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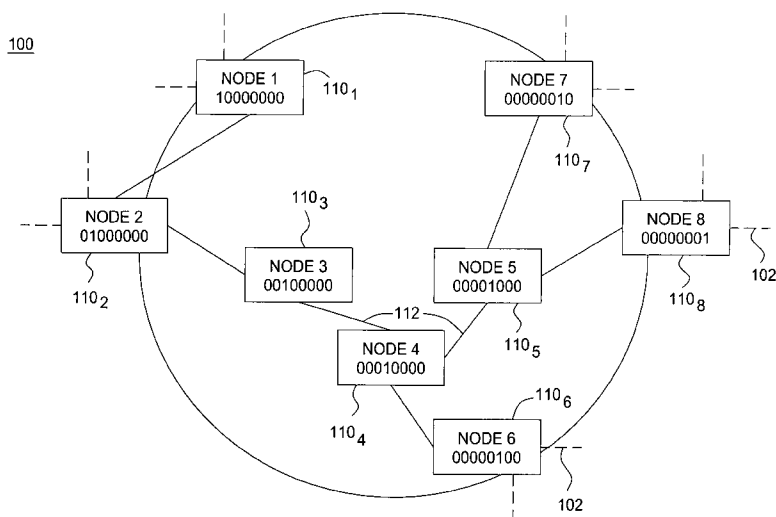
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(54) **Title:** METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR MULTICAST ROUTING



(57) **Abstract:** The invention includes a method and apparatus for transmitting packets in a network (100) comprising a plurality of nodes (110). A method includes encapsulating a packet intended for at least one of the nodes (110) where the packet is encapsulated using a bit set, comparing the bit set of the packet and a bit mask of an interface/ and forwarding the packet over the interface in response to a determination that the comparison of the bit set and the bit mask indicates that one of the nodes (110) for which the packet is intended is the same as one of the nodes available from the interface. The bit set and bit mask each include bit positions associated with the respective plurality of nodes. The bit positions of the bit set and bit mask identify each of the at least one of the nodes for which the packet is intended and each of the nodes (110) available from the interface, respectively.

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# INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

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**A. CLASSIFICATION of SUBJECT MATTER**  
 INV. H04L12/18 H04L12/56 H04L29/12

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)  
**H04L**

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, INSPEC, COMPENDEX, IBM-TDB

**C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT**

Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
<b>X</b>	US 6 363 070 B1 (MULLENS LANNY JOE [US] ET AL) 26 March 2002 (2002-03-26) column 2 , line 35 - column 3 , line 23; figure 1	1-10

**D** Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C.  See patent family annex.

- \* Special categories of cited documents :
- |  |  |
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| <p>"A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance</p> <p>"E" earlier document but published on or after the international filing date</p> <p>"L" document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified)</p> <p>"O" document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means</p> <p>"P" document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed</p> | <p>"T" later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention</p> <p>"X<sup>1</sup>" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone</p> <p>"Y" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art.</p> <p>"&amp;" document member of the same patent family</p> |
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Date of the actual completion of the international search  <b>9 July 2008</b>	Date of mailing of the international search report  15/07/2008
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Name and mailing address of the ISA/ European Patent Office, P.B. 5818 Patentlaan 2 NL - 2280 HV Rijswijk Tel. (+31-70) 340-2040, Tx. 31 651 epo nl, Fax: (+31-70) 340-3016	Authorized officer  <p style="text-align: center;">Ströbeck, Anders</p>
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# INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Information on patent family members

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Patent document cited in search report	Publication date	Patent family member(s)	Publication date
US 6363070	B1	26-03-2002	NONE