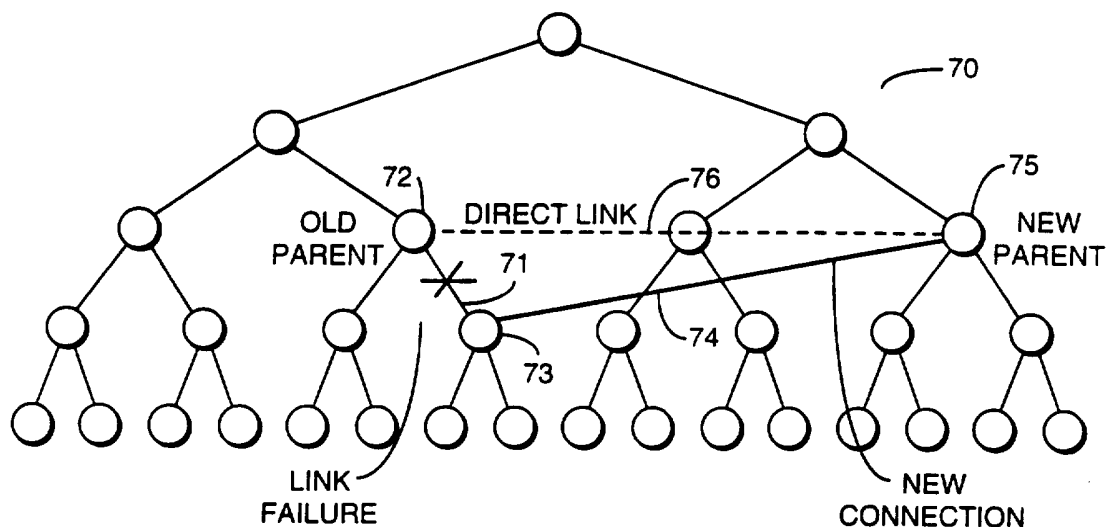




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(71) Applicant (for all designated States except US): BRITISH TELECOMMUNICATIONS PUBLIC LIMITED COMPANY [GB/GB]; 81 Newgate Street, London EC1A 7AJ (GB).		Published With international search report.	
(72) Inventors; and (75) Inventors/Applicants (for US only): WILBY, Mark [GB/GB]; University College London, Dept. of Electronic and Electrical Engineering, Torrington Place, London WC1E 7JE (GB). QUINTELA, Maria, Paula [GB/GB]; University College London, Dept. of Electronic and Electrical Engineering, Torrington Place, London WC1E 7JE (GB).		(88) Date of publication of the international search report: 18 April 1996 (18.04.96)	
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(54) Title: A CONFIGURATION METHOD FOR A DATA MANAGEMENT SYSTEM



## (57) Abstract

Data elements stored in a distributed data structure are accessible by means of a hierarchical routing network in which routes through the network to individual data elements are flagged. The network comprises communicating links between nodes (1, 2, 3), extending from a "root node" (2) to a plurality of end nodes (3). The end nodes (3) contain the data elements. To find a data element, a search message entering the network at an end node (3) passes through the network towards the root node (2) until it encounters a flagged route to the relevant data element. Thereafter it passes along the route to the end node (3) containing the relevant data element. The invention is relevant to personal numbering services in a communications network. In this case, the data elements each comprise hardware addresses for users of the network. If a user moves in relation to the network, their hardware address will change and, in many cases, the relevant end node (3) will also change. However, the flagged route consequently changes and the routing network therefore provides automatic tracking of the user.

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# INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International Application No  
PCT/GB 95/01882

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER  
IPC 6 H04Q3/00

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

## B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)  
IPC 6 H04Q G06F

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used)

## C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
P,A	US,A,5 400 338 (FLAMMER III) 21 March 1995 see column 3, line 35 - column 4, line 6; claim 1; figures 1,2 ---	1-10
P,A	EP,A,0 614 322 (AT&T CORP) 7 September 1994 see column 4, line 31 - column 5, line 35; figures 1,4,5 ---	1-10
A	DE,A,39 21 637 (SIEMENS AG) 3 January 1991  see abstract; figure see column 4, line 42 - column 5, line 22 see column 9, line 38 - column 11, line 15 --- -/--	1-3,5, 8-10

☒ Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C.

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- \* & \* document member of the same patent family

Date of the actual completion of the international search

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# INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International Application No

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## C.(Continuation) DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
A	<p>IEEE JOURNAL ON SELECTED AREAS IN COMMUNICATION, vol. 11, no. 6, August 1993 NEW YORK, US, pages 850-860, XP 000403991 WANG 'A fully distributed location registration strategy for Universal Personal Communication systems' see page 856, right column, line 1 - page 857, left column, line 19; figures 1,12 ---</p>	1-3,5, 8-10
A	<p>EP,A,0 556 515 (AMERICAN TELEPHONE AND TELEGRAPH COMPANY) 25 August 1993 see claims 1,5-9 ---</p>	1-3,8-10
A	<p>IEEE TRANSACTIONS ON COMMUNICATIONS, vol. 42, no. 2/3/4, February 1994 - April 1994 NEW YORK US, pages 523-533, XP 000445956 BOULOUTAS ET AL. 'Alarm correlation and fault identification in communication networks' see section II 'System representation' -----</p>	1

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Information on patent family members

International Application No

PCT/GB 95/01882

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DE-A-3921637	03-01-91	NONE	
EP-A-0556515	25-08-93	US-A- 5377262	27-12-94
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		JP-A- 6085907	25-03-94