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(71) Applicant (for all designated States except US): **EXTREME NETWORKS** [US/US]; Extreme Networks, 3585 Monroe Street, Santa Clara, CA 95051-1450 (US).

(72) Inventors; and

(75) Inventors/Applicants (for US only): **PARKER, David, K.** [GB/GB]; Windrush House, Shipton Oliffe, Cheltenham Gloucestershire GL54 4JF (GB). **SWENSON, Erik, R.** [US/US]; 1304 Tiffany Canyon Court, San Jose, California 95120 (US). **YIP, Michael, M.** [US/US]; 108 Hawthorne Avenue, Los Altos, California 94022 (US). **YOUNG, Christopher, J.** [US/US]; 1656 Husted Avenue, San Jose, California 95125 (US).

(74) Agents: **BURDICK, Sean, D.** et al.; Howrey Simon Arnold & White, LLP, 2941 Fairview Park Drive, Box 7, Falls Church, VA 22042 (US).

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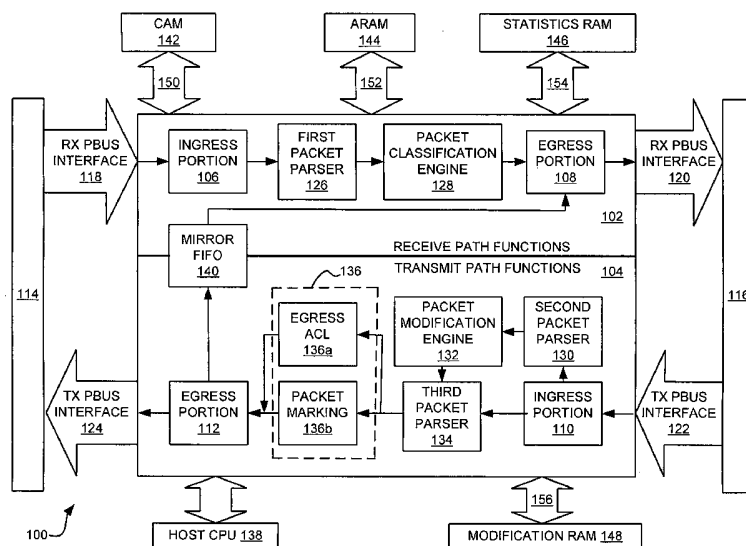
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[Continued on next page]

(54) Title: PACKET PROCESSING SYSTEM ARCHITECTURE AND METHOD



(57) Abstract: A packet processing system architecture and method are provided. According to a first aspect of the invention, packet parser functions are distributed throughout a packet processing system comprising a packet classification system and a packet modification system. According to a second aspect of the invention, an egress mirroring function is provided to the system. According to a third aspect of the invention, a multi-dimensional quality of service indicator for a packet is provided. According to a fourth aspect of the invention, a cascaded combination of multiple, replicated packet processing systems is used to process a packet. A fifth aspect of the invention involves any combination of one or more of the foregoing.



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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.

PCT/US05/10544

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

IPC: **H04L 12/28**(2006.01);**H04J 3/16**(2006.01)

USPC: 370/392,465

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. : 370/392, 465

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)
Please See Continuation Sheet

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
A	US 6,917,617 A (JIN et al) 12 July 2005 (12.07.2005, See figures 4 and 5.	1-34
X	US 6,381,242 A (MAHER, III et al) 30 April 2002 (30.04.2002), column 7, lines 6-67 and also see figure 2.	6-8, 22-24
X, P	US 6,957,258 A (MAHER, III et al) 08 October 2005, See fig. 3.	6-8, 22-24

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

☐ See patent family annex.

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Commissioner for Patents
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Facsimile No. (571) 273-3201

Authorized officer

Wellington Chin

Telephone No. 703-305-3900

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Continuation of B. FIELDS SEARCHED Item 3:

EAST

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