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(54) Title: IMPLEMENTING RATING TIMER CONTROL IN A PRE-BILLER TO SUPPORT ONLINE AND OFFLINE CHARGING

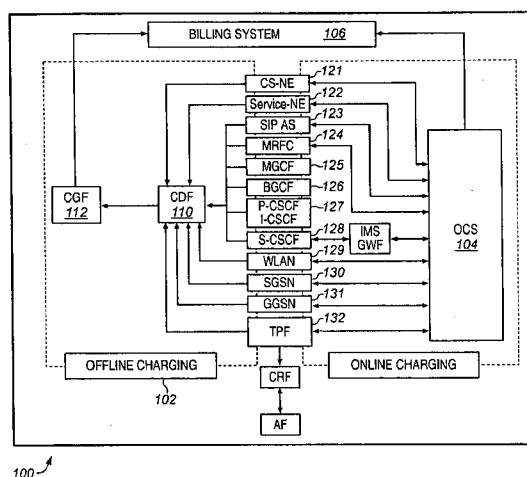


FIG. 1

(57) Abstract: The present invention provides a method of processing information associated with off-line billed communications in a communications network. The method includes providing at least one charging data record to a rating engine. The charging data record(s) include information associated with at least one off-line communication and are provided in response to receiving the charging data record(s). The rating engine determines costs of the off-line communication(s) at a time determined based on at least one time control category associated with the charging data record(s). The method also includes modifying the charging data record(s) to include information indicative of the cost(s) of the off-line communication(s) determined by the rating engine.

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

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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)

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C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	US 2007/036312 A1 (CAI YIGANG [US] ET AL) 15 February 2007 (2007-02-15) paragraph [0035]; figure 4 paragraph [0046] paragraph [0060] - paragraph [0064] paragraph [0069] - paragraph [0074] ----- -/--	1-10

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

☒ 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>VODAFONE (GAVIN WONG (AT) VODAFONE COM): "Perform envelope reporting in offline CDRs based on requirements from online charging" 3GPP DRAFT; S5-070555 CR 32299-750 OFFLINE-CHARGING, 3RD GENERATION PARTNERSHIP PROJECT (3GPP), MOBILE COMPETENCE CENTRE ; 650, ROUTE DES LUCIOLES ; F-06921 SOPHIA-ANTIPOLIS CEDEX ; FRANCE, vol. tsg_sa\WG5_TM\TSGS5_52\Docs, no. China; 20070402, 23 March 2007 (2007-03-23), XP050305378 page 1 page 9</p> <p>-----</p>	1,8

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 2007036312 A1	15-02-2007	CN 1885780 A	27-12-2006