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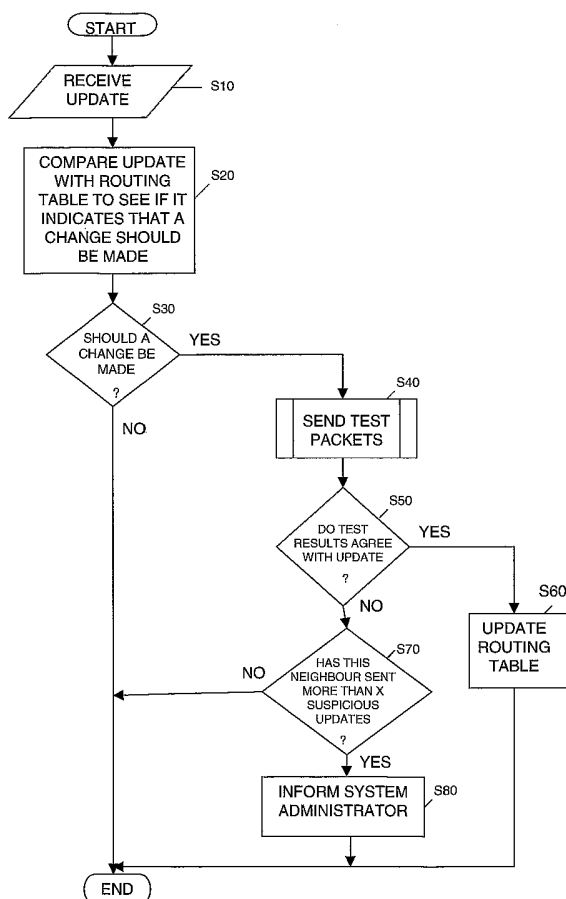
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(54) Title: METHOD OF OPERATING A NETWORK WITH TEST PACKETS



(57) Abstract: A method of operating a data network, of the type in which a number of inter-connected router devices forward received packets of data towards a destination node in accordance with a routing table associated with each router. The method comprises: receiving routing information at one of said routers, determining if the information is such that, if it were correct, it would cause the router to update its routing table in respect of one or more entries, and, if so, sending out two test packets, one of which is sent out according to the existing information contained in the routing table and the other of which is sent out according to the information which would be included in the routing table if it were up-dated in accordance with the received information; comparing the results of the two test sending; and updating the routing table to reflect the received information if the comparison indicates that the received information is correct, but otherwise ignoring the information and maintaining the routing table unchanged.



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A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER
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B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)
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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)

EPO-Internal, WPI Data, PAJ

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	US 2003/204619 A1 (BAYS ROBERT JAMES) 30 October 2003 (2003-10-30) paragraph [0004] paragraph [0023] paragraph [0067] - paragraph [0070] paragraph [0076] paragraph [0086]	1, 2, 5-7, 10-12, 15-17
X	US 2003/112809 A1 (BHARALI ANUPAM A ET AL) 19 June 2003 (2003-06-19) paragraph [0060] - paragraph [0062] paragraph [0066] ----- -/--	1, 2, 5-7, 10-12, 15-17

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☒ See patent family annex.

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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>US 6 363 053 B1 (SCHUSTER GUIDO M ET AL) 26 March 2002 (2002-03-26)</p> <p>column 11, line 55 - column 12, line 13 column 12, line 42 - line 49 -----</p>	<p>1,2,5-7, 10-12, 15-17</p>

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Information on patent family members

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US 2003204619	A1	30-10-2003	AU 2003223592 A1	10-11-2003
			WO 03091893 A1	06-11-2003
US 2003112809	A1	19-06-2003	NONE	
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