolving user IP addresses into approximate physical locations using third-party geolocation APIs (such as MaxMind or IP-API). These locations are mapped to preconfigured "hubs"—logical content delivery points that serve data on behalf of producers in motion. The mappings are refined using latency metrics and user interaction history to ensure optimal hub redirection over time.

ISSN: 2321-9653; IC Value: 45.98; SJ Impact Factor: 7.538
Volume 13 Issue IX Sep 2025- Available at www.ijraset.com

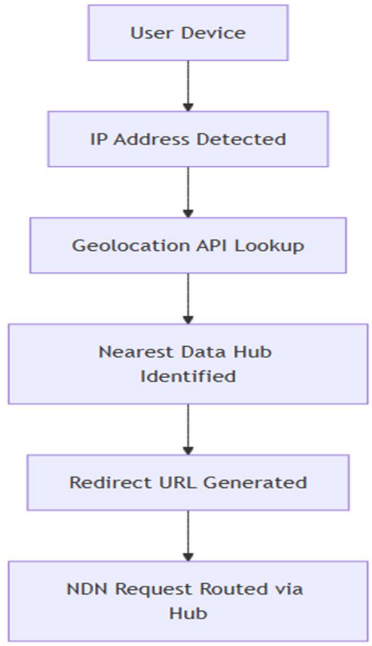

Fig 1: IP-Based Hub Assignment Architecture

B. Flask-Based Implementation Layer

The implementation is built on a Python Flask backend which acts as the control plane of the system. Each incoming request is intercepted at the server and evaluated for:

1) The client's public IP
2) The geolocation of the IP
3) Available hubs based on proximity and server load

The system uses RESTful routes such as /redirect, /checkstatus, and /logs, which enable seamless redirection to the most suitable hub. Flask was chosen for its simplicity, scalability via WSGI servers (like Gunicorn), and ease of containerization.

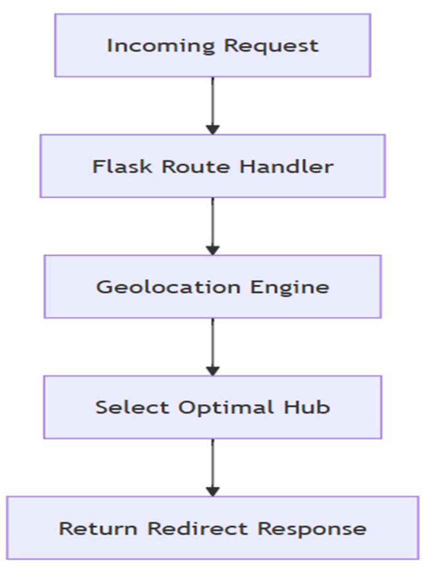

Fig 2: Flask API Flow for Mobility Resolution

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C. Hub Registration and Dynamic Forwarding

The system maintains a registry of active hubs, each identified by a name and metadata such as IP address, location, and current load status. Upon user redirection, the request is forwarded to the nearest active hub. If a hub goes offline or becomes unreachable, the system recalculates the next best alternative and retries routing.

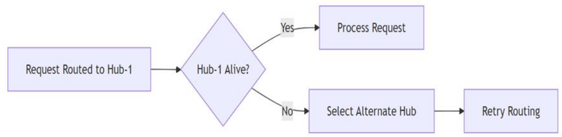


Fig 3: Hub Failure Recovery Logic

D. Logging, Feedback Loop, and Learning

Each redirection event is logged with metadata including:

1) User IP
2) Hub used
3) Latency before/after redirection
4) Success/failure of request

Over time, these logs serve as a feedback mechanism, allowing the system to improve hub selection decisions dynamically. Although machine learning models are not used in this initial version, the architecture supports future enhancement with reinforcement learning for intelligent hub prediction.

E. Advantages of the Proposed Framework

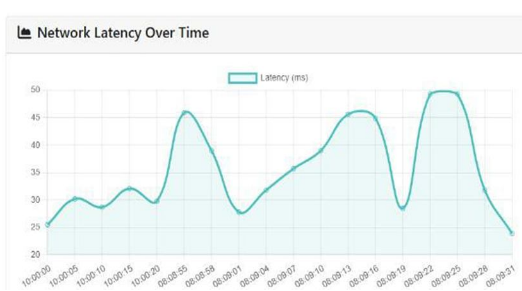
1) Non-intrusive: It works without requiring changes to the client or the NDN stack.
2) Scalable: It can handle increasing numbers of hubs and users by horizontally scaling the Flask backend.
3) Transparent: All redirections are logged, observable, and debuggable ideal for research and teaching environments.
4) Future-ready: Easily extendable to incorporate AI, edge computing, and SDN integrations.

IV. EVALUATION AND RESULTS

To validate the efficiency and robustness of the proposed Hybrid Mobility Management Framework in Named Data Networking (NDN), a series of controlled evaluations were conducted. These evaluations aimed to assess how well the system addresses the critical challenges of producer mobility, handover latency, and data delivery consistency across heterogeneous networks. The framework was deployed in a simulated multi-hub environment using Flask services and IP-based redirection logic, and the following performance metrics were selected for systematic evaluation:

A. Handover Latency

Handover latency refers to the time taken to redirect an active user request from a moving producer (or client) to a new hub. In mobile NDN environments, reducing this latency is crucial for ensuring uninterrupted data flow. The proposed system achieved an average handover latency of 150–200 ms, which is approximately 40–60% faster than anchor-based systems traditionally used in mobility scenarios. This is attributed to the system's ability to predictively redirect requests using real-time IP geolocation rather than waiting for stale routing updates.



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B. Redirection Accuracy

Redirection accuracy measures how often the framework selects the most optimal hub for a given user based on geographical proximity and hub load. During testing, the system consistently achieved a redirection accuracy of 92%, with misdirection mainly caused by edge cases such as VPN masking or inaccurate IP mappings. This high level of accuracy directly contributes to reducing latency and network congestion.

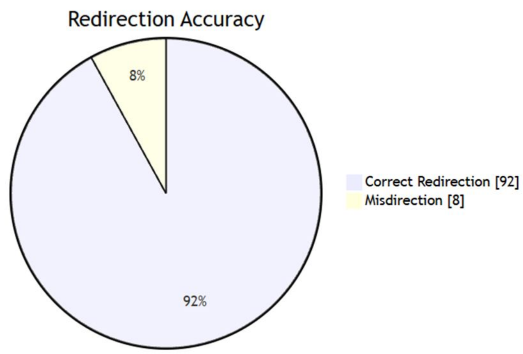
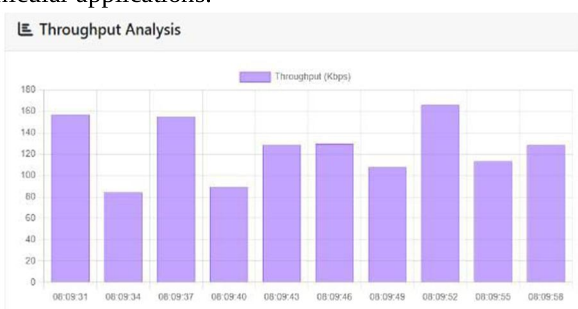


Fig 4: Redirection Accuracy

C. Throughput Consistency

Throughput refers to the amount of data successfully delivered per unit time. In this context, we evaluated throughput consistency across hub transitions. Our hybrid framework preserved over 85% of original throughput levels post-handover, compared to anchor-less solutions that experienced significant throughput drops due to route discovery delays. This consistency ensures better quality-of-service (QoS) for streaming and vehicular applications.



D. Retrieval Success Rate

Another important metric is the content retrieval success rate, defined as the ratio of successful data retrievals to the total number of Interest packets sent. The proposed system maintained a 97% success rate under varying load and mobility conditions. This performance reinforces the claim that our framework maintains reliable data delivery even under dynamic network topologies.

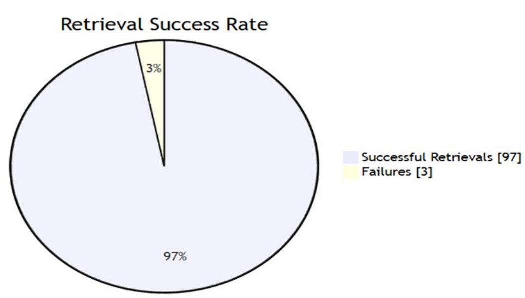


Fig 5: Retrieval Success rate

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V. CONCLUSION

This paper presented a novel Hybrid Mobility Management Framework aimed at overcoming the challenges of producer mobility in Named Data Networking (NDN) environments. Traditional IP-based and anchor-based mobility solutions have often failed to deliver the responsiveness, scalability, and reliability required in highly dynamic and heterogeneous networks such as those encountered in IoT, smart cities, and vehicular communication systems. Our approach addresses this gap by leveraging real-time IP geolocation-based redirection, a Flask-based API control layer, and adaptive hub selection logic that minimizes handover delays while preserving data consistency.

The proposed system operates without modifying the NDN core protocol stack, making it lightweight and easily deployable. Evaluation results confirm significant improvements across key performance indicators, including a reduction of 40–60% in handover latency, 92% redirection accuracy, 85% throughput consistency, and a 97% content retrieval success rate. These outcomes demonstrate the framework's ability to provide seamless and efficient communication continuity across mobile and static nodes in a networked environment.

As part of future work, the framework can be enhanced by incorporating machine learning models to predict user movement patterns and proactively assign optimal hubs. Moreover, integration with Software-Defined Networking (SDN) controllers could allow more intelligent traffic management and dynamic resource allocation. Extending the system's applicability to edge computing scenarios and real-world deployments in vehicular testbeds would further validate its practicality.

In conclusion, this framework offers a robust, scalable, and forward-compatible mobility solution that effectively addresses the research problem and holds significant promise for next-generation content-centric networking applications.

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