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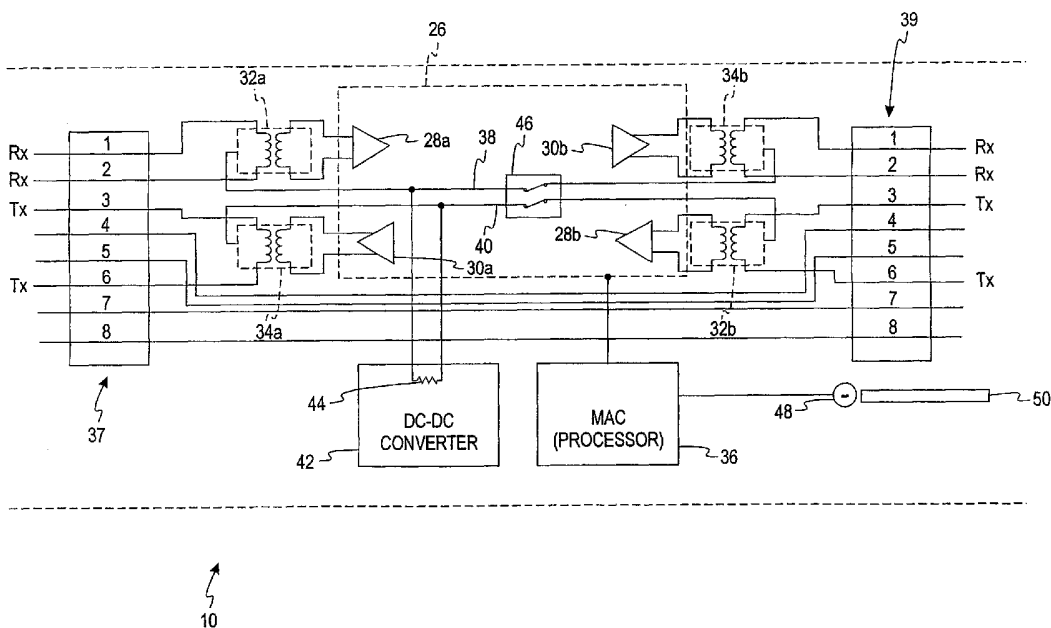
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(54) Title: SYSTEMS AND METHODS FOR MANAGING A NETWORK USING ACTIVE JACKS



(57) Abstract: A system for managing and documenting a local area communications network is provided which deploys power sourcing equipment and powered devices by the use of active electronic modules, having an Ethernet controller and Power over Ethernet forwarding capabilities, as integral, managed components within the cable plant, to enhance management, documentation, security and emergency 911 aspects of the network as well as extending the physical reach of the network.

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## SYSTEMS AND METHODS FOR MANAGING A NETWORK USING ACTIVE JACKS

**FIELD OF THE INVENTION**

This invention is directed generally to communications components and more specifically is directed to systems and methods for managing communications networks using active jacks.

**BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION**

The use of a local area network (LAN) to serve a wide range of communication needs has continued to escalate, with networks growing larger and denser. Issues with documenting and managing LANs have likewise increased the need for timely response when connectivity problems arise. This is even more important with the advent of voice over internet protocol (VOIP) replacing the function of the traditional phone network, but now operating over the same LAN as data services. Local area networks are subsuming more and more of the responsibility for carrying the total electronic communication capability of a business or home.

A system which provides documentation, management and trouble shooting capabilities should do so while keeping the need for human involvement at access points or patch panels to a minimum. Traditionally, telephone networks and data networks have been maintained as two separate networks with their own wiring requirements and peculiarities. This has largely been due to the regulatory requirements on telephone service to supply life line capability and electrical issues such as a relatively high DC ring-tone voltage.

In many respects, LAN wiring schemes have followed telephone schemes involving wall jack panels leading back to patch panels. However, the cable types and characteristics have remained distinct. This is true for large offices, residential and Small Office—Home Office (SOHO) and Multi-Dwelling Units (MDU) installations.

**SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION**

According to one embodiment of the present invention, a system is provided which uses an active electronic jack. According to some embodiments of the present invention, the active jack can be located at the wall in an enterprise office, in a patch panel within the cable distribution plant, in a user device or in two or more of these areas. According to some embodiments of the invention, the active jack includes at least two 10/100 Mb/s Ethernet ports

and is a network element (NE) on the local area network (LAN). One Ethernet port of the active jack is the network port and connects to the horizontal wiring of the LAN system. At least one other port is the user port into which Ethernet capable devices, such as a personal computer (PC) or a Voice over IP (VOIP) telephone, plugs into in order to gain access to the LAN. The active jack may act as a two port Ethernet switch routing data between the two ports.

According to one embodiment of the present invention, physical location information (*i.e.*, room, floor, *etc.*) is associated with the MAC address of the active jack. Since the active jack has a MAC address it responds to Address Resolution Protocol (ARP) requests from the network and transmits ARP messages when powered up or queried to indicate presence on the network. The ARP message and the associated physical location information of the active jack can be used to provide information regarding the connectivity of the structured cable system, *i.e.*, the LAN cable plant.

According to one embodiment of the present invention, the active jack is an electronic element that requires a source of DC power which can be obtained from Power Supplying Equipment (PSE) such as an IEEE 802.3AF compliant source. Such sources are deployed in networks as the source of DC power for an attached powered device (PD) such as a VOIP telephone that receives power according to a power-over-network scheme. According to some embodiments of the present invention, the power consumption of the active jack is minimal, with the remaining power forwarded to a powered device (PD) if one is connected.

There are several methods of supplying the active jacks with DC power. According to one embodiment of the present invention, PSE equipment such as an Ethernet switch or IP router is used. According to another embodiment a patch panel or mid-span patch panel can be used. When a patch panel is equipped with active jacks, a managed structure cable PSE system is obtained. The scope of management that a patch panel has can be enhanced if an active jack is used between the patch panel and the end device.

Current methods of cable plant management and security rely on having the state of the horizontal cable system and/or patch panels remain fairly constant. Further, if changes occur it is required that they are well documented and manually entered in the security/management system database. According to one embodiment of the present invention, use of active jacks facilitates monitoring the state of the patch cords and the horizontal cable system to provide a managed, structured cable system. If there is a removal or movement of a particular cable, the

active jacks connected by the cable will lose upstream network connection. An active jack in a patch panel can detect the change periodically, for example, via once-per-second "heart beat" IP transmissions to the upstream switch. Because the PSE and PD communicate, the PSE can instantaneously report opens in the patch cord. Optionally, an active jack can send a message to a neighboring active jack to report communication problems. When the connection is re-attached, the active jack may send out an ARP message to indicate that it is back on line with any other devices connected to it. As the connection is re-established the switch port to the patch panel port is thus identified, an important aspect to managing the patch cord connectivity. Since the physical location information can be associated with active jacks, even momentary changes to the cable plant may be recognized and logged.

Since the active wall jack is a managed network element, remote visibility is gained by the management and operations components of a communications network. The active jack provides for remote monitoring, obviating or reducing the need to send out a technician to determine the state of the equipment. Service, can be remotely suspended or re-instated. Furthermore, end point devices which connect to a network using active jacks can be inventoried and controlled as well.

According to some embodiments of the present invention, these management and security aspects are utilized when customers use Soft IP phones or VOIP external hardware phones. The active wall jacks can offer power over Ethernet (to power the phone) and/or provide a physical location address to support E911 service.

To support lifeline VOIP, PSE switches may be used to ensure that all the enterprise switches have enough DC power to survive an AC outage. The internal switches will continue to direct and manage VOIP calls to the outside world but deny other IP data transactions. According to one embodiment of the present invention, an advantage of the power patch panel with the active jack is that it can allow the upstream switches to power down during an AC power outage. The traffic can then be directed to a "lifeline" VOIP gateway from the patch panel, with the lifeline VOIP gateway supporting voice traffic and/or a reduced volume of data traffic.

### BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

In the drawings:

FIG. 1a is an isometric view of an active wall jack;

FIG. 1b is a side view of an active wall jack;

FIG. 2a is a schematic diagram of an active wall jack;

FIG. 2b is a schematic block diagram of an alternative embodiment of an active wall jack;

FIGS. 3a, 3b, and 3c illustrate different configurations of active and standard wall jacks in outlet panels;

FIG. 4a, 4b, 4c, and 4d are side views of alternative embodiments of active wall jacks according to the present invention;

FIG. 5 is a block diagram illustrating the entry of location data into an active wall jack;

FIG. 6 is a block diagram illustrating power distribution and cable management schemes using for active wall jacks;

FIG. 7 is a block diagram illustrating a communications network using active jacks according to one embodiment of the present invention;

FIG. 8 is a block diagram illustrating an emergency powering system incorporating patch panels with active jacks;

FIG. 9 is a schematic view of a patch panel with active jacks and shared circuitry;

FIG. 10 is a schematic view of an active jack according to one embodiment of the present invention;

FIG. 11 is a block diagram of a patch panel implementation according to one embodiment of the present invention;

FIG. 12 is a block diagram of a patch panel implementation according to another embodiment of the present invention;

FIG. 13 is a block diagram of a patch panel implementation according to another embodiment of the present invention;

FIG. 14 is a block diagram of a patch panel implementation according to another embodiment of the present invention;

FIG. 15 is a block diagram of a multiple-dwelling unit network according to one embodiment of the present invention; and

FIG. 16 is a block diagram of a network according to one embodiment of the present invention.

#### **DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE ILLUSTRATED EMBODIMENT**

Referring now to the drawings, and initially to FIG. 1a, an isometric construction view of an active jack 10 is shown. The active jack 10 comprises two housings 12a and 12b which can form plug receiving openings 14 as shown in the drawing for the housing 12b. According to an alternative embodiment of the present invention, one connector of the active jack 10 is a pug and the other connector is an insulation displacement connector (IDC). The housings 12a and 12b may be of a type used for communication connectors as described more fully in U.S. Patent 6,371,793, "Low Crosstalk Modular Communication Connector," by Doorhy et al., issued April 16, 2002 which is incorporated herein in its entirety by reference. Mounted within the plug receiving opening are a plurality of conductors 16 which form a resilient contact with a communications plug when the plug is connected to the active jack 10. The conductors 16 are led through the housing of the active jack 10 to make contact with the printed circuit board (PCB) 18. According to one embodiment of the invention, the PCB 18 has an x dimension of approximately 5/8 inches and a y dimension of approximately 2 inches and is of a multi-layer construction with a maximum copper area fill for heat dissipation, and is capable of supporting electronic components 20. The housing is shown in an exploded view away from the circuit board 18 to expose thermal contacts 22 which in one embodiment aid in conducting heat from the circuit board 18 and components 20 to the housing components such as component 12b. The active jack 10 is shown in FIG. 1b in relation to a mountable faceplate 24 of the type typically used as communication ports in wall locations.

According to one embodiment of the present invention, the thermal design of the active jack 10 supports the environment within the enclosure of a data outlet. Since according to some embodiments there is virtually no airflow in this enclosure, heat dissipation is not effective. The active jack design may incorporate a low thermal resistance contact to the outside of the enclosure through the connector housing 12b, as shown in FIG. 1b. In another embodiment of the current invention the housing is constructed of a high thermal conductivity material, such as metal-impregnated material, to aid in the dissipation of generated heat. In an alternative

embodiment of the present invention, the electronic components 20 on the printed circuit board 18 are provided within one or both of the housings 12a and 12b of the active jack 10.

Turning now to FIG. 2a, a schematic drawing of an active wall jack 10 according to one embodiment of the present invention is shown. The components of the active jack unit 10 according to one embodiment of the present invention are mounted on the PCB 18. The components shown in Fig. 2a are shown as functional units which may be realized in various forms of integration. The components include an at least dual port Ethernet physical device (PHY) 26 comprising receivers 28a and b and transmitters 30a and 30b. While a dual port Ethernet device is shown in FIG. 2, it is to be understood that the principles of the present invention can be applied to active jacks having more than two ports, as further discussed below.

The receivers 28 and transmitters 30 are electrically connected to respective receive transformers 32a and b and transmit transformers 34a and b. The receive transformers 32a and b and the transmit transformers 34a and b are further electrically connected to a plurality of conductors (ref 16 in FIG. 1) of the respective housings 12a and b. The conductors may take the form of a network-side connection 37 and a user-side connection 39. The PHY 26 is connected to an Ethernet Media Access Controller (MAC) processor 36 which functionally forms a two-port Ethernet switch.

According to some embodiments of the present invention, power for the circuit of the active jack 10 is obtained from an IEEE 802.3AF compliant PSE source which according to one embodiment supplies negative common-mode voltage which is extracted from the center tap of the receive transformer 32a to a negative rail 38 and a positive common-mode voltage which is extracted from the transmit transformer 34a to a positive rail 40. The IEEE 802.3AF standard also allows for the negative and positive lines to be switched. A DC-to-DC converter 42 is connected to the negative rail 38 and positive rail 40 and supplies the circuitry of the active jack 10 with power. A resistor 44 is placed across the voltage rails 38 and 40 with sufficient resistance to signal to the PSE the presence of a Power Requiring Device (PD). According to one embodiment of the present invention, the resistor 44 has a resistance of 26 k $\Omega$ , though greater or lesser resistances may be used in particular embodiments of the invention. In a power supplying throughput mode, the voltage rails 38 and 40 are electrically connected through an optional switch 46 to the center taps of the transmit transformer 34b and receive transformer 32b to allow other PDs downstream to obtain power from the PSE. The IEEE 802.3AF draft



standard does not cover multiple PDs on a given circuit so the power requirements of intermediate PDs such as the active jack 10 must be very small, typically less than a watt. The optional switch 46 may be controlled by the local MAC processor to provide power control over downstream PDs for management and/or security purposes and is discussed further below.

Also shown in FIG. 2a is the MAC processor 36 which controls a light emitting diode (LED) 48. According to one embodiment of the present invention, the MAC processor 36 serves as a network port identification component, storing and providing identification information when requested. There may be two or more such LEDs 48 controlled by the MAC processor 36 in communication links: at least one indicates link status, and at least one other indicates transmit/receive activity. According to one embodiment the LED(s) 48 are mounted on the PC board 18 and light is conducted by a light pipe 50 to the exterior jack housing 12b. In alternative embodiments the LEDs may be mounted on the housing 12 and electrically connected to the PCB 18. According to alternative embodiments, one or more LEDs may be associated with each active jack 10 and with each jack housing 12. According to some embodiments of the present invention, additional LED ports, or different colors of LED light, can be made available to support control or monitoring of endpoint devices. For example, different colored lights or additional lights may be employed to indicate that an installation is or is not complete and to aid in the monitoring and maintenance of cable connections. Such embodiments may provide installation or maintenance personnel with information needed to locate a break in cable connectivity and thereby pinpoint the connection that requires attention.

Turning now to FIG. 2b, an alternative active jack according to one embodiment of the present invention is shown. In the embodiment of FIG. 2b, a logic chip 51 carries out the functions of the active jack, including such functions as the forwarding of communications through the active jack, regeneration of signals by the active jack, monitoring and reporting of data throughput, memory storage for installation instructions and user instructions, logical identification of the active jack, and switching of the active jack to enable or disable communications through the active jack. According to one embodiment of the present invention, the logic chip 51 includes a memory component for storing a template of instructions for an installer to follow and/or one or more data fields for an installer to fill during installation of the active jack. The logic chip 51 is connected to a network-side connection 53 and a user-side connection 55.

Active jacks according to some embodiments of the present invention may be deployed in power-over-Ethernet environments. In these environments, the active jacks may consume the power needed for their operation while falling below the level of power consumption that would identify the active jacks as powered devices in the power-over-Ethernet environment. Active jacks in such an environment forward power for provisioning to powered devices.

Referring now to FIG. 3a, a face plate 24a according to one embodiment of the invention is shown with one active jack 10. Another embodiment is face plate 24b, shown in FIG. 3b, with two active jacks 10a-b. Another embodiment is face plate 24c, shown in FIG. 3c, with two active jacks 10a-b and a passive jack 52. It is to be understood that several alternative embodiments employing multiple active and passive jacks may be implemented in specific installations. Also shown in FIGS. 3a, 3b, and 3c are LED indicators 49 for facilitating installation and maintenance of active jacks.

Referring now to FIG. 4a, according to one embodiment of the present invention the active jack unit 10 is incorporated into a wall panel mounted in a wall 54 behind a face plate 24 so that the user-side jack housing 12b is accessible within the user area 56 as shown. The active jack unit 10 is connected to a horizontal cable 58 by means of a terminating plug 60, which facilitates testing and repair of either the active jack unit 10 or the horizontal cable 58. Alternatively, the active jack unit 10 can be connected to a horizontal cable via an insulation displacement connector.

Active jacks according to the present invention also support the use of multiple user-side connections and/or multiple network-side connections within one active jack unit. Such embodiments may be useful in implementations in which one user device is connected to more than one network on the network side. Further, more than one user device, or user devices belonging to more than one account owner on a network, may be connected to a single active-jack and access one or multiple networks on the network side of the active jack. Constructions of active jacks having multiple network-side connections also support dual-homing operation for active jacks. In this operation, an active jack can monitor more than one network-side connection for operability. If a primary network connection becomes inoperable or suffers other communications problems, active jacks according to the present invention may automatically switch to a secondary network connection. This provision for redundancy of network

connections can significantly enhance the reliability of network access at an active jack employing such a dual-homing system.

Embodiments of active jacks according to the present invention using multiple user-side and/or network-side connections are shown in FIGS. 4b, 4c, and 4d. The active jacks of FIGS. 4b, 4c, and 4d are incorporated into wall panels, but it is to be understood that they could alternatively be incorporated into other network components as desired. FIG. 4b shows an active jack having two network-side connector housings 12a and 12c for connection to two network-side terminating plugs 60a and 60b which in turn are connected to one or more networks via two horizontal cables 58a and 58b. The active jack of FIG. 4b allows for one connection in a user area 56 to have access to more than one network connection. While two network connections have been shown, it is to be understood that more than two network connections may be employed on the network side in this and other embodiments.

Turning now to FIG. 4c, an active jack having two user-side connector housings 12b and 12d for connection to two user devices. One network-side connector housing 12a is shown for connection to a network-side terminating plug 60, which in turn is connected to a network via a horizontal cable 58. This embodiment allows two user devices to be connected to the active jack assembly. Further, because each of the user-side connector housings 12b and 12d can support the functionality of a separate active jack, the embodiment of FIG. 4c enables all active jack functions to be equally applied to more than one user-side device via a direct wall connection. While two user-side connections have been shown, it is to be understood that more than two user-side connections may be employed in this and other embodiments.

FIG. 4d shows an active jack embodiment in which two network-side connector housings 12a and 12c and two user-side connector housings 12b and 12d are employed. In this embodiment, more than one user device, such as a VOIP phone or other user device, may be connected to more than one network-side connection. The embodiment of FIG. 4d allows for a dual-homing application for an active jack wall assembly having multiple user-side active jacks. Thus, multiple users or multiple user devices on the user side 56 of the jack may be provided with network redundancy in the event of failure of a primary network or other communications problems.

In a communication network it is desirable to be able to identify the physical location of each user. This is especially important in supporting an electronic emergency 911 database for

VOIP, in which the location information can greatly facilitate the ability of personnel to respond to an emergency. Location information can also support a managed, structured cable plant. Referring now to FIG. 5, an active jack 10 mounted in the wall 54 of an area 62 connected via a horizontal cable 58 to a patch panel 64 and through a patch cord 66 to an IP router 68 is shown. According to one embodiment of the present invention a specific active jack 10 is associated with its physical location information in a database. To associate the active jack 10 with its physical location, the physical location of the area 62 may be associated with information regarding the active jack—*e.g.*, its MAC address—in a database 70, which according to some embodiments is an E911 database or a database recognized by an E911 program.

Further, devices within the area 62 and connected to the active jack 10 may be identified according to item type or item model, thereby enabling an inventory of items connected to active jacks 10 and the real-time monitoring of equipment connected to networks via active jacks 10. For example, in a school network active jacks distributed in classrooms allow for centralized monitoring of equipment connected to the school network via active jacks. Thus, if a particular computer or optical projector were needed, the physical location of that computer or optical projector—in addition to the logical location of the device in the computer network—can easily be determined as long as the equipment is connected to the network. According to one embodiment of the present invention, inventory information corresponding to the physical location of devices connected to the network may be associated with a graphical map of a network's physical locations to provide a real-time depiction of device locations within a network.

According to one embodiment of the present invention, personnel engaged in the installation of an active jack may associate the active jack and the active jack's physical location by entering the location information using an application running on a PC 72 which communicates with the connected local active jack 10 which in turn, as stated above, has its own MAC address. The association of the MAC address of the local active jack 10 with the location data can be recorded on the PC 72 and later transferred to a management database 70 after a work period of active jack installations. In an alternative embodiment, the associated information is input directly into the database 70 over the connected network. In another method, personnel use a test instrument 74, which provides a simpler interface to achieve the same results. The test instrument 74 can also perform a variety of network tests to ensure proper

network installation and connectivity. In yet another embodiment a networked computer 76 is used to update the location database based on work order entry information. The database 70 as depicted in FIG. 5 may reside as part of a network manager system, as part of the IP router 68 or as part of a voice gateway for VOIP systems.

Turning now to FIG. 6 three connection paths are shown to illustrate methods of managing a structured interconnection cable network 78 using active jacks 10. The structured network used for this example is a PSE IP switch/router 80 connected by patch cords 82 to a first patch panel 84 having passive jacks as ports and by a patch cord 86 to a second patch panel 88 which has active jacks 10c as ports. In the first connection path 90 of FIG. 6, a user device 92a, such as a VOIP phone, is connected via a passive jack 52 to the network 78. User devices for use with this and other embodiments of the present invention may be phones such as VOIP phones, computers, and the like and may be powered devices that draw power from network connections. In the first connection path 90 if there is an open connection anywhere in the cable system or if the device 92a is a powered device and is disconnected from the wall jack 52, the device 92a will power down. This can be detected by the PSE IP switch/router 80 but the reason—*e.g.*, cable plant issue, an office connection or device powering down—cannot be determined. If a patch cord 82 or the connecting horizontal cable 94a were moved the movement would only be detected as the powering down of the device 92a. A patch panel containing active jacks as ports may be considered a managed interconnect patch panel because it enables the monitoring and control of connections similarly to a cross-connect patch panel system while requiring only one patch panel.

In a second connection path 96 of FIG. 6, a user device 92b is connected to the network 78 by means of an active wall jack 10a. In this scenario a cable movement or an open circuit in either the patch cord 82 or the horizontal cable 94b causes the user device 92b (if the user device is a powered device) and the active jack 10a to power down. At this time the PSE IP switch/router 80 may note in a database that the user device 92b and the active jack 10a are no longer present, *i.e.*, drawing power. When the power is restored (via a cable change or repair in the case of an open circuit) the PSE IP switch/router 80 notes that a powered device is connected due to the sensing of a power request at the PSE IP switch/router 80. Furthermore, the active jack 10a and the device 92b send Ethernet ARP messages on powerup indicating presence on the network. If only the device 92b is disconnected then its loss will be detected by the PSE IP

switch/router 80 and the active jack 10a can still be reached and queried by management software. Further, when only the user device 92b is disconnected and later reconnected, on power restoration only the re-powered device 92b will respond with the Ethernet ARP message. The active jack 10a and thereby the user device 92b can be associated with a given physical location, assisting management with notification of disrupted service.

When active jacks are deployed in a patch panel 88, as shown in a third connection path 98, the active jacks in the wall facilitate the maintenance of a structured and managed cable plant. However, there is some additional functionality that can be derived by having active jack technology at the patch panel and the client destination point. In the third connection path 98, a user device 92c is connected to the network 78 by means of an active wall jack 10b and a horizontal cable 94c to a patch panel 88 which contains active jacks 10c. The patch panel 88, in turn, connected via patch cords 86 to the PSE IP switch/router 80. In this scenario open circuit breaks, cable movements, and/or movement of the user device 92c can be isolated and separately identified as the connecting network is segmented by active devices 92c, 10b and 10c. Each of the active devices mentioned respond to Ethernet ARP requests and produce Ethernet ARP messages on power up situations. For example, if there is a movement of the patch cord 86, the user device 92c, the active jack 10b and the patch panel jack 10c will all power down. At this point the PSE notes that the user device changed state in the amount of power requested and can thus distinguish between only a user device 92c removal and horizontal or patch cord open circuits and/or movements. When power is restored all previously powered down devices send Ethernet ARP requests on the network indicating presence. Furthermore, if the interconnection between a port of the PSE device 80 and an active port on the patch panel 88 or between the patch panel 88 and the active jack 10b has been changed then the location of the change can be determined and managed.

Referring now to FIG. 7, the use of the active jack 10 to control network access to a LAN 100 is illustrated. In this embodiment, user devices 102a-n, such as VOIP phones, are attached to the network through respective active jacks 10a-n in respective locations 104a-n. While only four user devices are shown in four locations, it is to be understood that systems and methods according to the presentation may be used with a number of devices in a number of locations. The active jacks 10a-n are connected to a patch panel 106 by a horizontal cable plant 108. The patch panel 106 is connected to a PSE IP router device 110 which is connected to an

uninterrupted power source (UPS) 112 and supplies power via the IEEE 802.3AF draft standard to downstream power requiring devices, *e.g.* 102a-n and 10a-n. The PSE device 110 is connected to an IP router 114 which also serves as a VOIP gateway and is connected to or contains a database 116. A network manager 118 is also connected to the LAN 100 and in one embodiment of the present invention is capable of monitoring and controlling the various network elements such as the routers 110 and 114 and the active jacks 10a-n via Simple Network Management Protocol (SNMP) messages. According to some embodiments of the present invention, network managers execute network management programs for implementing network management tasks.

As shown in FIG. 2, the active jack 10 has a DC power switch 46 which is controlled by the local processor 36. The active jack 10 contains the switch 46 and thus both the data connectivity and the power to any downstream device can be controlled, for example by the local processor 36, enabling enhanced security features such as endpoint isolation, device inventory, and authorization. The network manager 118 can control the network elements to disable network access to any endpoint either at periodic intervals or in response to an external stimulus such as an unauthorized request for service. This may be accomplished by the network manager 118 sending signals to processors 36 located at active jacks 10 to open the switches 46 at specific locations, thereby preventing data flow at those locations. There are applications whereby during certain times of the day, access to a managed network can be restricted. Use of the active jack 10 in networks also permits usage monitoring. For example, it may be useful to restrict access from some office to sensitive or restricted internet or intranet sites or locations. If an unauthorized access is initiated, then the network manager 118, aware of the intrusion, can have the option of shutting the active jack 10 off as well as logging the location of the active jack that the requesting device is using.

Referring now to FIG. 8, a system according to one embodiment of the present invention of providing emergency power via a patch panel as well as managing the structured cable system using active jacks at the patch panel is illustrated. User VOIP phones 120a-n in user areas 121a-n are connected through active wall jacks 10a-n via a horizontal cable plant 108 to a powered patch panel 122. The powered patch panel 122 is connected to an upstream IP switch 124, which during normal operation is the routing device for the VOIP phones 120a-n. The powered patch panel 122 is also connected to a local emergency power supply 126, such as an emergency

battery, and an emergency voice gateway 128, which is also connected to the local emergency power supply 126. In an electrical outage, the upstream switch 124 may power down and the power patch panel 122 may divert voice traffic to the local gateway 128. According to some embodiments, data services may be curtailed in a power outage but voice services are maintained for emergency situations.

According to one embodiment of the present invention active jacks are provided within the patch panel 122 as three-ported devices. In this embodiment, one port is used for the user connectivity, one port for network connectivity and the third port for connectivity to the emergency voice gateway 128. According to another embodiment of the present invention the connectivity to the emergency gateway 128 from the patch panel 122 is via a shared Ethernet connection. According to yet another embodiment of the present invention, the patch panel uses a network-side switching element to connect the network ports of the patch panel active jacks to a shared Ethernet bus 130.

Referring now to FIG. 9 a block diagram of one embodiment of a powered patch panel 122 is illustrated. In this embodiment active jack units 10a-x of a 24-port patch panel 122 are mounted on a common printed circuit board 132. A processor 134 is electrically connected to and controls the activity of the active jacks 10a-x via a bus 136. A DC-to-DC power converter 138 converts an incoming power supply to a power supply as required by local circuitry. For example, the power converter 138 may convert an incoming 48 volt power supply to 3.3 volts required by the local circuitry. The power for the local circuitry is distributed along a power connection 140 to the active jacks 10a-x in order to forward the power to downstream powered devices. According to one embodiment, the active jack 10x is assigned to extract 48 volts from an upstream PSE and distribute the 48 volts via an incoming power connection 142 to the DC-to-DC converter 138. Optionally, alternative active jacks such as the active jack 10w may also be used for power extraction, as for example when drawing power from a redundant upstream PSE. The DC-to-DC power converter 138 may determine from which source (*e.g.*, 10w or 10x) power will be used. In an alternative embodiment an additional jack or jacks may be employed for the sole purpose of power extraction.

Turning now to FIG. 10, an alternative construction for an active jack 144 according to one embodiment of the present invention is shown. The active jack 144 may, for example, be used in the embodiment of FIG. 9, in which a common processor 134 and a common DC-to-DC



power converter 138 is used and the individual jacks need not extract power from an upstream PSE. The active jack 144 of FIG. 10 comprises upstream transformers 146 and 148 connected to upstream drivers 150 and 152 respectively, and downstream transformers 154 and 156 connected to downstream drivers 158 and 160, respectively. A switch 162 is operatively connected to the power connection 140 and under processor control via the bus 136 can control the power distributed via downstream power connectors 164 and 166 to the downstream transformers 154 and 156 in order to forward power to downstream powered devices. Thus, only the downstream transformers 154 and 156 need to be center-tapped for the purpose of forwarding power. According to yet another embodiment of the present invention, the switch 162 may also be operatively connected to the receive (Rx) and transmit (Tx) signals for the purpose of interrupting the data connection.

According to one embodiment of a patch panel 122 of FIG. 9, the active jacks 10 have integrated LEDs that aid the installer in either cross-connect or interconnect systems. FIG. 11 illustrates an interconnect system in which LEDs 168 associated with active jacks 10 on a patch panel 122 can be illuminated or flash patterns to aid the installer. For example, LEDs may indicate where patch cords 86 or horizontal cables 108 are to be connected to the patch panel 122. In the embodiment of FIG. 11, the patch panel 122 is disposed along a communication pathway between a PSE IP switch/router 170 and horizontal cables 108. According to one embodiment, illumination of the active jack LEDs is achieved through SNMP messages from a management entity. In addition to the facilitation of installation provided by LED functionality, LEDs also allow for improved cable management following installation by providing maintenance personnel with visual indications of where inoperable cables are located as well as by providing visible instructions for reorganizing cables in a communications network. While only one LED has been shown associated with each of the active jacks 144, it is to be understood that multiple LEDs may be associated with each active jack in some embodiments of the current invention.

Another embodiment of the present invention is shown in FIG. 12, in which patch panels 122a and 122b are deployed in a cascaded master-slave configuration. Patch panels deployed in the cascaded manner shown in FIG. 12 enable cross-connect systems with LEDs 168 on each panel indicating to an installer where patch cords are to be removed or installed.

According to one embodiment of the powered patch panel 122 shown in FIG. 13 an electrical supply, such as a 48 volt DC electrical supply, can be obtained from a local power source 172 which may be an AC line PSE or an emergency DC battery pack making the powered patch panel 122 a PSE device. According to another embodiment, a power supply, such as a 48 volt DC electrical supply, can be obtained by means of one of the local jacks 10x, as shown in FIG. 9, from an upstream PSE.

In yet another embodiment, shown in FIG. 14, a power supply, such as a 48 volt DC electrical supply to the patch panel 122, can be obtained from two independent sources, PSEs 174a and 174b, by means of patch cords 176a and 176b using active jacks, such as jacks 10k and 10l, within the patch panel 122, thus providing redundant DC power sources.

Referring now to FIG. 15, a multiple-dwelling unit (MDU) according to one embodiment of the present invention is illustrated. Using active jacks allows service activation at individual dwelling units. In addition, security and management of communications for residential and small office/home office (SOHO) applications can be facilitated. A broadband router 178 is connected to a wide area network 180 for external connectivity and to a distribution system within the MDU via patch cords 86 to a patch panel 182, which may be a powered patch panel with powered active jacks. The patch panel 182 may optionally include one or more active jacks 10 for management purposes. From the patch panel 182 a horizontal cable plant connects individual locations 184a-n, which may be individual dwellings. Each location 184a-n includes a wall mounted active jack 10a-n and a user device 186a-n. Each active jack 10a-n has a MAC address and physical location information associated with the active jack. Power for the active jacks 10 and the user devices 186a-n may be obtained from a UPS source connected to the broadband router 178 or the patch panel 182. Integrating active jacks into user areas and/or into the broadband router 178 allows for remote management and diagnosis of cabling infrastructure issues, increased security of the cabling infrastructure, service activation (*i.e.*, turning service on and off) and monitoring, power over Ethernet applications, and indication of devices' physical locations. Performance monitoring is also enhanced because the exact physical and logical network location of a problem connection can be identified centrally by a service provider, without the need for more extensive investigation of basic location issues.

Multiple dwelling unit applications of the present invention, including the benefits of embodiments of active jacks as described herein, may be extended to residential, office, and

hotel networks. The distribution of active jacks throughout these networks enables a variety of useful features. One use for active jacks 10a-n distributed throughout a network is the implementation of toll-for-service systems. Such a system may be implemented, for example, in a hotel in which each of the locations 184a-n is a hotel room or a conference room. The active jacks 10a-n enable the monitoring of data throughput and the reporting of data throughput to a network manager. Thus, the network manager may charge a set fee for the amount of data requested or sent by the devices 186a-n. Further, because each of the active jacks 10a-n may be switched on or off by a network manager, the ability to use the active jacks 10a-n in the locations 184 a-n may be centrally controlled to allow use of individual active jacks only for those who have paid for use of the active jacks, including the ability to halt data flow through the active jacks 10a-n once a paid-for time period has expired. Payment schemes of payment per data packet or other data unit and time-based payment may be implemented, allowing for the efficient allocation of network bandwidth to those who pay for it. Active jacks may be distributed in a network tree architecture, such that network access by several users of separate active jacks, for example within a conference room, may be easily managed by a network manager without the need to address each active jack within an access-enabled area. Active jacks according to the present invention may be connected to other active jacks provided within a network, and active jacks provided within walls may be connected to other active jacks provided in walls or to active jacks provided in patch panels. Further, in some network architectures according to the present invention, active jacks provided within patch panels may be connected to other network jacks provided in patch panels.

The use of active jacks in a multiple-dwelling unit as shown in FIG. 15 also enhances cable management for a service provider by allowing the identification of communication problems at individual spans of cable. Centralized control and monitoring of active jacks also allows a network manager to determine if unauthorized network access—or network “pirating”—is attempted and further provides the network manager with information necessary to determine the physical location of attempted unauthorized access.

Because active jacks integrated into patch panels or wall jacks can send connection information upstream to a remote network management system, the need to send technicians to remote sites to determine equipment conditions or to service equipment can be reduced or, in many cases, eliminated. As with other multiple-user embodiments described herein, only a few

users have been shown, but it is to be understood that the present invention may be used to facilitate implementations with many more users.

Active jacks according to the present invention can be used to extend the physical range of Ethernet systems. By regenerating signals received, active jacks positioned along a communication pathway serve to increase the effective range of signals, resulting in a sturdier communication pathway. Also, since each active jack in some embodiments of the invention regenerates an Ethernet signal it is not necessary to co-locate IP switches and routers with a patch panel. Further, because active jacks can be disposed within patch panels or at wall jacks, communications pathways can be designed to take the greatest advantage of active jack placement while keeping costs low. Active jacks may also be used in combination with wireless network elements, such as wireless access points ("WAPs") to provide the features of active jacks in wireless networks.

FIG. 16 shows a block diagram of a communications network employing active jacks to extend the network range. In the network of FIG. 16, a network element 188, such as a switch, has a first radius "R1" within which the network element may conduct network signals via wired connections. Thus, the network element 188 has an operable area 190 denoted by a first dotted circle "C1." Providing a wired connection 192 to an active jack 10 positioned near the perimeter of the operable area 190 of the network element 188 will increase the effective area of the system because the active jack 10 can regenerate communication signals. A second circle "C2" having a second radius "R2" shows the extended effective area 194 achieved when the active jack 10 is employed. Further extension can be achieved by employing multiple active jacks 10 or by providing an additional wired connection 196 from the active jack 10 to a wireless access point 198. It is to be understood that active jacks used for the extension of range as shown in FIG. 16 may be provided as wall jacks or as active jacks within patch panels. Further, it is to be understood that wireless access points 198 and active jacks 10 may be deployed in a variety of configurations as desired in particular networking applications, and that active jacks may be provided within areas served by wireless access points to regenerate signals from the wireless access point along an additional cabled line. Additionally, while R1 and R2 have been shown approximately equivalent to each other in FIG. 16, it is to be appreciated some embodiments of the present invention may employ two different radii. Wireless access points and dual-homing active jacks (described above with reference to FIG. 4b) may be employed to switch device

access from a primary wireless access point to a secondary wireless access point when networking problems develop with the primary wireless access point.

While particular embodiments and applications of the present invention have been illustrated and described, it is to be understood that the invention is not limited to the precise construction and compositions disclosed herein and that various modifications, changes, and variations may be apparent from the foregoing descriptions without departing from the spirit and scope of the invention as defined in the appended claims.

**WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:**

1. A communications network wall panel comprising:
  - one or more user-side communication connections for connection to one or more user devices;
  - one or more network-side communication connections, at least one of said network-side communications connections corresponding to at least one of said user-side communications connections; and
  - a network port identification component, said network port identification component having a network port identification address associated therewith.
2. The communications network wall panel of claim 1 wherein said user devices are powered devices.
3. The communications network wall panel of claim 2 further comprising a power management component adapted to provide power to said network port identification component and to said powered devices.
4. The communications network wall panel of claim 1 further comprising a heat dissipation component.
5. The communications network wall panel of claim 4 wherein said heat dissipation component is a conductive member extending from said power management component to a user-side panel housing said one or more user-side communications connections.
6. The communications network wall panel of claim 3 wherein said power management component comprises a DC-to-DC power converter for accepting power from one or both of said user-side communication connection and said network-side communication connection and converting said power for use by said network port identification component.
7. The communications network wall panel of claim 1 further comprising an addressable switch for enabling or disabling data flow between one or more of said user-side

communications connection and corresponding ones of said one or more network-side communications connections.

8. The communications network wall panel of claim 1 wherein said user devices are not powered devices.

9. The communications network wall panel of claim 1 further comprising one or more light indicators for facilitating installation, monitoring, and control of said network wall panel.

10. The communications network wall panel of claim 1 wherein said network side communications connections number at least two, a primary one of said network side communications connections being connected to a primary network and a secondary one of said network side communications connections being connected to a secondary network, said communications network wall panel further comprising a switch for enabling the switching of communications from at least one of said user-side communications connections from said primary network to said secondary network upon detection of communications problems with said primary network.

11. A system for managing network connections throughout physical locations of network elements comprising:

a router;

a network management program adapted to communicate with said router;

a plurality of network wall panels in communication with said router, said network wall panels comprising user-side communication connections and network-side communications connections, said plurality of network wall panels being provided in a plurality of physical wall panel locations of said network elements and further comprising electronic wall panel identification components having wall panel identification addresses associated therewith, said wall panel identification components responding to queries from said network management program with said identification addresses; and

a network management database in communication with said router, said network management database containing data linking said plurality of physical wall panel locations with

said identification addresses associated with said electronic wall panel identification components.

12. The system of claim 11 in which said identification addresses are media access control addresses, and said electronic wall panel identification components are media access control chips.

13. The system of claim 11 further comprising a plurality of voice-over-internet-protocol telephones connected to said user-side communication connections of said network wall panels, said voice-over-internet-protocol telephones being adapted to place emergency calls.

14. The system of claim 13 wherein said network management program is adapted to respond to an emergency call from one of said voice-over-internet-protocol telephones by providing to an outside emergency provider said physical wall panel location associated with the identification address associated with the electronic wall panel identification component of the network wall panel to which said voice-over-internet-protocol phone is connected.

15. A method of installing a communications network comprising:

installing a plurality of network wall jacks in a plurality of wall jack physical locations, said network wall jacks comprising user-side connections and network-side connections and electronic wall jack identification components having wall jack identification addresses associated therewith;

associating information regarding said wall jack physical locations with said wall jack identification addresses;

recording said wall jack physical location information and said associated wall jack identification addresses; and

storing in a database accessible to said communications network said wall jack physical location information and said associated wall jack identification addresses.

16. The method of claim 15 wherein storing said wall jack physical location information and said associated wall jack identification addresses comprises storing said wall jack physical



location information and said associated wall jack identification addresses in a database of an E911 application program resident in a router upstream of said wall jacks in said communications system.

17. The method of claim 15 wherein recording said wall jack physical location information and said associated wall jack identification addresses comprises recording said wall jack physical location information and said wall jack identification addresses in a test instrument.

18. The method of claim 15 wherein recording said wall jack physical location information and said associated wall jack identification addresses comprises recording said wall jack physical location information and said wall jack identification addresses in a personal computer.

19. The method of claim 15 further comprising providing an emergency call management system within a router of said network, said emergency call management system being adapted to access said database.

20. The method of claim 15 further comprising storing installation instructions and providing said installation instructions to a communications network installer, said instructions informing said communications network installer how to associate said wall jack physical location information with said wall jack identification addresses.

21. The method of claim 20 wherein storing said installation instructions comprises storing said installation instructions in memory provided within said network wall jacks.

22. The method of claim 20 wherein storing said installation instructions comprises storing said installation instructions in memory provided within an installation test instrument.

23. The method of claim 20 wherein storing said installation instructions comprises storing said installation instructions in memory provided within a personal computer.

24. The method of claim 15 wherein storing said wall jack physical location information and said associated wall jack identification addresses comprises recording said wall jack physical location information and said associated wall jack identification addresses in a test instrument during installation of said network wall jacks and uploading said wall jack physical location information and said associated wall jack identification addresses to said database.

25. The method of claim 15 further comprising visibly indicating installation status of said network wall jacks with light indicators provided on said network wall jacks.

26. A method for providing security in a communications network comprising:  
providing a plurality of network wall jacks in physical locations in said network, said network wall jacks comprising network-side connectors and user-side connectors and having electronic identification modules having identification addresses stored therein;  
associating said identification addresses of said network wall jacks with said physical locations at which said network wall jacks are provided;  
forwarding data to and from said network wall jacks using at least one network router;  
and  
authorizing access to said communications network only by certain ones of said physical locations by restricting access to said communications network by network wall jacks having identification addresses associated with approved physical locations.

27. The method of claim 26 comprising providing access to said communications network by certain ones of said physical locations during specific times of day.

28. A system for documenting a communications network comprising:  
a network management computer executing a network management program;  
a router connected to said network management computer;  
a plurality of network wall jacks connected to said router, said network wall jacks comprising network-side connectors for connection to said router and user-side connectors for connection to user devices, said network wall jacks further comprising identification electronics having identification codes associated therewith; and

a network management database;

wherein said network management computer is adapted to query said network wall jacks through said router, each of said network wall jacks being adapted to respond to said query with its associated identification code.

29. The system of claim 28 wherein each of said network wall jacks is adapted to respond to said query with user device identification codes associated with said user devices connected to each of said network wall jacks

30. The system of claim 29 wherein said network management database is adapted to compile said user device identification codes with physical location information corresponding to each of said network wall jacks in a network inventory.

31. A communications patch panel comprising:

a plurality of downstream network ports for accepting data signals from and forwarding data signals to network components downstream from the communications patch panel;

a plurality of upstream network ports for accepting data signals from and forwarding data signals to network components upstream from the communications patch panel, each of the upstream network ports being connected to a corresponding one of the downstream network ports for transmitting data signals between said upstream network ports and said downstream network ports to form upstream-downstream port pairs; and

a plurality of port identification components, each of said port identification components having a port identification address associated therewith, each of said port identification components being associated with one of said upstream-downstream port pairs.

32. The communications patch panel of claim 31 wherein said port identification components are adapted to forward said port identification address to network components located upstream or downstream of said communications patch panel in a network.

33. The communications patch panel of claim 31 wherein each of said upstream-downstream port pairs and its associated port identification component is an active patch panel jack, said

communications patch panel further comprising a power converter for supplying power at a first voltage to a plurality of said port identification components of said patch panel, one of said active patch panel jacks being a power-accepting patch panel jack for accepting power at a second voltage from power-supplying equipment and forwarding said power at said second voltage to said power converter.

34. The communications patch panel of claim 33 further comprising at least one light indicator associated with each of said upstream network ports, said at least one light indicator indicating the network status of the corresponding upstream network port.

35. The communications patch panel of claim 33 further comprising at least one light indicator associated with each of said downstream network ports, said at least one light indicator indicating the network status of the corresponding downstream network port.

36. The communications patch panel of claim 33 further comprising at least one upstream light indicator associated with each of said upstream network ports and at least one downstream light indicator associated with each of said downstream network ports, said light indicators indicating the network status of their corresponding network ports.

37. The communications patch panel of claim 33 further comprising at least one remotely addressable network port switch associated with at least one of said network ports, said remotely addressable network port switch being remotely controlled to enable or disable communication via said at least one network port.

38. A communication system comprising:  
a plurality of network wall jacks, each of said network wall jacks comprising a user-side communication connection, a network-side communication connection, and an identification module for storing wall jack identification information corresponding to the network wall jack;  
network equipment connected via communications cables to said plurality of network wall jacks;

a network management system executing a network management program and connected to said network equipment; and

a database for storing information for use by said network management program.

39. The system of claim 38 wherein said network management program is adapted to transmit query signals throughout said communications network.

40. The system of claim 39 wherein said identification modules of said network wall jacks are adapted to respond to said query signals with said identification information.

41. The system of claim 39 wherein said communications network comprises user devices connected to said user-side communication connections of one or more of said plurality of network wall jacks and wherein said network wall jacks are adapted to respond to said query signals with said wall jack identification information and identification information associated with said user devices connected to said network wall jacks.

42. The system of claim 41 wherein said database contains physical location information corresponding to the physical locations of said network wall jacks and network management program is adapted to accept said wall jack identification information and said identification information associated with said user devices connected to said network wall jacks and construct a network inventory by associating said wall jack identification information with said identification information associated with said user devices connected to individual network wall jacks.

43. The system of claim 42 wherein said network inventory comprises a plurality of entries, each of said entries comprising said physical location information corresponding to the physical locations of said network wall jacks and further comprising said identification information associated with said user devices connected to individual wall jacks.

44. The system of claim 42 wherein said identification information associated with said user devices comprises media access control addresses associated with said user devices.

45. The system of claim 38 wherein at least one of said network wall jacks is connected via horizontal cabling to another of said network wall jacks.
46. The system of claim 38 wherein said network equipment comprises at least one network patch panel having at least one patch panel active jack provided therein.
47. The system of claim 46 wherein said at least one patch panel active jack is connected via network cable to at least one of said network wall jacks.
48. The system of claim 46 wherein said network equipment comprises at least two network patch panels being a first and a second network patch panel, each of said at least two network patch panels having at least one patch panel active jack provided therein, said at least one patch panel active jack of said first network patch panel being connected via network cable to said at least one patch panel active jack of said second network patch panel.
49. The system of claim 38 in which said network equipment comprises a router.
50. A communications system comprising:  
at least one broadband router comprising at least one upstream connection to a communications service provider and at least one broadband router downstream connection;  
at least one patch panel comprising at least one upstream connection to said broadband router downstream connection and at least one patch panel downstream connection, said connections of said patch panel being made through patch panel active jacks; and  
at least one user jack, said user jack having an upstream connection to said patch panel downstream connection and a downstream connection to at least one user device, said upstream connection to said patch panel and said downstream connection to said at least one user device being made through a user active jack.
51. The communications system of claim 50 wherein said system is deployed in a multiple dwelling unit and said at least one user jack is located in a user residence.

52. The communications system of claim 51 further comprising a network management system in communication with said at least one broadband router and wherein each of said user active jacks is provided with a user active jack switch for enabling or disabling communication between said upstream connection to said patch panel and said downstream connection to said at least one user device, said active jack switch switching in response to signals from said network management system.

53. The communications system of claim 52 wherein each of said user active jacks comprises active jack logic and active jack memory, said active jack memory comprising active jack identification information, said active jack logic responding to queries from said network management system by sending said identification information upstream to said broadband router.

54. The communications system of claim 52 wherein said enabling or disabling communication between said upstream connection to said patch panel and said downstream connection to said at least one user device is performed in response to toll payment by a user of said communications system.

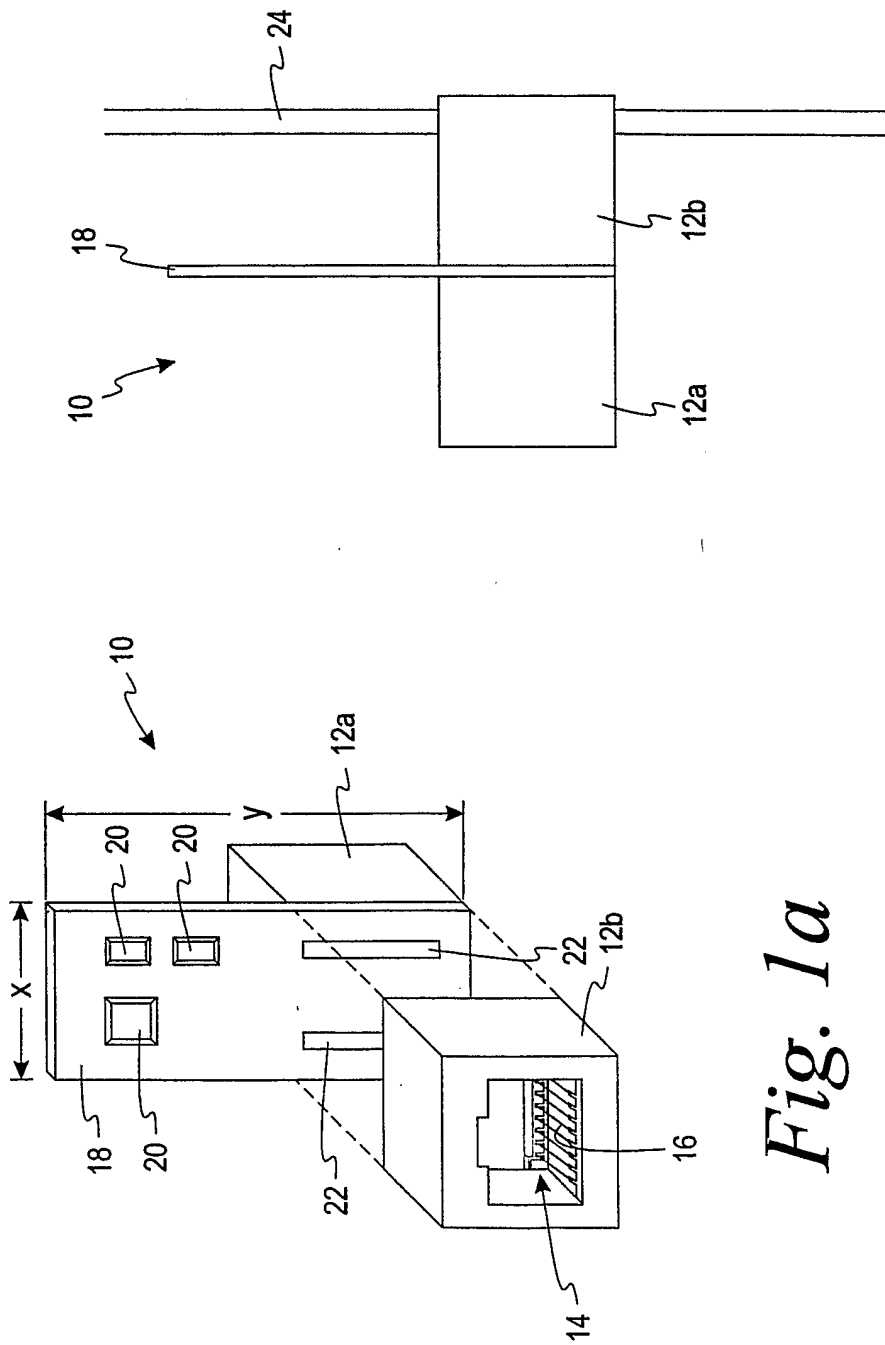
55. A communications system comprising:

at least one active jack adapted to be connected to at least one networking device via horizontal cabling, said at least one active jack comprising a network-side connection, a user-side connection, a storage component storing identification information associated with said active jack, and at least one indicator light indicating a connection status of said active jack, said active jack further adapted to be connected to at least one user device at a user-side connection of said active jack, said active jack being adapted to report to said at least one networking device the status of its connection to said at least one user device thereby enabling the sectionalizing of faults along a communication pathway between said networking device and said user device.

56. The communications system of claim 55 wherein said networking device is a patch panel.

57. The communications system of claim 55 wherein said communications system is a powered communications system active jack is adapted to consume from said horizontal cabling power necessary for operation of active jack components and to forward unused power via said user-side connection.

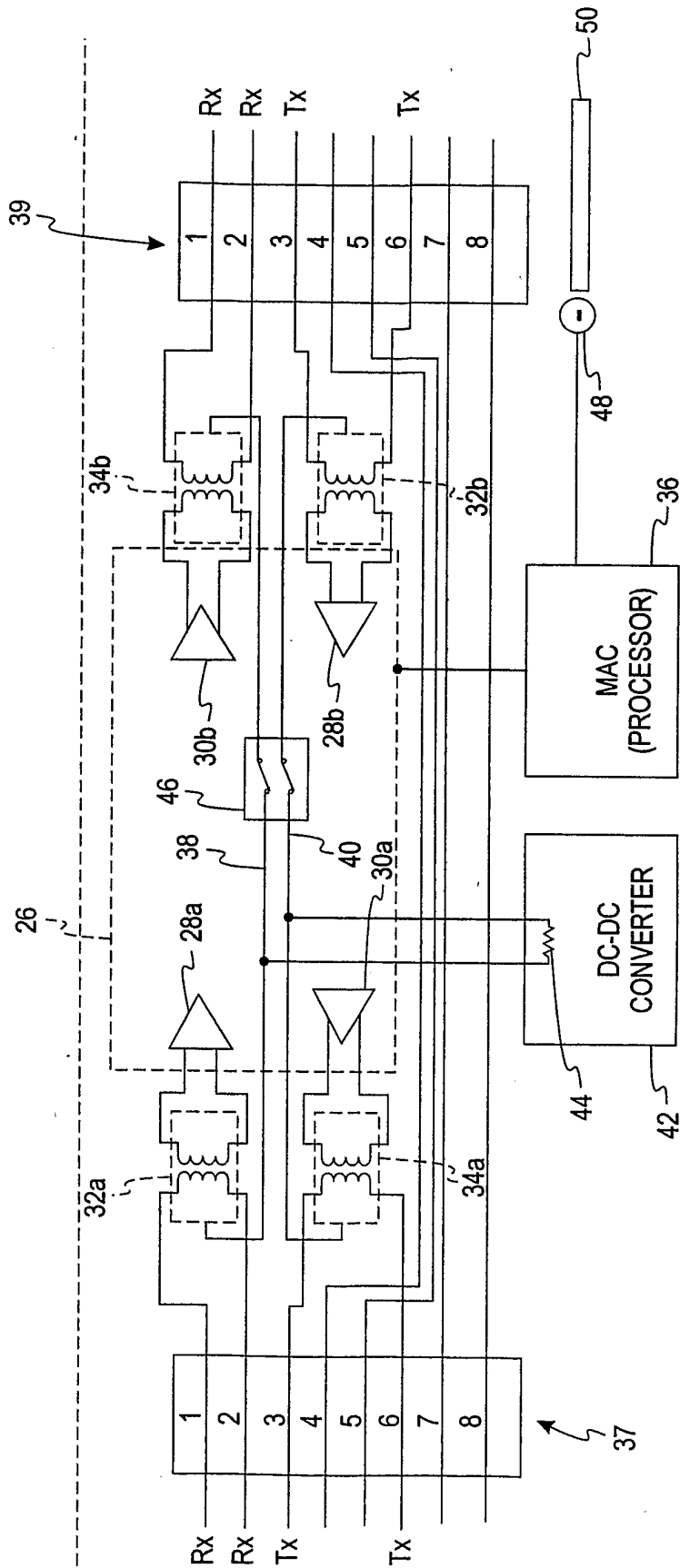




*Fig. 1a*

*Fig. 1b*

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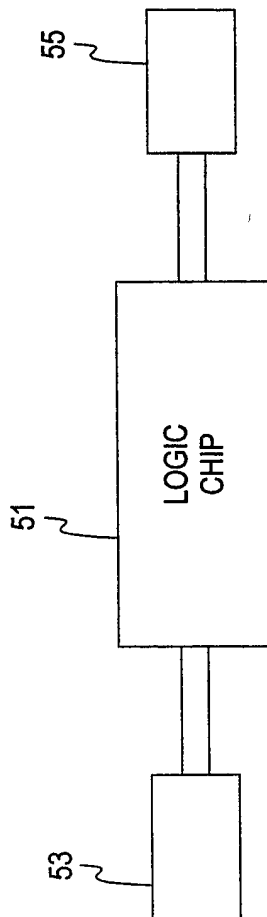


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Fig. 2a

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*Fig. 2b*

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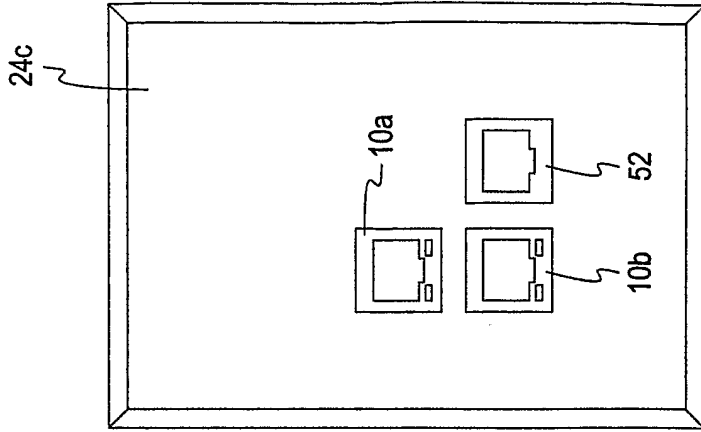


Fig. 3a

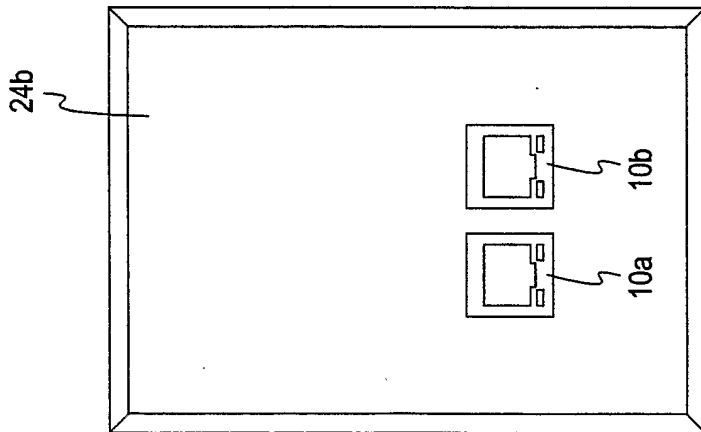


Fig. 3b

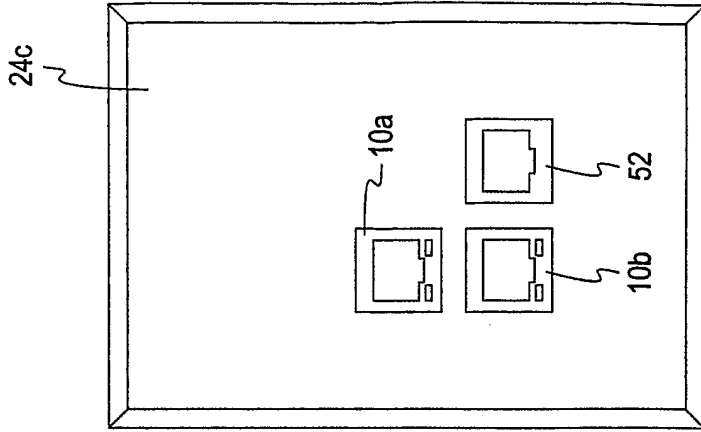
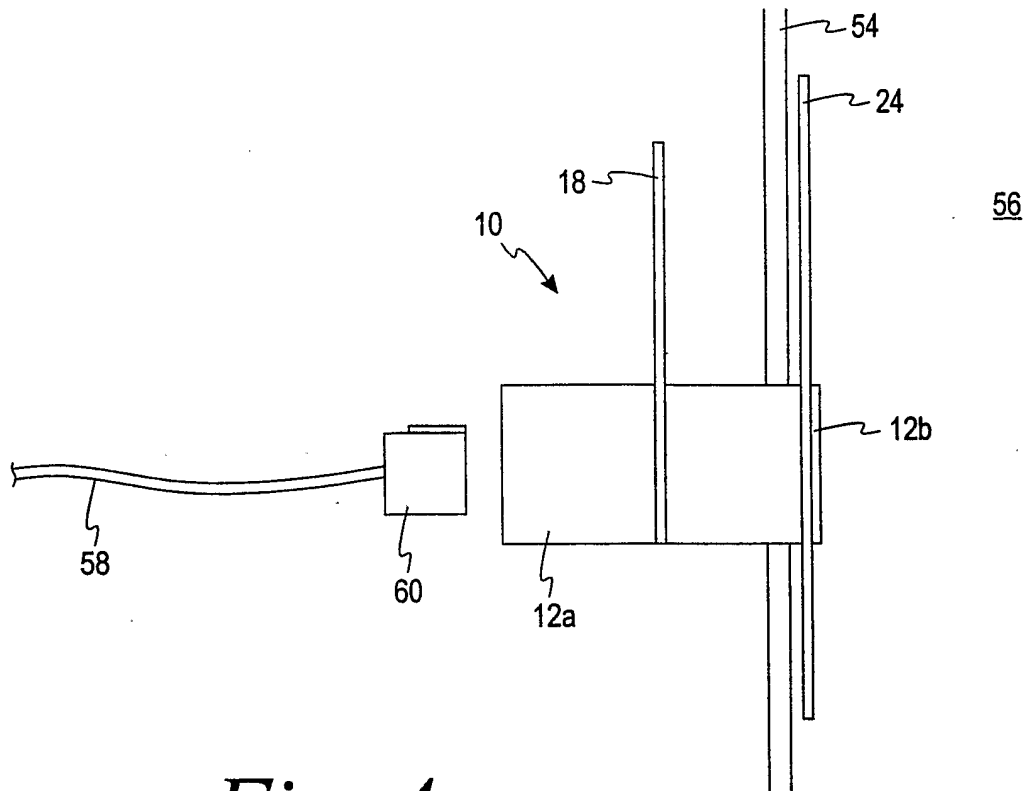


Fig. 3c

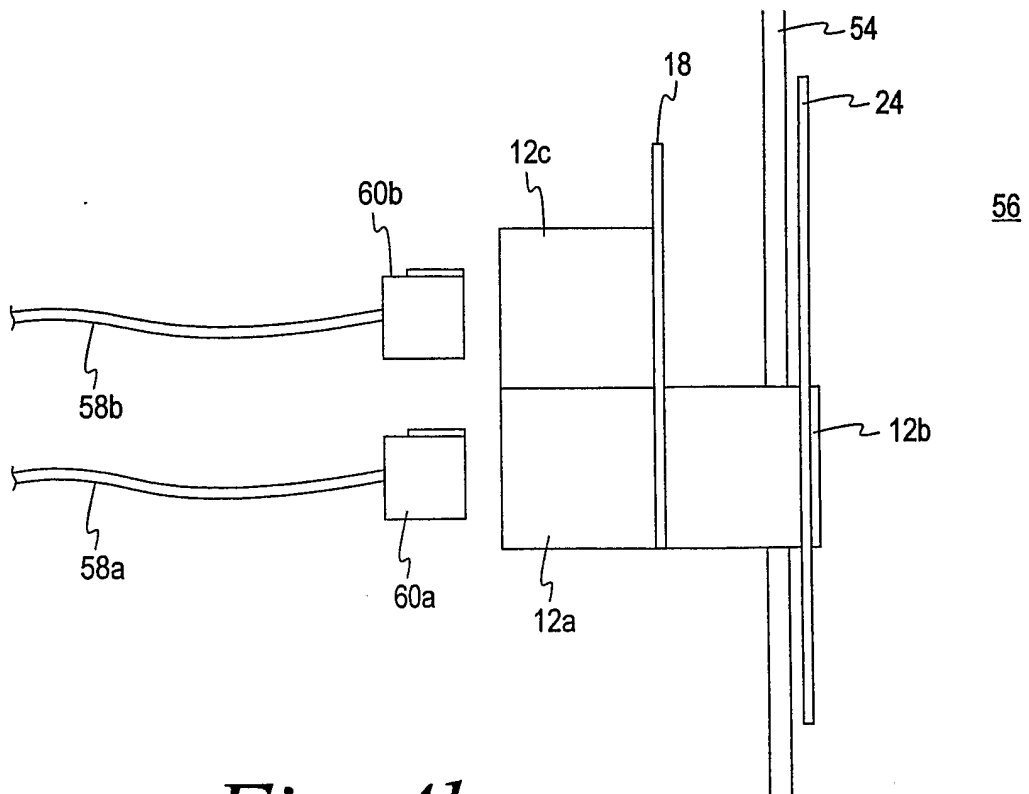
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*Fig. 4a*

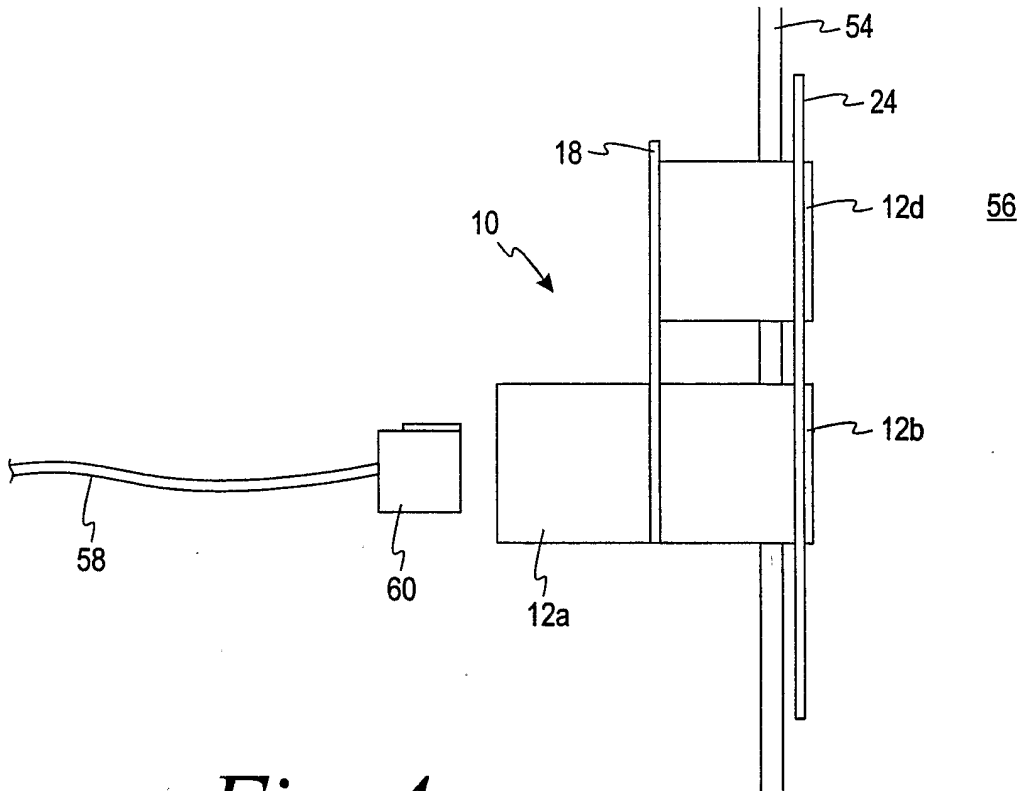


*Fig. 4b*

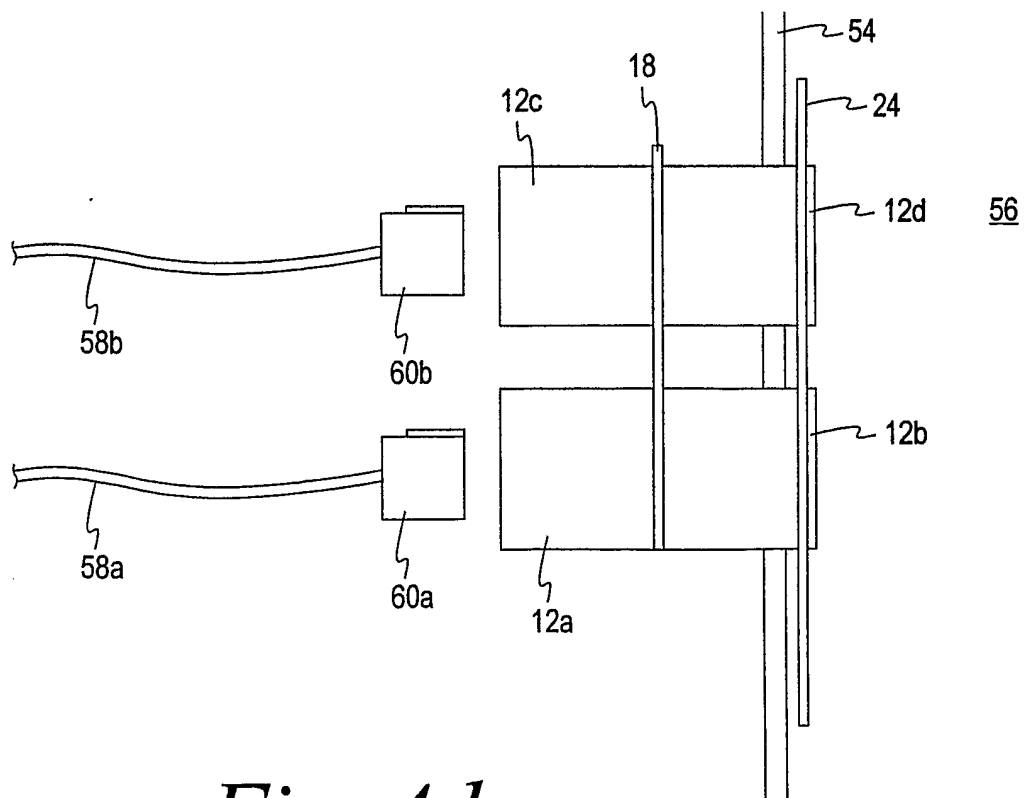
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*Fig. 4c*

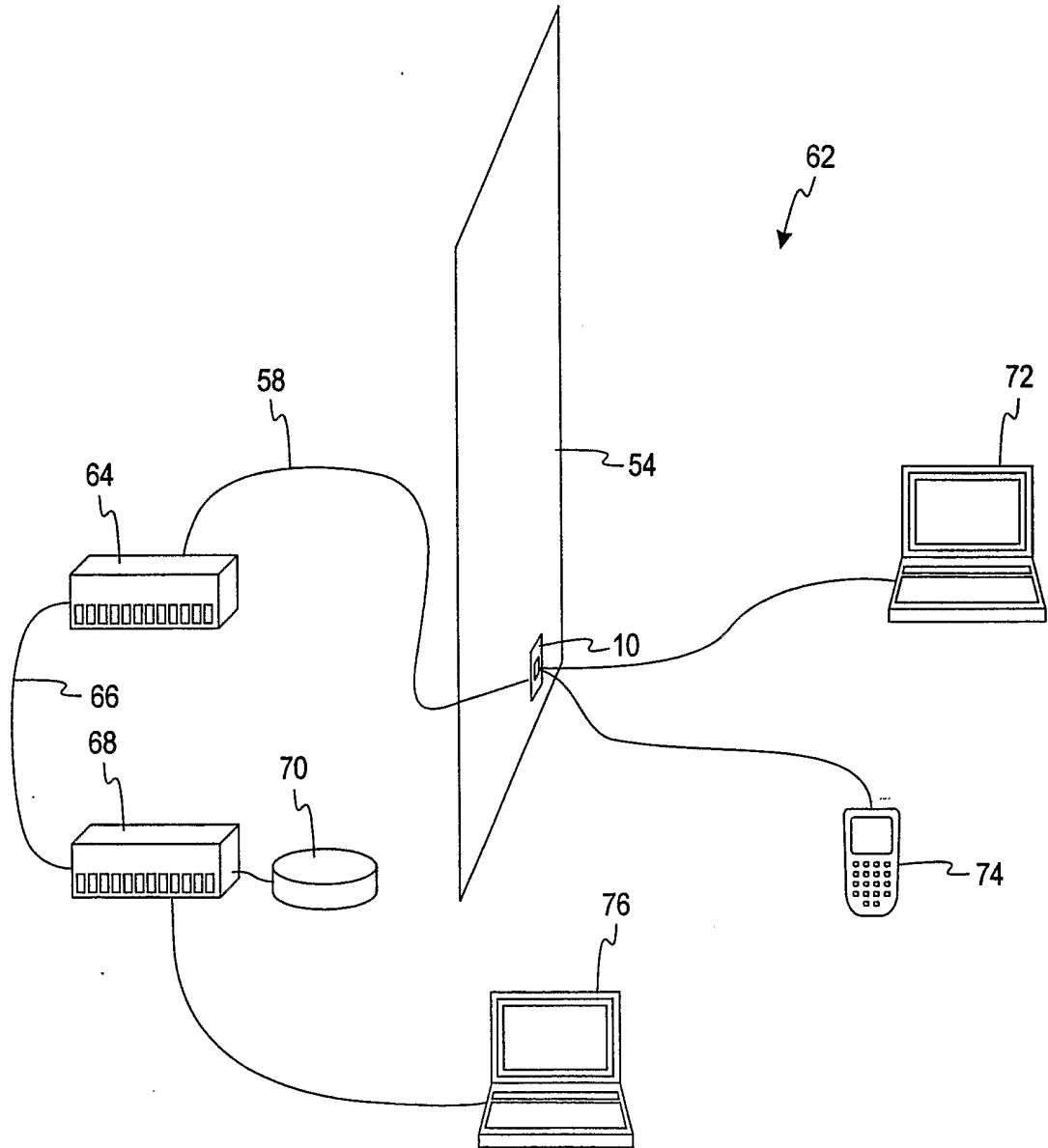


*Fig. 4d*

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*Fig. 5*

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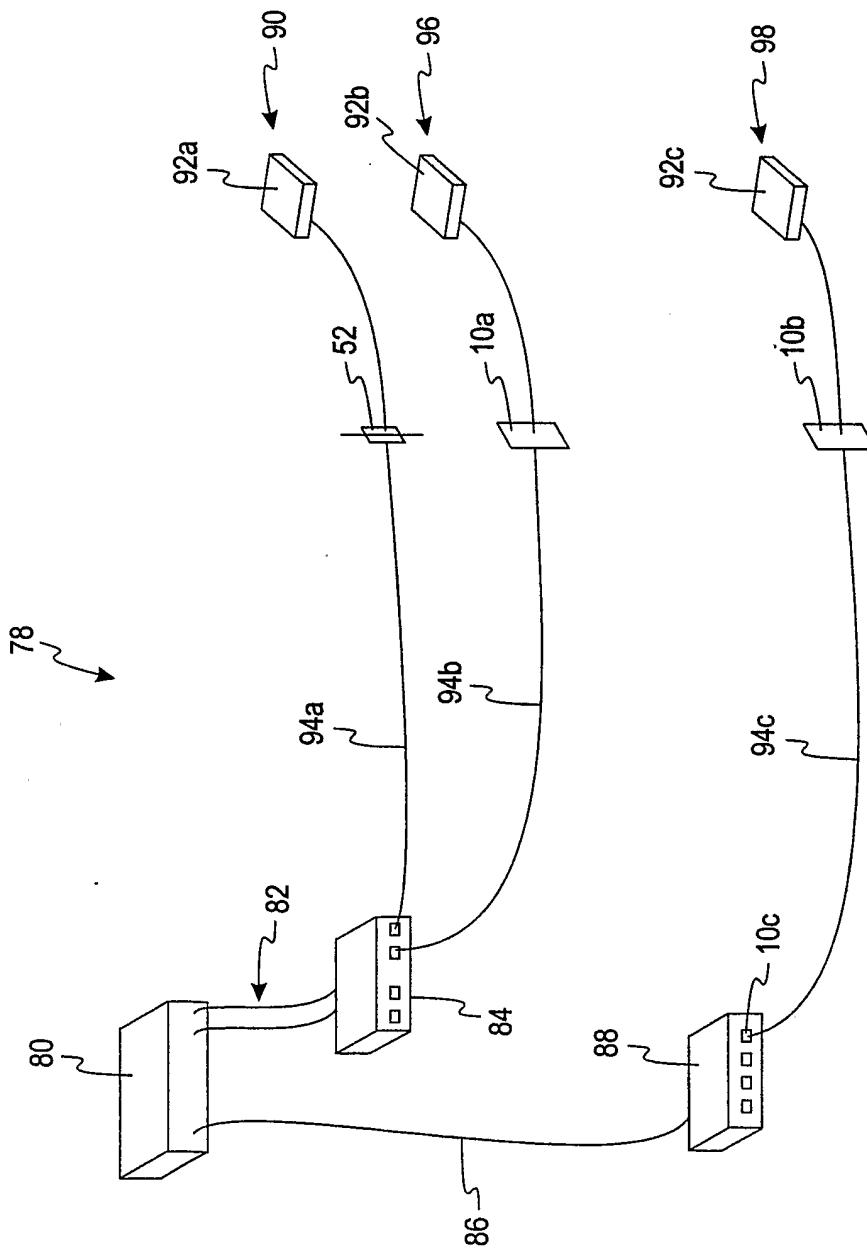


Fig. 6

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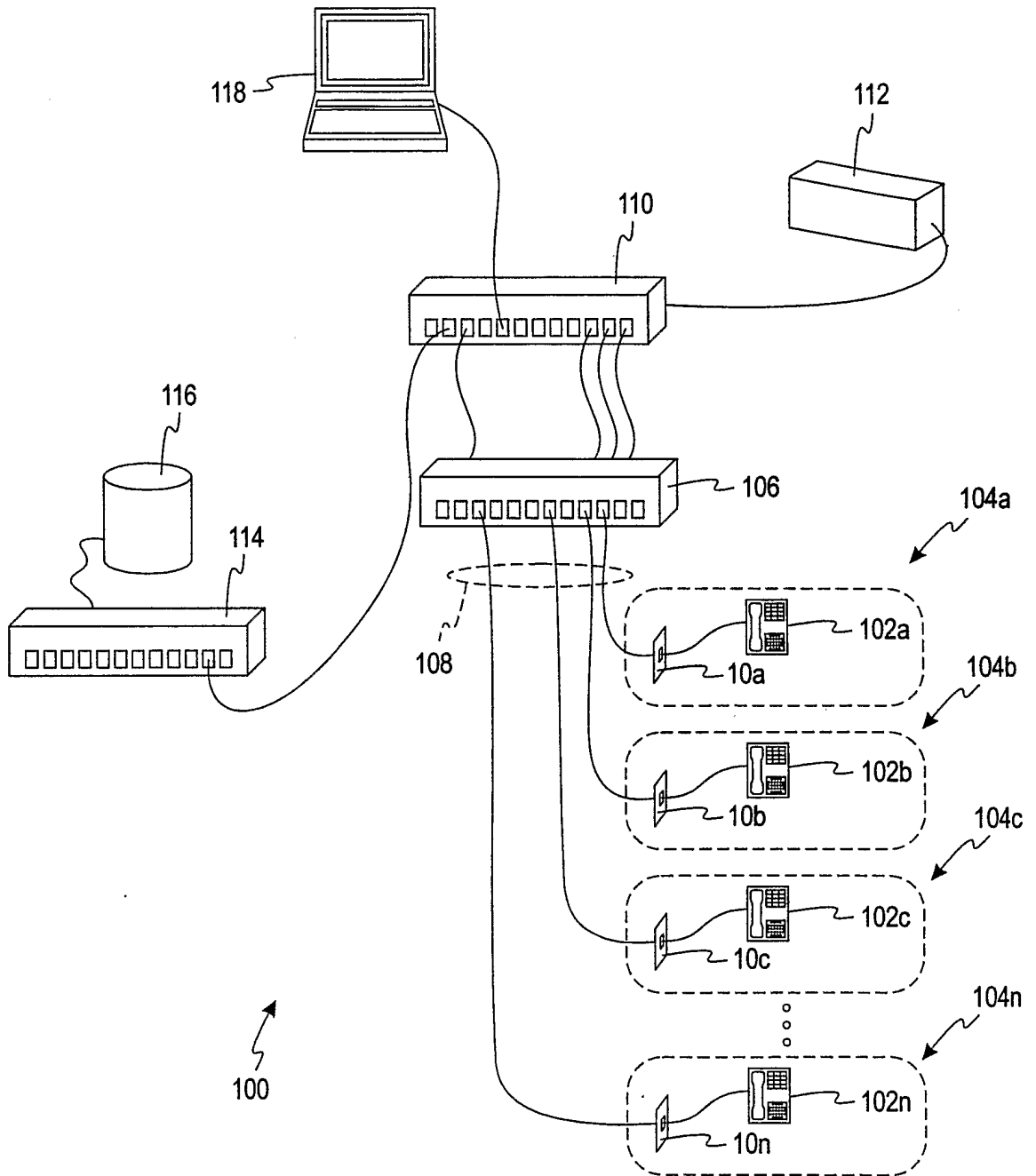


Fig. 7

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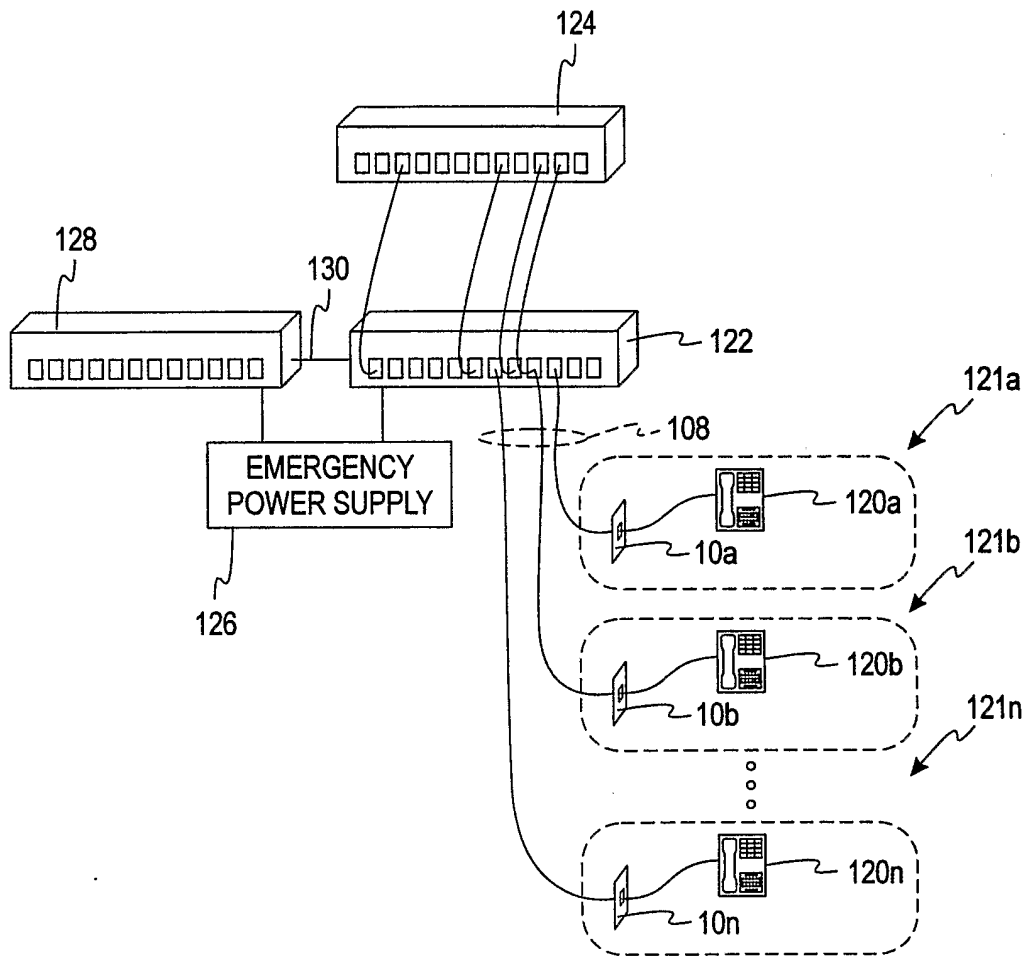


Fig. 8

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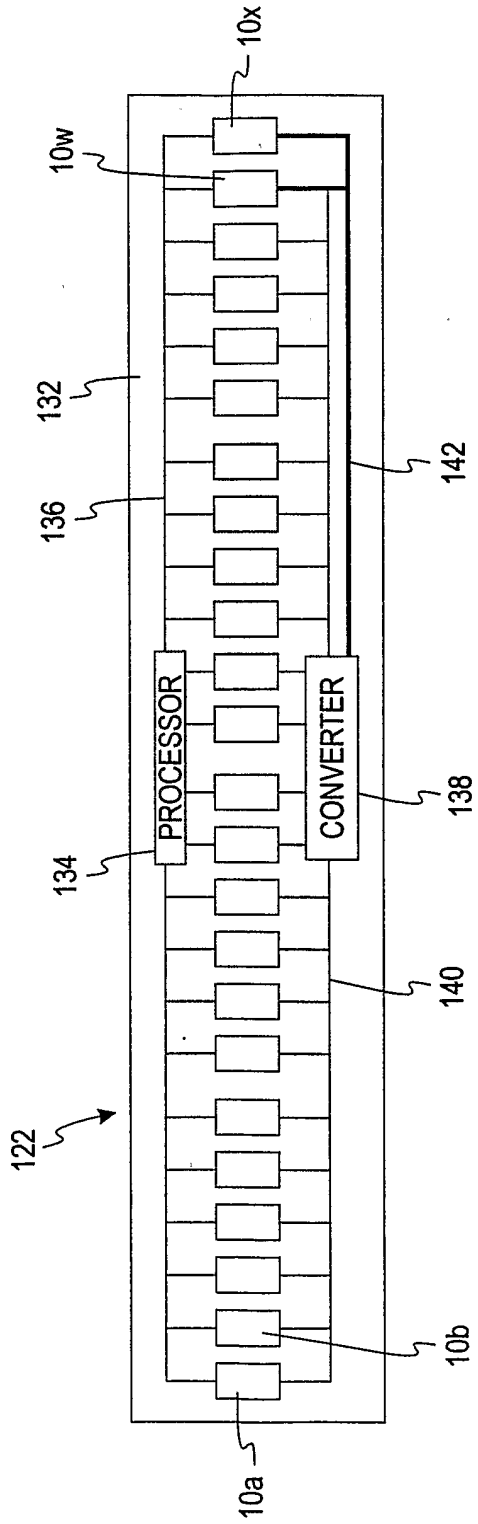


Fig. 9

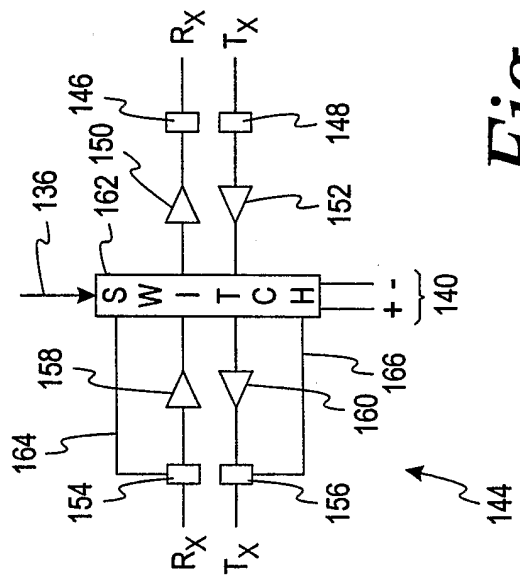
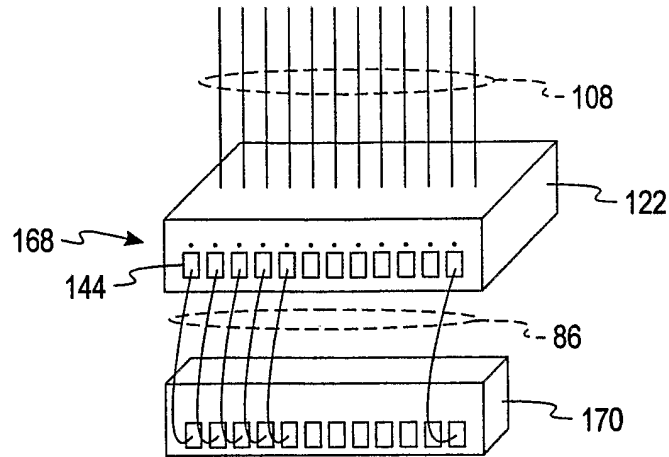


Fig. 10

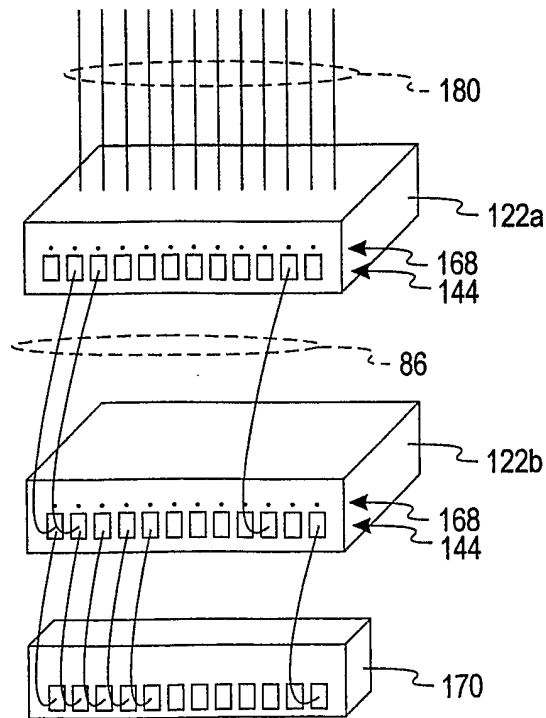
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*Fig. 11*

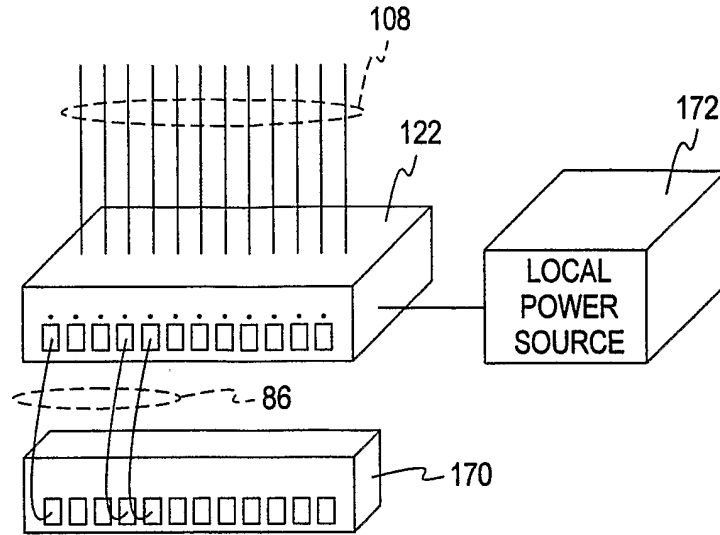


*Fig. 12*

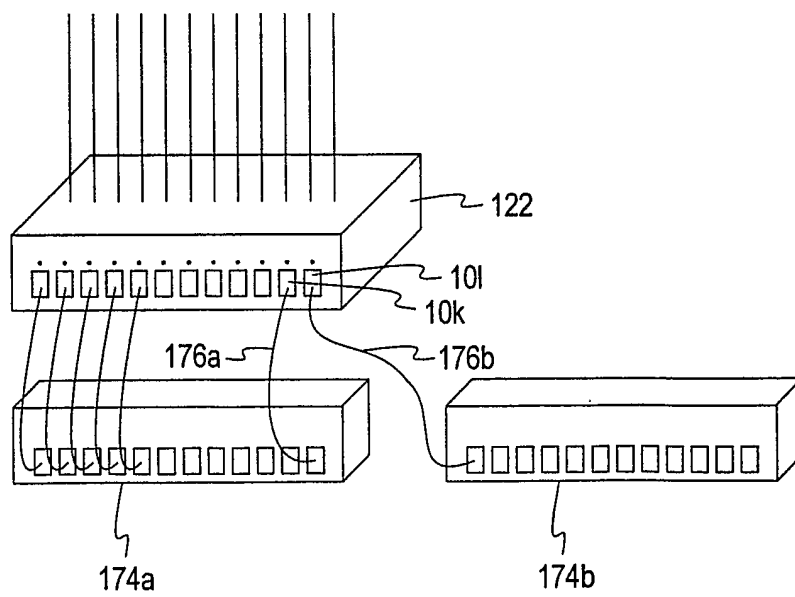
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*Fig. 13*

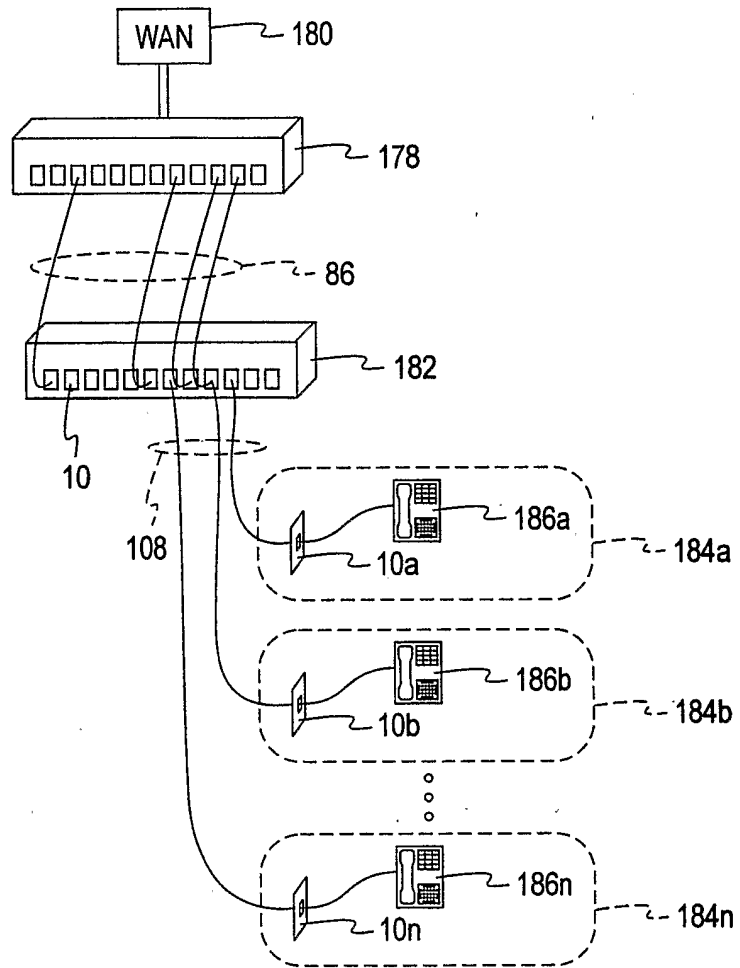


*Fig. 14*

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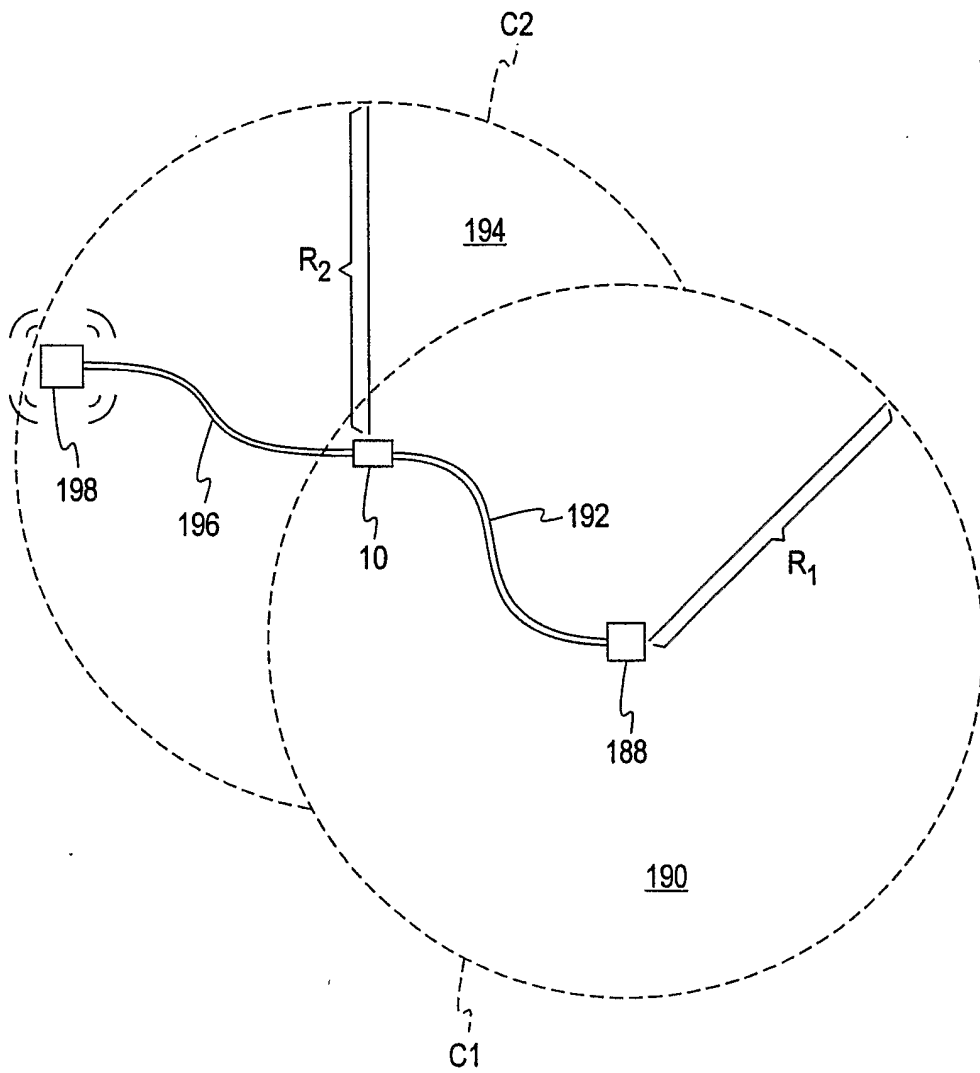
14/15



*Fig. 15*

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*Fig. 16*

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**INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT**

International Application No PCT/US2004/014682
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**A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER**  
 IPC 7 H04L12/24 H04L12/413 H04Q1/02 H01R9/00

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 7 H04L H04Q H01R

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

**C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT**

Category °	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	3COM: USER GUIDE 3COM NETWORK JACK MODEL NJ200, 'Online! 23 September 2002 (2002-09-23), pages 1-58, XP002297746 Retrieved from the Internet: URL:http://support.3com.com/infodeli/tools /nj/nj200_user_guide_v5.pdf> 'retrieved on 2004-09-23! the whole document -----	1-57

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Date of the actual completion of the international search  24 September 2004	Date of mailing of the international search report  15/10/2004
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