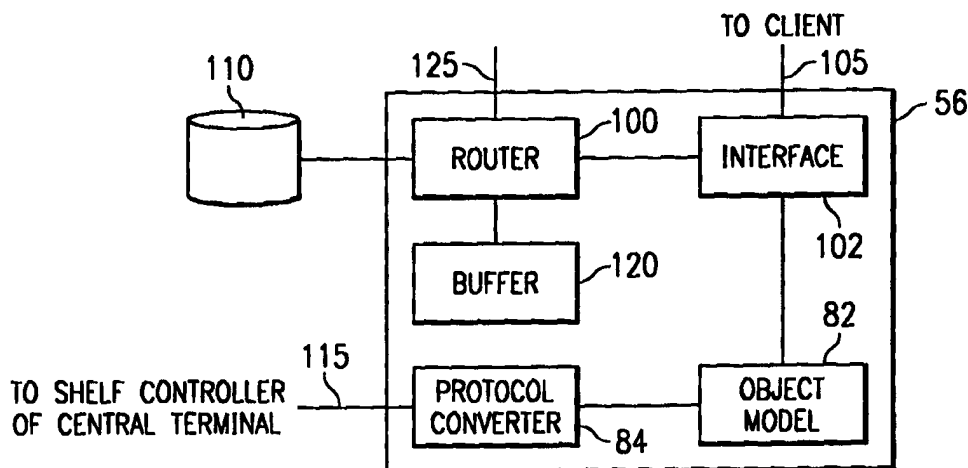




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(54) Title: A TELECOMMUNICATIONS MANAGEMENT SYSTEM



(57) Abstract

The present invention provides a server station, and method of operation of such a server station, for managing an item of equipment of a telecommunications system, the server station being responsive to control messages from a client application to perform operations in order to manage the item of equipment, and a plurality of client applications being able to send control messages to the server station via a management communications network. In accordance with the invention, the server station comprises means for accessing a storage arranged to store address information for said plurality of client applications, an interface for receiving a message from a first of said plurality of client applications, and for determining whether the message is a control message for the server or a message destined for a second of said plurality of client applications, and a router, responsive to the interface determining that the message is destined for said second client application, to use the address information for the second client application to re-route the message via said management communications network to said second client application. By this approach, the actual management communications network used by the client applications to manage items of equipment via one or more server stations is also used for the transmission of messages between users of the client applications, the server station being used as a router for these messages.

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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International Application No

PCT/US 98/01497

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER
IPC 6 H04Q3/00

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)

IPC 6 H04Q

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)

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
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A	DUPUY ET AL.: "The TINA consortium: Towards networking telecommunications information services" XV INTERNATIONAL SWITCHING SYMPOSIUM, vol. 2, 23 - 28 April 1995, BERLIN DE, pages 207-211, XP000495654 see page 208, right-hand column, paragraph 2 - page 210, left-hand column, last paragraph --- -/--	1-3, 6-13, 18, 19
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☒ Patent family members are listed in annex.

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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International Application No

PCT/US 98/01497

C.(Continuation) DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
A	PATHAK ET AL.: "Intergrated network and service management for the NCIH" IEEE NETWORK: THE MAGAZINE OF COMPUTER COMMUNICATIONS., vol. 8, no. 6, November 1994 - December 1994, NEW YORK US, pages 56-63, XP000480184 see page 59, left-hand column, last paragraph - page 61, right-hand column, paragraph 1 ---	1-3,6,7, 12,13, 18,19
A	US 5 579 384 A (SEYMOUR) 26 November 1996 see abstract see column 3, line 42 - column 4, line 51 ---	1-3,6-9, 12,13, 18,19
A	VORUGANTI: "A global network management framework for the '90s" IEEE COMMUNICATIONS MAGAZINE, vol. 32, no. 8, August 1994, NEW YORK US, pages 74-83, XP000471045 -----	

Information on patent family members

PCT/US 98/01497

Form PCT/ISA/210 (patent family annex) (July 1992)