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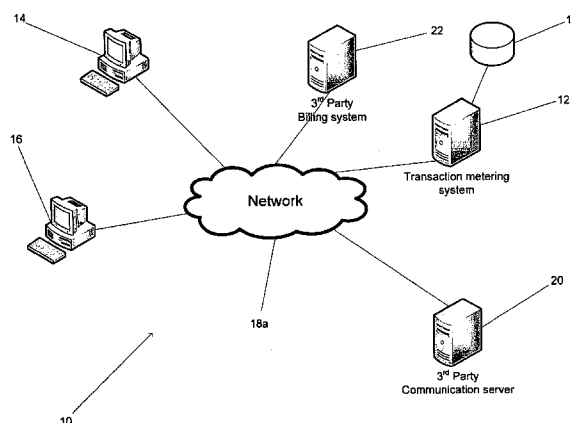
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(54) Title: TRANSACTION SYSTEM



(57) Abstract: Transaction systems are disclosed that enable a customer to obtain services from a service provider via any of a variety of communication systems on a direct fee basis. The transaction system can be independent of the communication system used to complete the transaction and the billing system used to provide payment from the customer to the service provider. In many embodiments, the transaction system arranges direct payment from the customer to the service provider. One embodiment of the invention includes a transaction metering system connected to a service provider computing device and a client computing device via a first communication network. In addition, the service provider computing device and the client computing device are connected via a second communication network, the service provider computing device and the client computing device are configured to negotiate terms for the completion of a transaction by exchanging messages over the first communication network via the transaction metering system, the service provider computing device and the client computing device are configured to conduct a communication session via the second communication network and the transaction metering system is configured to meter a transaction conducted during a communication session.



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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

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A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

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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. : 705/35, 40

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched
NONE

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

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
Y	US 2001/0056389 A1 (FAIR et al) 27 December 2001 (27.12.2001), page 2, paragraph 0029 thru page 9, paragraph 0267.	1-24
Y	US 2003/0185360 A1 (MOORE et al) 2 October 2003 (2.10.2003), page 3, paragraph 0044 thru page 22, paragraph 0239.	1-24
Y	US 2006/0116957 A1 (MAY et al) 1 June 2006 (1.6.2006), page 1, paragraph 0019 thru page 8, paragraph 0091.	15, 16, 22



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