

Cross-Cloud API Traffic Governance: Database-Aware Swarm Intelligence for Dynamic Rate Limiting in ASP.NET Core

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Abstract: *Cross-cloud API traffic management is an essential aspect of managing dynamic rate limiting, especially in ASP.NET Core applications. Through the use of database-aware swarm intelligence strategies, this solution maximizes the effectiveness of managing API traffic across various cloud environments to ensure effective utilization of resources and responsiveness. Dynamic rate-limiting implementation is crucial in an attempt to counter the API overuse and abuse threats so that it merges with the predictability present in the network conditions and the demand from the user. Through this, the research provides useful insights into how smart algorithms can dynamically adjust rates in accordance with real-time traffic conditions as well as database access, thereby making cloud applications more responsive and secure.*

Keywords: Cross-Cloud, API Traffic Management, Dynamic Rate Limiting, ASP.NET Core, Swarm Intelligence, Real-Time Traffic Conditions, Database-Aware Algorithms

I. INTRODUCTION TO CROSS-CLOUD API TRAFFIC GOVERNANCE

Cross-cloud API traffic management emerges as a leading paradigm in today's cloud computing environments, established largely on the necessity of greater control and optimization of API transactions over a myriad of cloud infrastructures. The necessity for this originates from mounting pressures being placed on APIs by the uncontrolled expansion of data-intensive applications and services driven by galloping data growth. With more organizations depending on APIs to bridge inter-service gaps, effective traffic management is crucial in an effort to maximize performance and utilization of resources in these multi-cloud environments. With the growing complexity of such maintenance, the necessity for intricate governance measures to facilitate real-time monitoring of the traffic streams has arisen, thereby ensuring that the APIs are not only effective but also secure.

1.1 Overview of API Traffic Management

API traffic management is the systematic detection and management of API calls and their data payloads to ensure effective and efficient usage of resources. Adequate management entails monitoring for performance bottlenecks, access limits control, and applying controls like caching and load balancing. Through the implementation of advanced algorithms for traffic management, organizations can enhance application performance and offer enhanced security against misuse and abuse. Organizations must implement capabilities such as traffic shaping and throttling that assist in the regulation of the count of API calls in an orderly fashion, particularly during variable load conditions [10].

1.2 Definition of Cross-Cloud Environments

Cross-cloud environments involve the deployment and use of applications across multiple CSPs (Cloud Service Providers), public and private, respectively. They provide a middle ground between scalability and flexibility in applications by enabling businesses to leverage the best services offered by multiple CSPs based on their specific needs. Flexibility provides considerable challenges with API governance by rendering security policies consistent and providing performance across a variety of platforms difficult to achieve. The integration of these cloud services requires end-to-end traffic management for hassle-free communication and optimal utilization of resources [12].

1.3 Importance of Dynamic Rate Limiting in ASP.NET Core

Dynamic rate limiting is a critical API governance feature, especially for ASP.NET Core apps. It controls the rate of request processing dynamically depending on the instantaneous levels of traffic and utilization of resources so that optimal resource allocation can be achieved and misuse or abuses of APIs prevented. Enabling dynamic rate limiting enables organizations to respond to real-time traffic patterns to ensure operational stability and application responsiveness during peak usage [16]. This responsiveness is crucial for enhancing responsiveness and protecting APIs from potential attacks, including denial-of-service attacks and resource abuse.

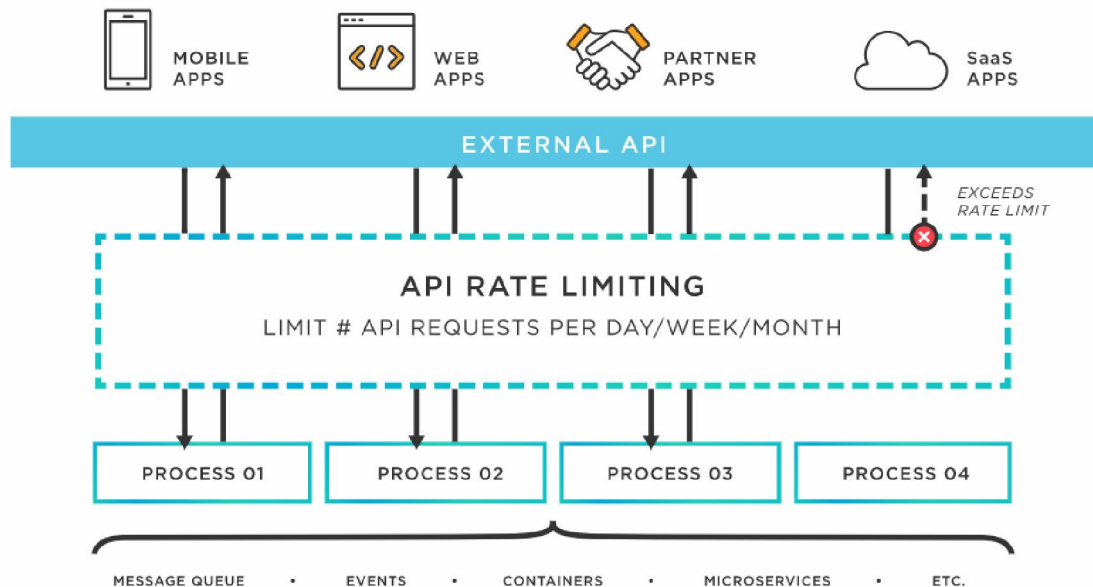


Figure 1: API Rate Limiting

Source: Adapted from [21]

II. THEORETICAL FOUNDATIONS OF API GOVERNANCE

The management of APIs is based on underlying theoretical principles that enable effective control of API traffic. An understanding of these principles improves the capacity to design effective API governance mechanisms that not only regulate access and operations but also respond smartly to dynamic situations.

2.1 Principles of API Rate Limiting

The rate-limiting principle refers to the handling of requests to an API within a given time span. This is an important mechanism that maintains service integrity and availability by preventing individual users or services from taking up resources. Organizations can avoid their APIs getting saturated, resulting in slow performance or service interruption, through the use of rate limiting. Apart from that, controlled rate limiting can result in more stable and manageable traffic patterns, which are important in planning and optimizing resource provisioning [10].

2.2 Traffic Patterns in Cloud Environments

There are certain traffic patterns in cloud infrastructures because of certain user patterns, types of applications, and services utilized. There may be high traffic during peak business hours or for recurring events, for which elastic modes of governance need to be adopted to maintain the performance level. These traffic patterns enable predictive modeling, facilitating resource optimization in the event of bursts. The usage of advanced data analytics technology allows organizations to identify traffic abnormalities that can be indicative of security weakness or degradation of performance. Knowledge can be enhanced by theoretical models through predictive scenarios from the past, so proactive tuning can be executed within adaptive rate-limiting schemes [14], [17].

2.3 Regulatory Considerations in API Governance

API governance is not solely a technical issue; it is also profoundly influenced by regulatory frameworks. Organizations must navigate a landscape of legal requirements aimed at protecting user data and ensuring fair access to services. Compliance with regulations such as GDPR or CCPA requires not only strict data protection measures but also transparent API practices. This process demands rigorous oversight of API usage, necessitating a governance structure that embodies adherence to these regulations while maintaining efficiency and user access. Thus, dynamic traffic governance must integrate closely with these regulatory considerations, ensuring that both technical and legal parameters are effectively met [12].

III. SWARM INTELLIGENCE: A SOLUTION FOR TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT

3.1 Overview of Swarm Intelligence Concepts

Swarm intelligence (SI) is one of the artificial intelligence sub-disciplines that draws its inspiration from natural traffic-aware insects like bees, ants, and birds. The general idea behind swarm intelligence is to achieve decentralized control and self-organization so systems are able to accomplish complex tasks without a centralized controller. Single-agent behavior rules become intelligent crowds of behavior and can be applied to many problems of optimization and control, i.e., traffic control [11]. Special paradigm application is realized in the case of API traffic management, when several agents simultaneously estimate and adjust behavior based on observations from the environment, solving practically such tasks as adaptive rate limiting of cloud systems.

In traffic management, swarm intelligence has introduced innovative solutions by imitating the way swarms naturally make decisions. Computational algorithms like Particle Swarm Optimization (PSO) and Ant Colony Optimization (ACO) have been used to optimize load balancing and resource allocation in cloud computing. These algorithms leverage the swarm collective behavior of moving towards the optimum solutions, hence dramatically enhancing performance, responsiveness, and resource utilization and reducing interaction complexity in heterogeneous cloud environments [18]. In addition, the adaptability of swarm intelligence algorithms to changing situations renders them capable of dynamic environments compared to the dynamic nature of cloud-based API traffic situations.

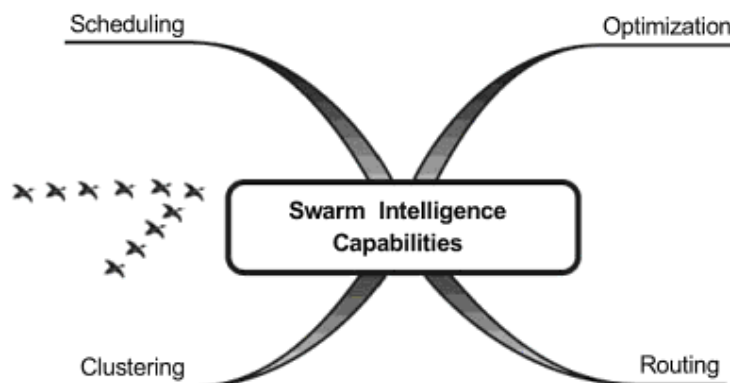


Figure 2: Key Capabilities of Swarm Intelligence

Source: Adapted from [22]

3.2 Applications of Swarm Intelligence in Traffic Governance

Applications of traffic control using swarm intelligence are twofold, i.e., rate limiting APIs optimization and distribution of traffic across cloud resources. Swarm-based algorithms, for example, can change rate limits dynamically according to real-time network usage analysis and patterns of future use. This optimizes resource usage and compliance with evolving Quality of Service (QoS) needs because they have the ability to adapt rapidly to changing needs. As a result, swarm intelligence creates a robust traffic system that remains at optimal performance even if there is an unforeseen burst of API call volume.

In addition to rate limiting, swarm intelligence is also used in load balancing, where traffic is directed intelligently on the basis of the availability and capacity of different backend services. Methods such as ACO may be employed in routing requests via latency-minimizing but throughput-maximizing routes to make the whole API ecosystem more responsive. Further, based on observing and learning through previous usage habits, swarm intelligence methods may foretell spikes or dips in traffic and pre-emptively change resources so as to keep operations stable and secure in the delivery [6]. The ability of swarm models to resolve API traffic control illustrates their applicability to fulfilling today's demands with scalability and performance in the cloud.

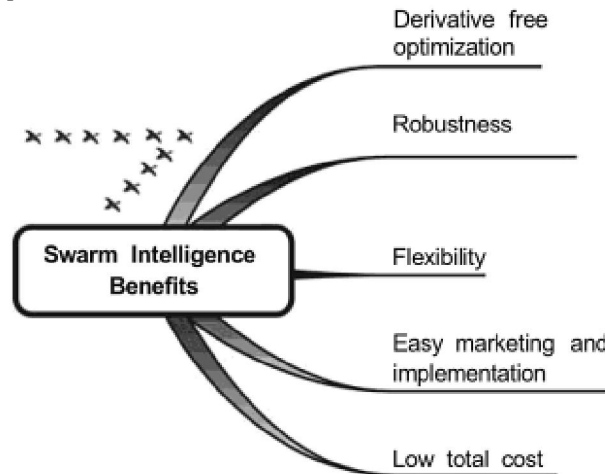


Figure 3: Benefits of Swarm Intelligence
Source: Adapted from [22]

3.3 Comparative Analysis of Swarm Intelligence Algorithms

Comparative study of swarm intelligence algorithms possesses certain merits and demerits in different implementations. For instance, PSO works best for continuous optimization problems and possesses more convergence rates when searching multi-dimensional search spaces. It may be plagued with a diversity of solutions and, therefore, may face premature convergence. Conversely, ACO is superior in discrete optimization problems and is also strong in dynamic settings; the heuristic character of its mechanism makes it highly adaptable to dynamics with a balance between exploration and exploitation [20].

Furthermore, utilizing hybrid swarm algorithms based on both PSO and ACO can hopefully leverage the strengths of the two without their deficiencies. Such hybrids perform especially well in managing conflicting priorities in network traffic, for instance, load balancing and fair access to all users in multi-tenant environments [8]. In addition, comparisons also reach into newer algorithms motivated by nature, such as fish school optimization and bee algorithms, which also have new mechanisms for collective decision-making and problem-solving [11][4]. Comparing these algorithms, using performance metrics like the convergence rate, solution quality, and environmental adaptation helps to optimize their use in API traffic management systems effectively.

IV. DATABASE-AWARE TRAFFIC GOVERNANCE MECHANISMS

4.1 Role of Databases in API Traffic Management

Databases are the basis of API traffic management by being the infrastructure to hold, retrieve, and process data in an efficient manner. In cloud-native applications, especially applications built using ASP.NET Core, interaction between API and database plays a major role in determining performance and user experience. With increasing user expectations and data complexity, databases need to be tuned to process multiple requests concurrently with low latency and high throughput. This need calls for advanced traffic control mechanisms that support database awareness integration in rate limiting and routing policies [2].

Database-aware traffic control mechanisms utilize the database state and the load to guide real-time decision-making on how to process incoming API calls. Through the tracking of database performance statistics like query response time and connection pool health, these systems can make intelligent decisions to dynamically adjust rate limits and request paths, thus optimizing resource usage and ensuring system stability. In addition, this data allows adaptive strategies that can dynamically alter traffic flow according to the current load, thus improving the overall responsiveness and reliability of the application.

4.2 Dynamic Database Interactions in API Governance

Dynamic database interactions are essential in efficient API traffic management. Since different API endpoints might utilize or alter data in diverse structures, the governance mechanism should be able to make sure that incoming requests do not clog the database during usage peaks. It is where advanced techniques are utilized, and applications like dynamic schemas and load balancing based on the current state of database interactions are utilized.

The employment of swarm intelligence paradigms enables the design of an autoregulated system for traffic management, which adapts consistently based on previous experience and real-time adjustments of parameters. For instance, when the pattern of accessing databases changes, the intelligent system can divert traffic to less congested instances or modify the strategy for allocating resources dynamically in real-time. This anticipatory behavior can go a long way toward reducing query times and improving data retrieval operation performance, thereby allowing for a better user experience handling the APIs.

4.3 Strategies for Database-Aware Traffic Control

Good database-aware traffic control typically requires multiple levels of abstraction and decision. Predictive analytics is one technique used to forecast traffic behavior and database load. By integrating machine learning techniques with ideas from swarm intelligence, traffic management systems are able to construct predictive models that estimate future API requests and reallocate traffic limits and database access in response [7]. This method allows for dynamically allocating resources so that the chances of degrading the services during peak demand are prevented.

Another method is using real-time database performance metrics to implement throttling mechanisms. SI algorithms can be used to dynamically redirect traffic to other database replicas so that one database instance is not a bottleneck. This provides increased redundancy and fault tolerance and, therefore, offers a stronger API governance framework. Having such database-conscious mechanisms not only offers control of API traffic but also improves overall cloud application reliability so that it can scale in a proper manner and stay at high-performance levels despite fluctuating loads.

V. IMPLEMENTATION OF SWARM INTELLIGENCE ALGORITHMS FOR RATE LIMITING

5.1 Framework for Integrating Swarm Intelligence in ASP.NET Core

Incorporating swarm intelligence algorithms into ASP.NET Core for the purpose of managing dynamic rate limiting requires a tailored framework capable of supporting the application's distinct needs as well as a traffic control mechanism. The framework should incorporate a strong middleware that promotes ease of API incoming requests interception, with real-time analytics support so that the framework is able to analyze live traffic and database usage.

In addition, the architecture must be capable of being integrated with many swarm intelligence algorithms, including PSO and ACO, so that it will automatically adapt to different traffic flows. Being based on a modular architecture, dissimilar algorithms may seamlessly integrate as per their performance metric and susceptibility to real-time updates in a cloud setup where requirements get dynamically altered in a short interval of time and constant monitoring for the selection of optimal traffic control paradigms [4], this adaptability is crucial. Particularly, the ability to adapt algorithms dynamically based on the execution environment can be important in setting up the responsiveness of ASP.NET Core apps to API usage patterns.

5.2 Algorithmic Approaches to Dynamic Rate Limiting

Swarm intelligence-based dynamic rate limiting methodologies comprise varied algorithmic styles that capitalize on the swarm agent's behavior for effective traffic control. For example, PSO can be utilized to leverage rate limit parameter

optimization through learning from past experience on the basis of historical traffic analysis. Every particle in a PSO swarm is a potential rate limit configuration, assessing the performance of such configurations with respect to well-defined measures of success, i.e., response time and error rates.

ACO can also be applied to find optimal routes for requests at runtime. The artificial ants can move along several routes that correspond to different service nodes for a cloud structure. Probabilistic decisions are made by each ant based on the current demand and performance status of respective nodes, thus converging to optimal routing solutions that maximize efficiency and exploitation of resources [20]. These dynamic approaches lead to an active governance model that can respond suitably to traffic fluctuation, providing a stable and efficient API environment.

5.3 Case Studies and Experimental Results

The application of swarm intelligence algorithms for ASP.NET Core applications has shown to be favorable in performance terms through several case studies. An example of important research work included the use of PSO in dynamic rate limiting and achieved improved performance indicators within a cloud-native application framework. Response times were measured pre and post-implementation and resulted in reductions in latency, in addition to increases in requests successfully completed, a primary consideration for guaranteeing user satisfaction in an API system subject to high usage [7].

A second case study involving ACO proved effective in presenting optimal routing of traffic under different loads. The algorithm allowed dynamic adjustments in real time, optimizing data transmission and lessening congestion at crucial service nodes. Such outcomes validate the adaptive nature of swarm intelligence techniques in API traffic management, where algorithms possessing real-time adaptability are capable of significantly increasing performance and fault tolerance in cloud architecture.

These studies support the efficacy of swarm algorithms and assert their merits in contrast to classical traffic control policies. A hybrid strategy of multiple-swarm intelligence-based dynamic task scheduling for cloud computing systems was analyzed. The outcome demonstrated enhanced performance by the hybrid algorithm compared to other benchmark algorithms like ACO and PSO, which had better efficiency and work completion time enhancements. This supports the universality and effectiveness of swarm intelligence systems in addressing very complex and dynamic workloads typical of API traffic patterns.

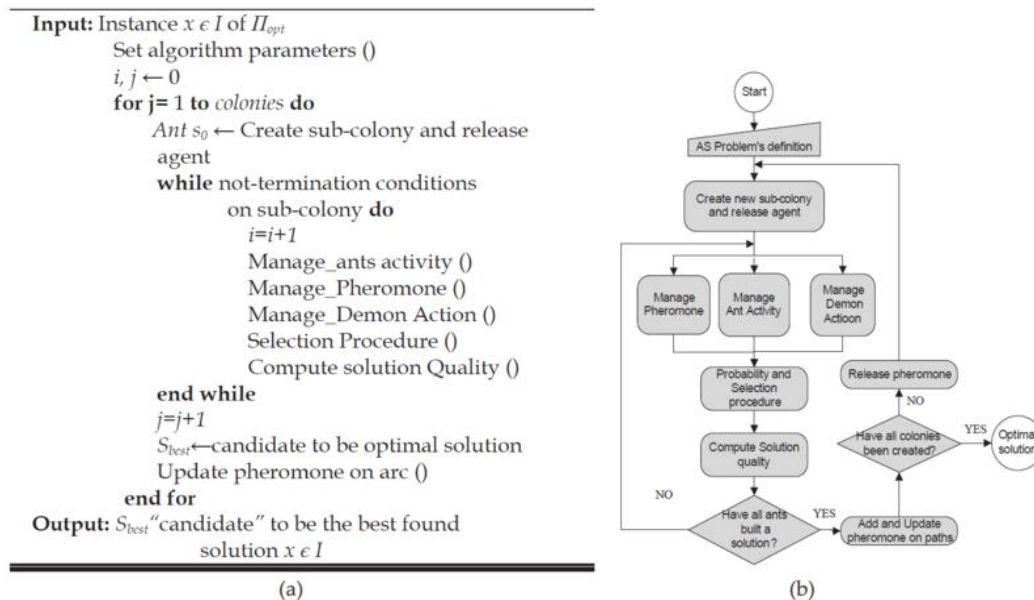


Figure 4: The Ant Colony Optimization (ACO) model; a. the pseudo-code of an ACO algorithm; b. the flow chart of a general ACO procedure.

Source: Adapted from [23]

A similar approach to dynamic data replication using swarm intelligence was also explored. During experimentation, it was understood that deployment using the Multi-Objective Particle Swarm Optimization (MOPSO) algorithm provided better data replication quality with improved data availability, lower operational costs, and less bandwidth utilization compared to current algorithms [15]. This establishes that the use of swarm intelligence would enhance rate limiting as well as data management methods and thereby provide a more robust and efficient API framework.

Additionally, route choice behavior-inspired algorithms are studied for their comparative superiority in addressing mathematical optimization problems. In controlled experimentation between a novel Route Choice Behavior Algorithm (RCBA) and conventional PSO, the RCBA demonstrated a better ability to search towards optimal solutions effectively, which indicates its viable application in real-world API traffic management situations where conventional algorithms would be likely to fail [3]. This shows how novel swarm-based algorithms can provide effective methodologies for rate-limiting challenges.

Apart from these, the effects of API rate limits on microservices architecture were evaluated with the help of massive-scale empirical data experiments. Depending on the ratio of backend service success and failure rates with respect to different rate limits, an optimal traffic model was constructed, which regulates traffic based on the current cloud state in real time. The research showed a high correlation between optimized rate limits that were fine-tuned and low latency, as well as better service stability [2]. These empirical verifications indicate the need to dynamically adjust rate limits based on workload configurations, something that can be supported by swarm intelligence methods.

In addition to that, performance analysis of new swarm intelligence-based load balancing algorithms in cloud infrastructure was also discussed. Comparison of different algorithms, such as the Raven Roosting Algorithm, assisted in understanding factors such as overall execution time, response time, and resource usage precision. It has been observed that newer competitive swarm algorithms can perform better than existing algorithms, hence validating the movement towards using modern algorithms for the proper management of API traffic.

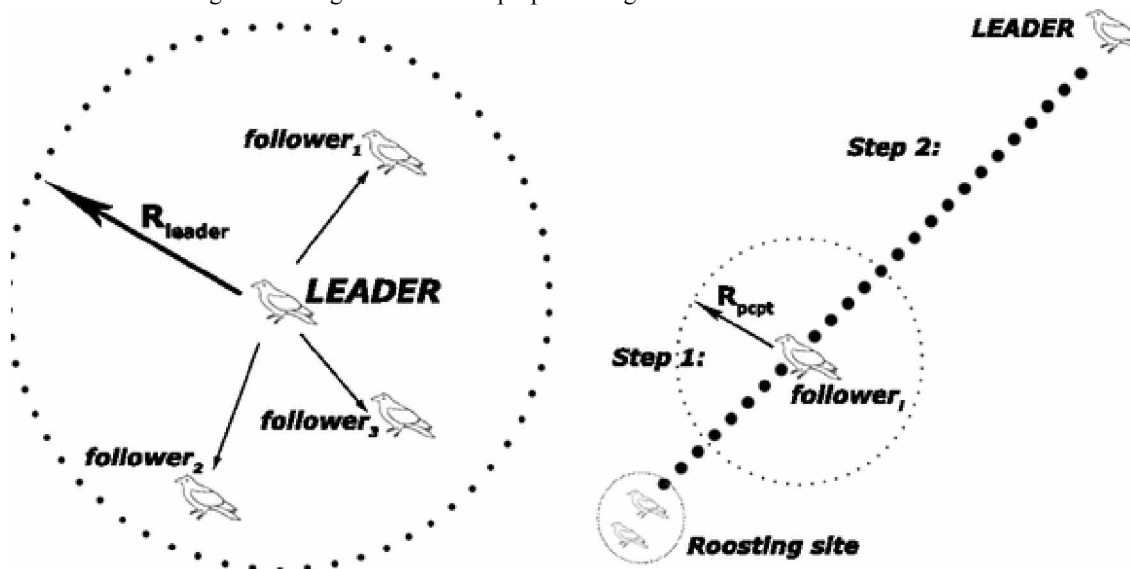


Figure 5: The Raven Roosting Algorithm model

Source: Adapted from [24]

VI. PERFORMANCE OPTIMIZATION IN API TRAFFIC GOVERNANCE

In cross-cloud API management, performance optimization ranks as the utmost priority in the provision of assurance that ASP.NET Core-based applications run efficiently. This relative performance optimization is as much as ensuring effective API traffic management through dynamic rate limiting. As cloud environments get diversified, it is important to ascertain the effectiveness and performance of API traffic management solutions in an effort to attain scalability and reliability. Optimization methods usually aim to minimize latency, maximize the use of resources, and increase

throughput, resulting in an enhanced user experience and responsiveness of applications. Load balancing is a good part of optimization as it disperses the workload equally among the servers without server overload, reducing bottlenecks [1].

6.1 Metrics for Evaluating Traffic Management Solutions

In order to fully assess the performance of traffic management solutions, a multi-dimensional approach with different performance measures is appropriate. Some of the most important measures are response time, throughput, error rates, and levels of resource utilization, which, in combination, give a complete picture of system performance. Response time, being the most concrete measure in the eyes of users indicates how fast an API can react to requests, and this directly affects user satisfaction. Throughput refers to the number of requests processed within a time frame, and it is a factor in how well a system can handle traffic bursts. Error rates also give information on the stability and reliability of the traffic management system.

For cloud configurations, the measurements also have to cater to scalability, especially under load peaks. The monitoring software should examine not only historical performance but also real-time data to facilitate proactive tuning in traffic management policy [19]. Monitoring these figures in real time enables new insights into trends and anomalies in traffic patterns, supporting better decision-making in rate-limited policies and overall API management.

6.2 Enhancements via Machine Learning Techniques

New ML developments have brought new methods to improve API traffic management greatly. Further, machine learning can automate big data analysis that is utilized to establish traffic patterns and user behavior and determine optimal rate-limiting settings. For example, it has been shown that an ML model is able to learn adaptively from changing user demands and adjust dynamically the rate limits so that applications are able to sustain performance in heavy use conditions [9]. These types of algorithms can be especially beneficial in systems that experience varying loads, where static rate limits are insufficient for occasional spikes or falls in traffic.

In addition, predictive analytics based on machine learning can also be employed to enhance traffic management systems with the ability to forecast future traffic patterns. Anticipatory readjustment of allocations can then be triggered by the managers as future demand or likelihood of overload threats can be forecasted. Further improvements involve anomaly detection processes that alert traffic deviations, which may be an indication of potential API abuse or attacks and thus facilitate timely intervention in such issues [13].

6.3 Scalability and Reliability in Cloud API Management

One of the most striking features of cloud architecture is its ability to scale, where systems are made to transform dynamically based on user requirements [19]. A requirement is that the system has to provide similar performance with trafficked traffic, and for this purpose, load-balancing techniques splitting incoming requests between multiple servers and not making any one server a bottleneck has to be implemented [1]. In addition, API service reliability is dependent on end-to-end service health monitoring to facilitate fault tolerance techniques that allow for traffic redirection in case of server failure [17].

Cloud platforms are also expected to support horizontal scaling, where additional instances of a service can be created dynamically when traffic is on the rise. Appropriate governance, however, demands that such adjustments must not affect the QoS [14]. Periodic examination of cloud architecture scalability encourages deeper insight into failure points and capacity constraints, thereby guiding subsequent optimizations and enhancing system robustness in general [8].

VII. CHALLENGES AND LIMITATIONS IN CROSS-CLOUD GOVERNANCE

While cross-cloud API governance presents many avenues for enhancing performance and security, its implementation is hindered by several challenges. These challenges cut across technical, ethical, and operational dimensions and are of concern to organizations seeking effective integrity and governance within their API usage.

7.1 Technical Challenges in Implementing Dynamic Rate Limits

One of the biggest technical issues with the deployment of dynamic rate limiting is cloud heterogeneity across environments. Each of the various cloud providers has its own infrastructure and performance profile, and thus, standardizing rate-limiting mechanisms in platforms is challenging. Moreover, the inclusion of swarm intelligence algorithms, which contribute extensively towards dynamic rate limiting functionality, also imposes complexities based on algorithm flexibility and processing data in real time. Synchronization of different systems calls for strong inter-cloud protocols and communication standards that can support the high rate of database interactions typical of a multi-cloud approach [5]. These communications must be ensured to have low latency, as any latency will drastically undermine the effectiveness of rate-limiting algorithms.

This problem is further complicated by taking into account the evasive actions made by users in an effort to avoid rate limits. Systems must, therefore, utilize intelligent machine learning technology to learn and adapt a timer in real time to optimize the system's ability to sustain effective rate limits [13]. Gathering sufficient observational data must be achieved so that these algorithms can effectively inform the system, and thus necessitates advanced data harvesting and processing methodology in cloud configurations.

7.2 Ethical Considerations in API Traffic Control

API traffic management raises ethical issues, primarily with regard to user permissions and API access permission. Imposing stringent static rate limits may occur to limit access to vital resources by valid users, which may cause deterioration of service quality. Hence, organizations need to strike a balance between the requirement of strong traffic management and ethical considerations ensuring equitable access for diverse user groups.

In addition to that, organizations have to be careful against bias in their machine learning infrastructure. In case historical data upon which algorithms are being trained hold bias, discriminatory treatment of certain groups of users is likely to follow as a by-product. The ethics problem renders transparency in training algorithms and decision-making important, especially because users desire a clear concept of their rights towards API access and usage [5]. The establishment of ethical guidelines and frameworks for API traffic management is therefore important to facilitate alignment with organizational values and wider societal expectations.

7.3 Future Trends in Traffic Management Solutions

With advancing technology, a number of emerging trends are expected to define the future of traffic management in API governance. The integration of artificial intelligence (AI) with current traffic management systems is expected to increase adaptability and responsiveness in real-time settings [16]. AI-driven solutions will tend to concentrate on predictive analytics, using historical data to predict future traffic patterns while dynamically adjusting rate limits to maximize performance.

In addition, the growth of edge computing will be significant in the management of API traffic. Edge computing will mitigate latency and responsiveness for cross-clouds by handling data near where it is being generated. This evolution will maximize users' satisfaction and support on-premises data processing to optimize resource use based on local traffic patterns.

Besides, with the ongoing evolution of security threats, traffic management solutions in the future need to embed strong security models to fight advanced API abuse and DDoS attacks. Businesses will be more interested in integrating security with API governance so that performance optimization does not come at the cost of system integrity.

VIII. CONCLUSION

Successful cross-cloud traffic management of APIs relies on thousands of properly synchronized factors that all work together to achieve the best API performance while providing scalable and fault-tolerant services. With the cloud technology landscape constantly evolving, dynamic rate limiting serves as a pillar in this architecture to facilitate substantial improvements in service responsiveness and delivery. Performance measurement metrics and improved AI and machine learning offer possibilities for new models of governance. Technical integration challenges, ethics, and emerging trends do not need to be ignored. Efficiency needs to be pursued by organizations with a balanced effort that includes fairness and transparency while managing API traffic. Thus, a sustained commitment to ongoing learning,

flexibility, and ethical leadership will create strong API ecosystems that meet the evolving needs of users in an increasingly interconnected world.

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