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October 25, 2004

Network Mobility Support Terminology  
draft-ietf-nemo-terminology-02

Abstract

This document defines a terminology for discussing network mobility issues and solution requirements.

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## Abstract

This document defines a terminology for discussing network mobility issues and solution requirements.

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## [1.](#) Introduction

Network mobility support is concerned with managing the mobility of an entire network. This arises when a router connecting an entire network to the Internet dynamically changes its point of attachment to the Internet therefrom causing the reachability of the entire network to be changed in the topology. Such network is referred to as a mobile network. Without appropriate mechanisms to support network mobility, sessions established between nodes in the mobile network and the global Internet cannot be maintained while the mobile router changes its point of attachment. As a result, existing sessions would break and connectivity to the global Internet would be lost.

This document defines the specific terminology needed to describe the problem space, the design goals [\[4\]](#), and the solutions for network mobility support. This terminology complies with the usual IPv6 terminology [\[7\]](#) and the generic mobility-related terms already defined in [\[3\]](#) and in the Mobile IPv6 [\[1\]](#) specifications. Some terms introduced in the present version of the draft may only be useful for the purpose of defining the problem scope and functional requirements of network mobility support.

Note that the abbreviation NEMO stands either for "a NEtwork that is MObile" and for "NEtwork MObility". The former (see [Section 2.1](#) is used as a noun, e.g. "a NEMO" meaning "a mobile network". The latter (see [Section 7](#) refers to the concept of "network mobility" as in "NEMO Basic Support" and is also the working group's name.

[Section 2](#) introduces terms to define the architecture while terms needed to emphasize the distinct functionalities of those architecture components are described in [Section 3](#). [Section 4](#), [Section 5](#) and [Section 6](#) respectively describe terms pertaining to nested mobility, multihoming and those necessary to describe the different configurations of mobile networks at home. The different types of mobility are defined in [Section 7](#). The last section lists miscellaneous terms which do not fit in either sections.

## [2](#). Architecture Components

A mobile network is composed by one or more mobile IP-subnet (NEMO-link) and is viewed as a single unit. The unit is connected to the Internet by means of mobile routers (MRs). Nodes behind the MR (MNNs) primarily comprise fixed nodes (nodes unable to change their point of attachment while maintaining ongoing sessions), and additionally mobile nodes (nodes able to change their point of attachment while maintaining ongoing sessions). In most cases, the internal structure of the mobile network will in effect be relatively

stable (no dynamic change of the topology), but this is not a general assumption.

Figure 1 illustrates the architecture components involved in network mobility and defined in the below paragraphs: Mobile Router (MR), NEMO-link, Mobile Network Node (MNN), "ingress interface", "egress interface", and Correspondent Nodes (CNs). The other terms "access router" (AR), "Fixed Node (FN)", "Mobile Node (MN)", "home agent" (HA), "home link" and "foreign link" are not terms specific to

network mobility and are thus defined in [3].

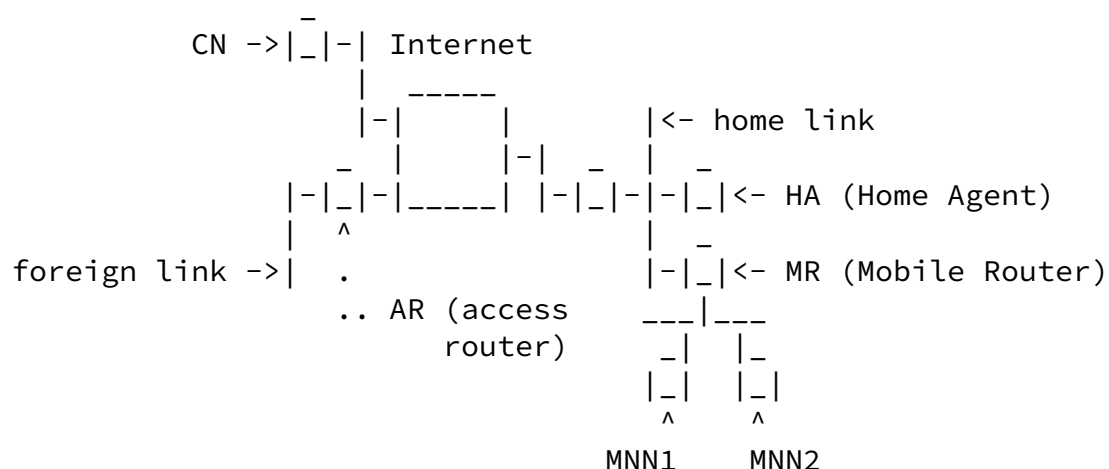


Figure 1: Mobile Network on the Home Link

Figure 2 shows a single mobile subnetwork. Figure 3 illustrates a larger mobile network comprising several subnetworks, attached on a foreign link.

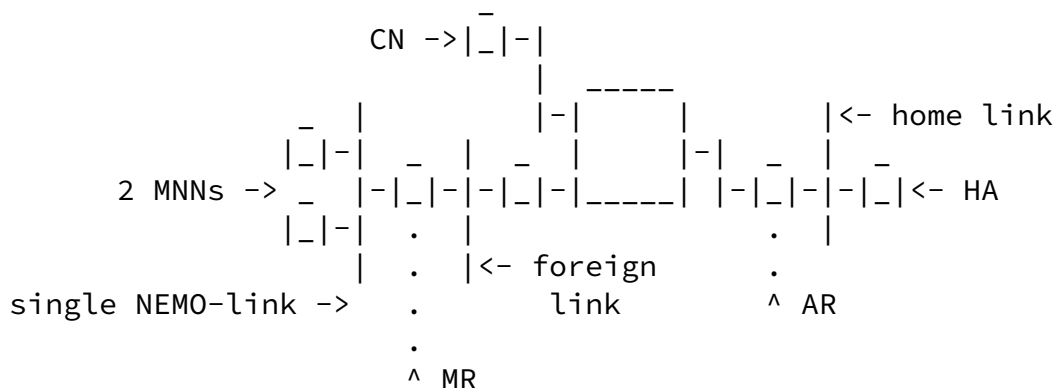


Figure 2: Single Mobile Subnetwork on a Foreign Link

At the network layer, MRs get access to the global Internet from the Access Routers (ARs) on the visited link. The MRs maintain the Internet connectivity for the entire mobile network. A given MR has one or more egress interface(s) and one or more ingress interface(s). When forwarding a packet to the Internet the packet is transmitted upstream through one of the MR's egress interfaces to the AR; when forwarding a packet from the AR down to the mobile network, the packet is transmitted downstream through one of the MR's ingress interfaces.

## 2.1 Mobile Network (NEMO)

As defined in [3]:

An entire network, moving as a unit, which dynamically changes its point of attachment to the Internet and thus its reachability in the topology. The mobile network is composed of one or more IP-subnets and is connected to the global Internet via one or more Mobile Routers (MR). The internal configuration of the mobile network is assumed to be relatively stable with respect to the MR.

## 2.2 Mobile Router (MR)

As defined in [3]:



A router capable of changing its point of attachment to the network, moving from one link to another link. The MR is capable of forwarding packets between two or more interfaces, and possibly running a dynamic routing protocol modifying the state by which it does packet forwarding.

A MR acting as a gateway between an entire mobile network and the rest of the Internet has one or more egress interface(s) and one or

more ingress interface(s). Packets forwarded upstream to the rest of the Internet are transmitted through one of the MR's egress interface; packets forwarded downstream to the mobile network are transmitted through one of the MR's ingress interface.

### [2.3](#) Egress Interface (E-face)

As defined in [\[3\]](#):

The interface of a MR attached to the home link if the MR is at home, or attached to a foreign link if the MR is in a foreign network.

### [2.4](#) Ingress Interface (I-face)

As defined in [\[3\]](#):

The interface of a MR attached to a link inside the mobile network.

### [2.5](#) Mobile Network Prefix (MNP)

As defined in [\[3\]](#):

A bit string that consists of some number of initial bits of an IP address which identifies the entire mobile network within the Internet topology. All nodes in a mobile network necessarily have an address containing this prefix.

MNP is an acronym for Mobile Network Prefix.

## [2.6](#) NEMO-link

A link (subnet) located within the mobile network.

## [2.7](#) Mobile Network Node (MNN)

As defined in [\[3\]](#):

Any node (host or router) located within a mobile network, either permanently or temporarily. A Mobile Network Node may either be a fixed node (LFN) or a mobile node (VMN or LMN).

## [2.8](#) Correspondent Node (CN)

Any node that is communicating with one or more MNNs. A CN could be either located within a fixed network or within a mobile network, and could be either fixed or mobile.

## [3.](#) Functional Terms

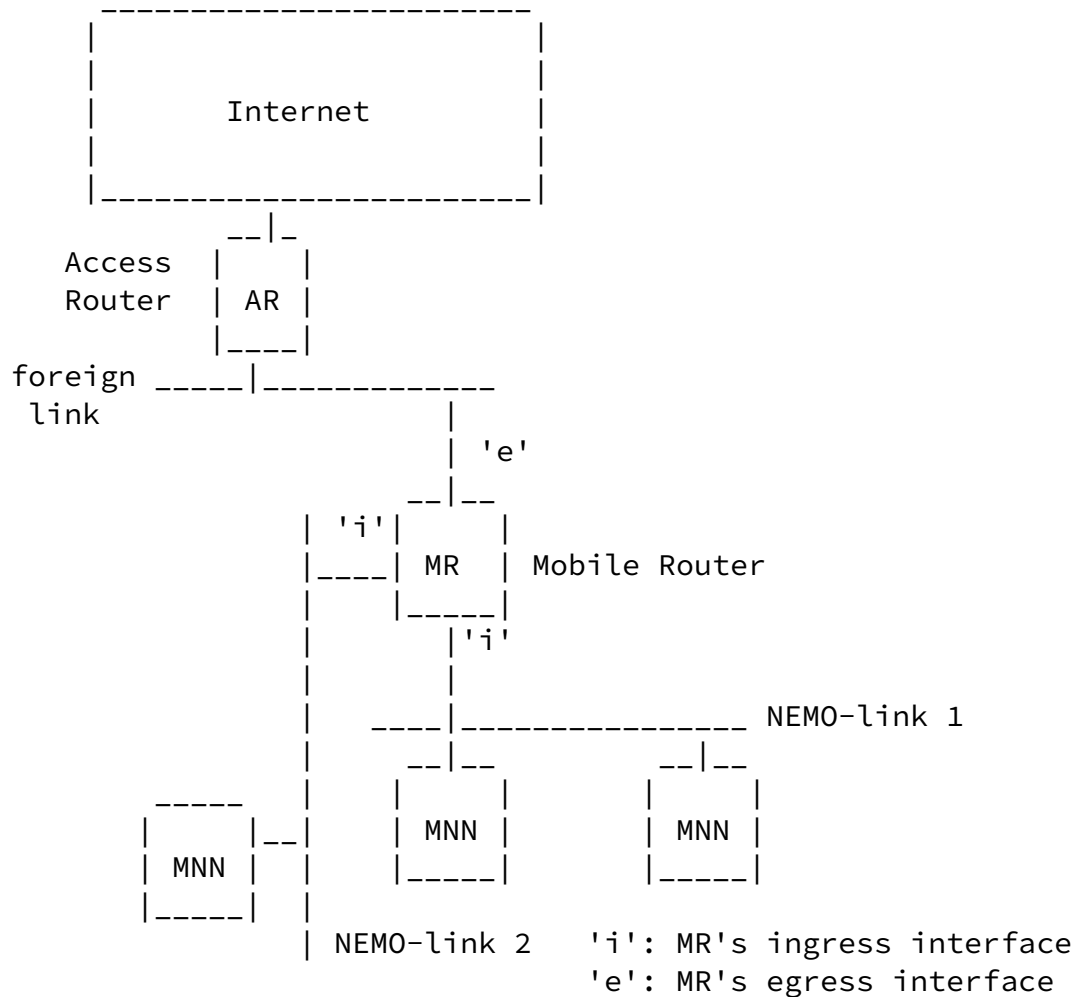


Figure 3: Larger Mobile Network with 2 subnets

Within the term Mobile Network Node (MNN), we can distinguish between Local Fixed Node (LFN), Visiting Mobile Node (VMN) and Local Mobile Node (LMN). The distinction is a property of how different types of nodes can move in the topology and is necessary to discuss issues related to mobility management and access control, but does not imply that network mobility or host mobility should be handled differently. Nodes are classified according to their function and capabilities with the rationale that nodes with different properties (may) have different requirements.

### [3.1](#) Local Fixed Node (LFN)

A fixed node (FN), either a host or a router, that belongs to the mobile network and which is unable to change its point of attachment

while maintaining ongoing sessions. Its address is taken from a MNP.

### [3.2](#) Visiting Mobile Node (VMN)

A mobile node (MN), either a host or a router whose home link doesn't belong to the mobile network and which is able to change its point of attachment while maintaining ongoing sessions. A VMN that gets temporarily attached to a NEMO-link (used as a foreign link) obtains an address on that link (i.e. the address is taken from a MNP).

### [3.3](#) Local Mobile Node (LMN)

A mobile node (MN), either a host or a router whose home link belongs to the mobile network and which is able to change its point of attachment while maintaining ongoing sessions. Its address is taken from a MNP. Figure 4 illustrates a LMN changing its point of attachment within the mobile network.

### [3.4](#) NEMO-enabled node (NEMO-node)

A node that has been extended with network mobility support capabilities and that may take special actions based on that.

In NEMO Basic Support, only the MR and the HA are NEMO-enabled.

In NEMO Extended Support, details of the capabilities are not known yet, but NEMO-enabled nodes may be implementing some sort of Route Optimization.

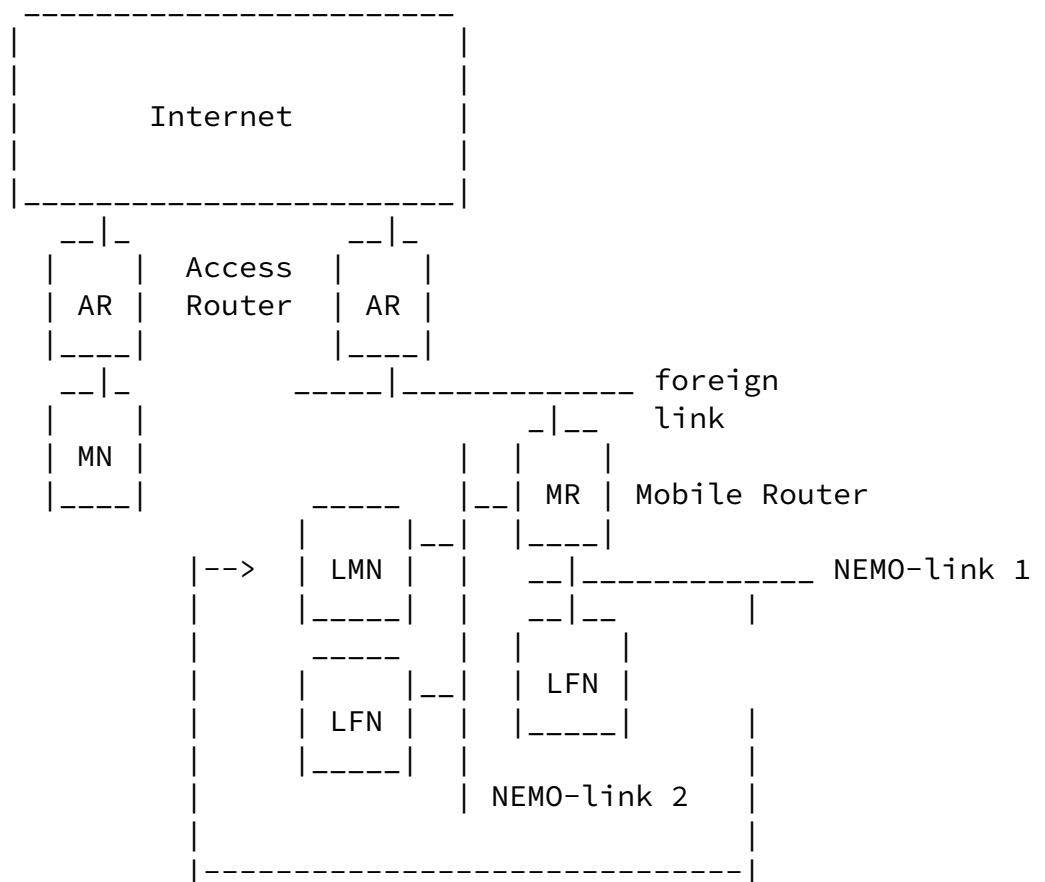


Figure 4: LFN versus LMN

### [3.5](#) MIPv6-enabled (MIPv6-node)

A node which has been extended with host mobility support capabilities as defined Mobile IPv6 in [\[1\]](#) and that may take special actions based on that.

### [3.6](#) Correspondent Router (CR)

A router topologically close to the CN that has been extended with some mobility support capabilities and that may take special actions based on that. Details of the capabilities do not matter in the present documents. The CR is said NEMO-enabled if such capabilities are defined for network mobility support.

## [4.](#) Nested Mobility Terms

Nested mobility occurs when there are more than one level of

mobility, i.e. when a mobile networks acts as an access network and allows visiting nodes to get attached to it. There are two cases of nested mobility:

- o when the attaching node is a single VMN (see figure 4). For instance, when a passenger carrying a mobile phone gets Internet access from the public access network deployed into a bus.

- o when the attaching node is a MR with nodes behind it, i.e. a mobile network (see figure 5). For instance, when a passenger carrying a PAN gets Internet access from the public access network deployed in the bus.

For the second case, we introduce the following terms:

#### [4.1](#) Nested Mobile Network (nested-NEMO)

A mobile network is said to be nested when a mobile network (sub-NEMO) is getting attached to a larger mobile network (parent-NEMO). The aggregated hierarchy of mobile networks becomes a single nested mobile network.

#### [4.2](#) root-NEMO

The mobile network at the top of the hierarchy connecting the aggregated nested mobile network to the Internet.

#### [4.3](#) parent-NEMO

The upstream mobile network providing Internet access to another mobile network down the hierarchy.

#### [4.4](#) sub-NEMO

The downstream mobile network attached to another mobile network up the hierarchy. It becomes a subservient of the parent-NEMO. The sub-NEMO is getting Internet access through the parent-NEMO and does not provide Internet access to the parent-NEMO.

#### [4.5](#) root-MR

The MR(s) of the root-NEMO used to connect the nested mobile network to the fixed Internet. Was referred to as "TMLR" (Top-Level Mobile Router) in former versions of this document.

#### [4.6](#) parent-MR

The MR(s) of the parent-NEMO.

#### [4.7](#) sub-MR

The MR(s) of the sub-NEMO connected to a parent-NEMO

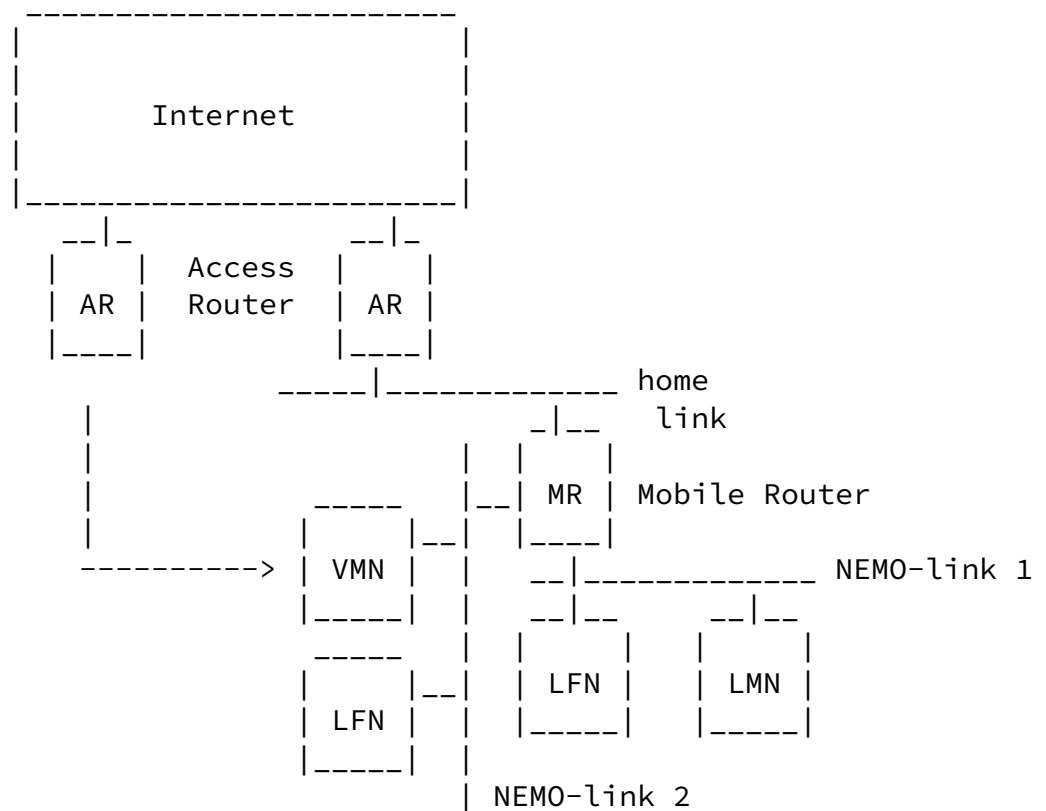


Figure 5: Nested Mobility: single VMN attached to a mobile network



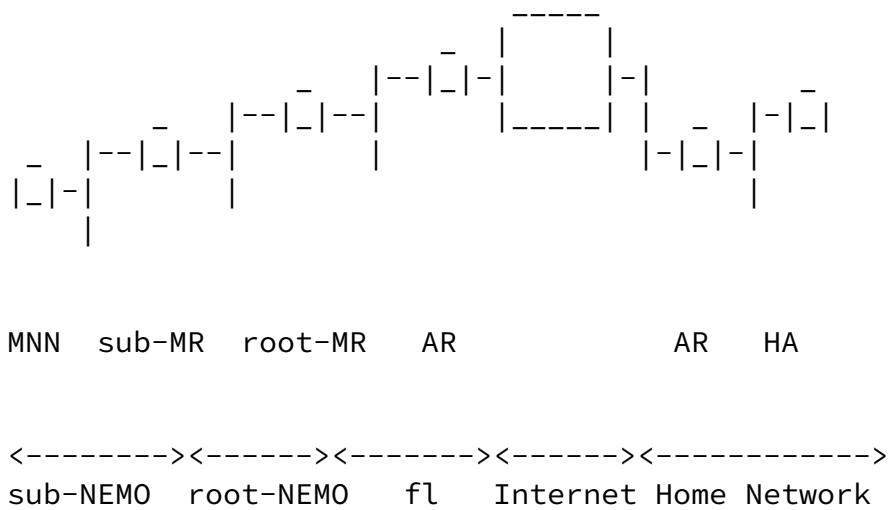


Figure 6: Nested Mobility: sub-NEMO attached to a larger mobile network

## [5.](#) Multihoming Terms

Multihoming, as currently defined by the IETF, covers site-multihoming [\[8\]](#) and host multihoming. We enlarge this terminology to include "multihomed mobile router" and "multihomed mobile network". The specific configurations and issues pertaining to multihomed mobile networks are covered in [\[5\]](#).

### [5.1](#) Multihomed host or MNN

A host (e.g. a MNN) is multihomed when it has several IPv6 addresses to choose between, i.e. in the following cases when it is either:

multi-prefixed: multiple prefixes are advertised on the link(s) the host is attached to, or.

multi-interfaced: the host has multiple interfaces to choose between, on the same link or not.

### [5.2](#) Multihomed Mobile Router

From the definition of a multihomed host, it follows that a router is multihomed when it has several IPv6 addresses to choose between, i.e. in the following cases when the MR is either:

multi-prefixed: multiple prefixes are advertised on the link(s) a MR's egress interface is attached to, or.

multi-interfaced: the MR has multiple egress interfaces to choose between, on the same link or not.

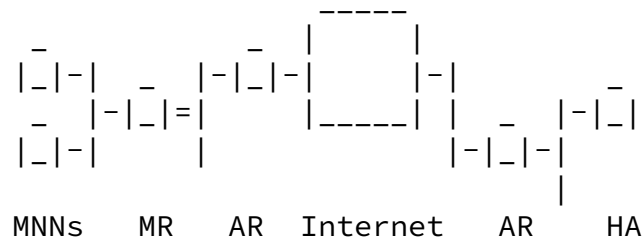


Figure 7: MR with multiple E-faces

### 5.3 Multihomed Mobile Network (multihomed-NEMO)

A mobile network is multihomed when either a MR is multihomed or there are multiple MRs to choose between, or multiple prefixes are advertised in the mobile network.

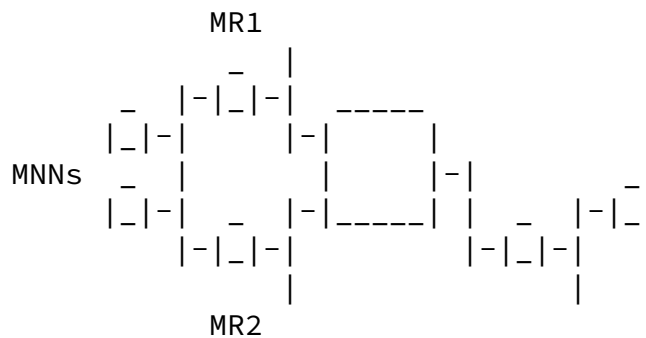


Figure 8: Single NEMO-link with Multiple MRs

### 5.4 Nested Multihomed Mobile Network

A nested mobile network is multihomed when either a root-MR is multihomed or there are multiple root-MRs to choose between or multiple prefixes are advertised in the nested mobile network.

## [5.5](#) Illustration

Figure 7 and Figure 8 show two examples of multihomed mobile networks. Figure 9 shows two independent mobile networks. NEMO-1 is single-homed to the Internet through MR1. NEMO-2 is multihomed to the Internet through MR2a and MR2b. Both mobile networks offer access to visiting nodes and networks through an AR.

Let's consider the two following nested scenarios in Figure 9:

Scenario 1: what happens when MR2a's egress interfaced is attached to AR1 ?

- \* NEMO-2 becomes a subservient of NEMO-1
- \* NEMO-1 becomes the parent-NEMO for NEMO-2 and the root-NEMO for the aggregated nested mobile network
- \* NEMO-2 becomes the sub-NEMO
- \* MR1 is the root-MR for the aggregated nested mobile network
- \* MR2a is a sub-MR in the aggregated nested mobile network
- \* NEMO-2 is still multihomed to the Internet through AR1 and ARz

- \* The aggregated nested mobile network is not multihomed since NEMO-2 cannot be used as a transit network for NEMO-1

Scenario 2: what happens when MR1's egress interface is attached to AR2 ?

- \* NEMO-1 becomes a subservient of NEMO-2
- \* NEMO-1 becomes the sub-NEMO
- \* NEMO-2 becomes the parent\_NEMO for NEMO-1 and also the root-NEMO for the aggregated nested mobile network)
- \* MR2a and MR2b are both root-MRs for the aggregated nested mobile network
- \* MR1 is a sub-MR in the aggregated nested mobile network

- \* NEMO-1 is not multihomed
- \* The aggregated nested mobile network is multihomed

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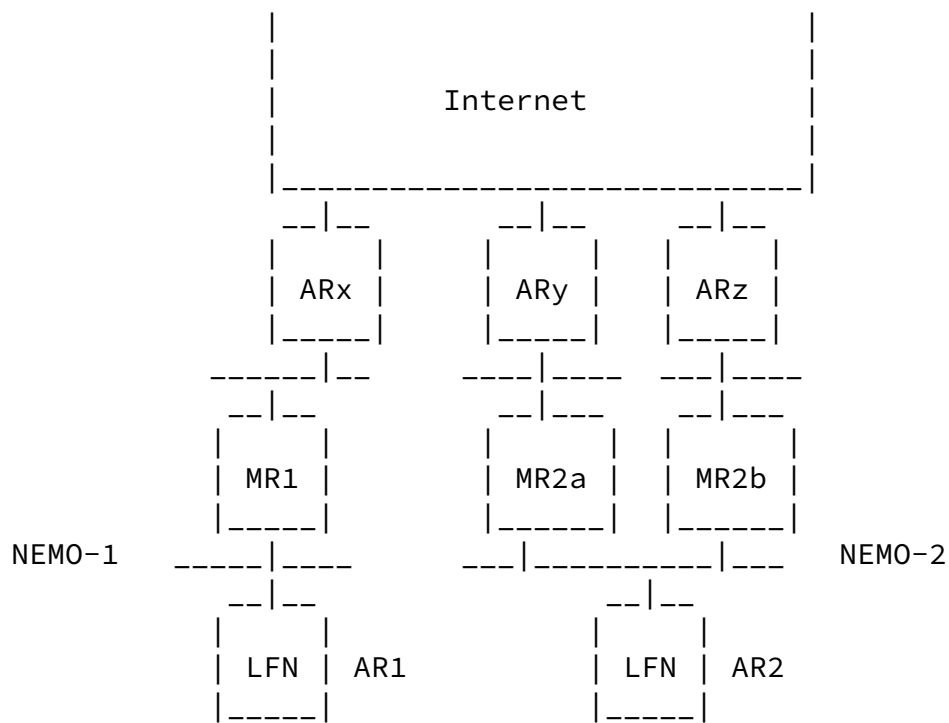


Figure 9: Nested Multihomed Mobile Network

## 6. Home Network Model Terms

The terms in this section are useful to describe the possible configurations of mobile networks are home. The configurations are illustrated in [6]

### 6.1 Home Link

The link attached to the interface at the Home Agent on which the Home Prefix is configured. The interface can be a virtual interface, in which case the Home Link is a virtual Home Link.

## [6.2](#) Home Network

The Network formed by the application of the Home Prefix on the Home Link. With Nemo, the concept of Home Network is extended as explained below.

## [6.3](#) Home Address

With Mobile IPv6, a Home Address is derived from the Home Network prefix. This is generalized in Nemo, with some limitations: A Home Address can be either derived from the Home Network or from one of the Mobile Router's Mobile Network prefixes.

## [6.4](#) Mobile Home Network

A Mobile Network that also serves as a Home Network. The MR that owns the MNP acts as a Home Agent for it.

## [6.5](#) Distributed Home Network

A Distributed Home Network is advertised by several sites that are geographically distributed and meshed using tunnels in a VPN fashion.

## [6.6](#) Mobile Aggregated Prefix

An aggregation of Mobile Network Prefixes.

## [6.7](#) Aggregated Home Network

The Home Network associated with a Mobile Aggregated Prefix. This Aggregation is advertised as a subnet on the Home Link, and thus used as Home Network for Nemo purposes.

## [6.8](#) Extended Home Network

The network associated with the aggregation of one or more Home Network(s) and Mobile Network(s). As opposed to the Mobile IPv6 Home Network that is a subnet, the extended Home Network is an aggregation and is further subnetted.

## [6.9](#) Virtual Home Network

The Home Network associated with a Virtual Network. The Extended Home Network and the Aggregated Home Network can be configured as Virtual Home Network.

## [7.](#) Mobility Support Terms

### [7.1](#) Host Mobility Support

Host Mobility Support is a mechanism which maintains session continuity between mobile nodes and their correspondents upon the mobile host's change of point of attachment. It can be achieved using Mobile IPv6 or other mobility support mechanisms.

### [7.2](#) Network Mobility Support (NEMO Support)

Network Mobility Support is a mechanism which maintains session continuity between mobile network nodes and their correspondent upon a mobile router's change of point of attachment. Solutions for this problem are classified into NEMO Basic Support, and NEMO Extended Support.



### [7.3](#) NEMO Basic Support

NEMO Basic Support is a solution to preserve session continuity by means of bidirectional tunneling between MRs and their HAs much like what is done with [\[1\]](#) for mobile nodes when Routing Optimization is not used. Only the HA and the MR are NEMO-enabled. The solution for doing this is solely specified in [\[2\]](#).

### [7.4](#) NEMO Extended Support

NEMO Extended support is to provide the necessary optimization, including routing optimization between arbitrary MNNs and CNs.

### [7.5](#) MRHA Tunnel

The bi-directional tunnel between a Mobile Router and its Home Agent

## 8.. Miscellaneous Terms

### [8.1](#) Idle MNN

A MNN that does not engage in any communication.

### [8.2](#) Idle Mobile Network

A mobile network that does not engage in any communication outside the network can be considered idle from the global Internet. This doesn't imply that MNNs are themselves idle. Internal traffic between any two MNNs located in the same mobile network is not concerned by this statement.

9. Changes since [draft-nemo-terminology-01.txt](#)

- Shorten abstract.
- Reshaped some figures.
- LFN, VMN, LMN: said that the node is able/unable to move while maintaining/not maintaining ongoing sessions. Text already appeared in the document, but not in the definition itself.
- NEMO-enabled: said that MR and HA are the only NEMO-enabled nodes in NEMO Basic Support
- Removed "NEMO-enabled MR" as this definition is self-contained into "NEMO-enabled Node"
- Rephrased the definition of "multihomed host", "multihomed router", "multihomed mobile network" and removed the terms multi-addressed and multi-sited, multi-rooted-NEMO, etc. Such terms were not so useful, and somewhat too long.
- Added the case "multiple MNPs are advertised" to the definition of mobile network
- Copy-pasted terms defined from [RFC 3753](#) so that the document is self-contained
- Updated References
- Added new term "Correspondent Router"
- Permanently removed NEMO-Prefix. Only MNP will be used
- Added terms "Mobile Home Network" and "Distributed Home Network" in the Home Network Model section. These 2 terms were provided by Pascal Thubert on July 30th 2004

## 10. Changes since [draft-nemo-terminology-00.txt](#)

- NEMO will be used either as the concept for NETwork MObility and a noun meaning "NETwork that is MObile"
- Deprecated TMLR and MONET.
- Added NEMO-prefix, NEMO-link, NEMO-enabled MR.
- Precision that IP address of LFN, LMN, or VMN is taken from a MNP

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- Added abbreviation E-face (Egress interface) and I-face (Ingress interface)
- Some re-ordering of terms, and a few typos.
- Added some text from the usage [draft-thubert-usages](#) (now home network model [draft-ietf-nemo-home-network-models](#))

## 11. Acknowledgments

The material presented in this document takes most of the text from former internet-drafts submitted to the former MobileIP WG and the MONET BOF. Authors would therefore like to thank both Motorola Labs Paris and INRIA (PLANETE team, Grenoble, France) where this terminology originated, for the opportunity to bring it to the IETF, and particularly Claude Castelluccia for his advices, suggestions, and direction, Alexandru Petrescu and Christophe Janneteau. We also acknowledge input from Hesham Soliman, Mattias Petterson, Marcelo Bagnulo and numerous other people from the NEMO Working Group. The

Home Network Model section is contributed by Pascal Thubert, Ryuji Wakikawa and Vijay Devarapalli.

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