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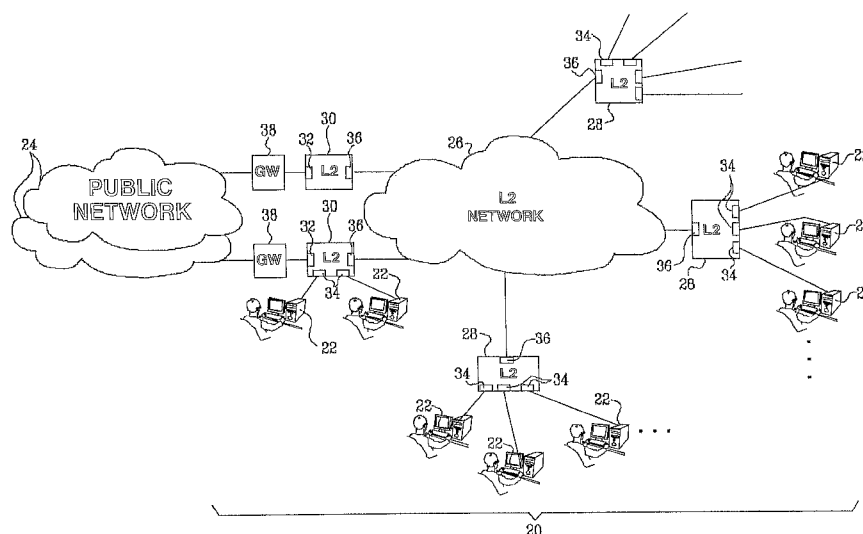
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(57) Abstract: A method for communication includes coupling a group of switches (28, 30) in a Layer-2 bridged network (26). The interfaces (32, 34, 36) of the switches are configured so that at least one interface of at least one of the switches is configured as a first interface type, and a plurality of other interfaces are configured as a second interface type. Upon receiving frames through the interfaces of the first and second types for transmission over the network, the received frames are labeled with corresponding first and second type indications. The frames are forwarded through the Layer-2 bridged network using the switches responsively to the type indications. Frames labeled with the second type indication are permitted to be transmitted through the interfaces of the first type and prevented from being transmitted through the interfaces of the second type.



INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.

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A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

IPC: H04L 12/28(2006.01)

USPC: 370/389,401

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)

U.S. : 370/389, 401

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 practicable, 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.
Y	US 2002/0091795 A1 (YIP) 11 July 2002, see entire document.	1-9, 14-22
A, E	US 7,468,956 B1 (LEELANIVAS et al.) 23 December 2008, see entire document.	1-26
A	US 2005/0025069 A1 (AYSAN) 03 February 2005, see entire document.	1-26

☐ Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C.

☐ See patent family annex.

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