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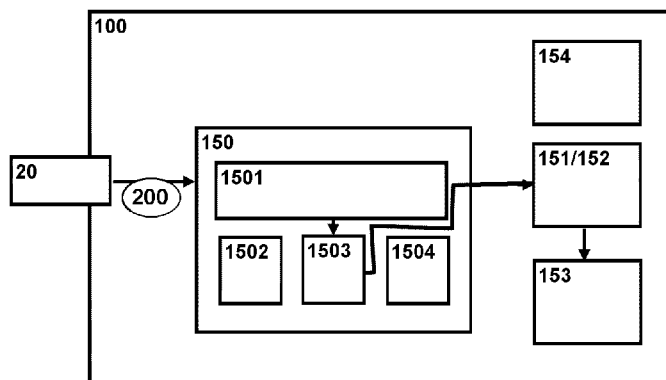


Fig. 1

(57) Abstract: The invention relates to a method for realizing communication sessions using a telecommunications network, wherein a user equipment initiates a signaling session using at least one register message and at least one invite message according to the session initiation protocol, SIP, wherein the method comprises the following steps: • the register message is received by a processing entity, and the processing entity generates or retrieves or requests a product identifier information, the product identifier information being indicative of a product alternative used by the user equipment out of a plurality of different product alternatives, • the product identifier information is transmitted to the user equipment, • the invite message is received by the processing entity, wherein the invite message comprises the product identifier information, and wherein the invite message is handled, by the processing entity, in dependence of the product identifier information received from the user equipment.



METHOD FOR REALIZING COMMUNICATION SESSIONS USING A TELECOMMUNICATIONS NETWORK

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BACKGROUND

[0001] The present invention relates to a method for realizing communication sessions using a telecommunications network and involving at least one user equipment, wherein – in order to establish a communication session regarding the user equipment –
10 the user equipment initiates a signaling session using at least one register message and at least one invite message according to the session initiation protocol, SIP.

[0002] Furthermore, the present invention relates to a telecommunications network for realizing communication sessions using the telecommunications network and involving at least one user equipment as well as a processing entity or functionality of the
15 telecommunications network, wherein – in order to establish a communication session regarding the user equipment – a signaling session is initiated by means of the telecommunications network receiving at least one register message and at least one invite message according to the session initiation protocol, SIP.

[0003] Additionally, the present invention relates to a processing entity or
20 functionality for realizing communication sessions using a telecommunications network and involving at least one user equipment as well as the processing entity or functionality of the telecommunications network, wherein – in order to establish a communication session regarding the user equipment – a signaling session is initiated by means of the processing entity or functionality receiving at least one register message and at least one
25 invite message according to the session initiation protocol, SIP.

[0004] Furthermore, the present invention relates to a user equipment for realizing communication sessions using a telecommunications network and involving the user equipment as well as a processing entity or functionality of the telecommunications network, wherein – in order to establish a communication session regarding the user
30 equipment – the user equipment initiates a signaling session using at least one register message and at least one invite message according to the session initiation protocol, SIP.

[0005] Furthermore, the present invention relates to a program and to a computer-readable medium for realizing communication sessions using a telecommunications network and involving at least one user equipment according to the inventive method.

[0006] In conventional implementations of networks or telecommunications networks based on or implementing the IP multimedia subsystem, often dedicated IMS components are rolled out mapping similar but in detail different products; hence, due to such products being – at least slightly – different (and, hence, require a different handling by network components) no multiplex gain is easily possible to be realized, as, often, the product differentiation needs to be realized by means addressing product-specific network nodes or servers based on, e.g., DNS resolution.

SUMMARY

[0007] An object of the present invention is to provide a technically simple, effective and cost-effective solution for realizing communication sessions using a telecommunications network and involving at least one user equipment, wherein different products are easily distinguishable such that, e.g., multiplex gains are able to be realized, especially for different products or services that are similar (but in detail different). A further object of the present invention is to provide a corresponding telecommunications network, a corresponding processing entity or functionality, a corresponding user equipment, and a corresponding program and computer-readable medium.

[0008] The object of the present invention is achieved by a method for realizing communication sessions using a telecommunications network and involving at least one user equipment, wherein – in order to establish a communication session regarding the user equipment – the user equipment initiates a signaling session using at least one register message and at least one invite message according to the session initiation protocol, SIP, wherein the signaling session is handled by a processing entity or functionality of the telecommunications network,

wherein the method comprises the following steps:

-- in a first step, the register message is received by the processing entity or functionality, and the processing entity or functionality generates or retrieves or requests a product identifier information, the product identifier information being indicative of a product alternative used by the user equipment out of a plurality of different product alternatives,

-- in a second step, the product identifier information is transmitted to the user

equipment,

-- in a third step, the invite message is received by the processing entity or functionality, wherein the invite message comprises the product identifier information, and wherein the invite message is handled, by the processing entity or functionality, in dependence of the product identifier information received from the user equipment.

[0009] It is thereby advantageously possible according to the present invention to effectively and comparatively easily realize multiplex gains instead of being obliged to provide dedicated IMS components that need to be rolled out mapping the appropriated (specific) products without a multiplex gain being able to be realized between their capacity per product.

Especially, in conventional networks, especially IMS networks, several products (or services) are being used or provided to user equipment or subscribers of the telecommunications network. In such conventional IMS networks, the IP multimedia subsystem network itself is often unable to differentiate the various customer products connected because no identifier or indication is available or defined within the IP multimedia subsystem network or provided by the user equipment. For example, such different or various products require a differentiated treatment (at least a slightly differentiated treatment) in the IMS components like P-CSCF (proxy call state control function, outbound proxy respectively) or application server (AS). Conventionally, different P-CSCF (i.e. units or entities or instances thereof) are required to handle the different products, i.e. specifically according to the respective product; in such conventional networks, such different entities (e.g. P-CSCFs) are addressed by the client (i.e. the user equipment), e.g., via eDNS resolution, leading to the requirement, for the service or network provider respectively, that for each (e.g. slightly different) product (or service) a dedicated unit or entity or instance (such as, e.g., a P-CSCF) must be provided with dedicated reserved capacity for each of these units or entities or instances with a (especially slightly) different profiling. This results in many such different units or entities or instances (e.g. P-CSCFs) that need to be implemented in conventional telecommunications networks. Furthermore, this requires – in case of moving the IP multimedia subsystem network into a virtual or cloud environment – the dedicated IMS components need to be migrated to VNFs (virtual network functions) or CNF (cloud native network functions / container network functions). One basic concept of virtualization or cloud is that the different VNFs/CNFs are able to scale in or out. However, since in conventional networks the IMS products are not able to be distinguished (other than by differentiated addressing) the mentioned planning concept (requiring separate or dedicated units or entities or instances for each (especially slightly varying) product) is

adopted for the new technology as well, yielding to the situation that for each product a dedicated P-CSCF as PNF (Physical Network Function), CNF or VNF is required in conventional telecommunications networks.

[0010] According to the present invention, the user equipment initiates a signaling session using at least one register message and at least one invite message according to the session initiation protocol, SIP, wherein the signaling session is handled by a processing entity or functionality (such as, e.g., a proxy-call state control function or another dedicated unit or entity or instance) of the telecommunications network, wherein in a first step, the register message is received by the processing entity or functionality followed by the processing entity or functionality generating or retrieving or requesting a product identifier information being indicative of the product alternative used by the user equipment (out of a plurality of different product alternatives), and wherein in a (especially but not necessarily subsequent) second step the product identifier information is transmitted to the user equipment. Hence, it is possible, in a third step, that a subsequent invite message (received by the processing entity or functionality) comprises the product identifier information such that it is possible, for the processing entity or functionality, to handle the received invite message in dependence of the product identifier information received from the user equipment, i.e. adequately.

[0011] Moreover, such (slightly) different products might also use different applications and different application servers or a different profiling of the application itself. The product Identifier information according to the present invention might also be used to identify the correct application or the correct profiling within the AS (or other IMS component or processing entity or functionality). Additionally, the filter criteria (used to connect to the related application server) used within the S-CSCF can be shortened and allow a more efficient selection of the application server.

This is even more important in the virtualized or cloud environment because here, the VNF might be decomposed into VNF-C (VNF-Components) or might use microservices. Hence, according to the present invention – instead of scaling of the whole IMS component, e.g. the whole application server –, the product identifier information enables that only the sub-component (of the respective processing entity or functionality, or unit or entity or instance, e.g. proxy call state control function or application server) that generates the different service behavior (of each different product of a certain number of similar products) can be scaled in or out resulting in a more efficient usage of the network capacity. The approach also allows the concept of a generic (or even unique) IMS component, e.g. P-CSCF, for all services whereas only the sub-function for profiling the

products or services are scaled in or out. Hence, according to the present invention, such benefits regarding network capacity and network planning are able to be realized.

[0012] Such benefits (i.e. such as, e.g., the use of a product identifier information being part of an invite message, sent by the user equipment and received by the processing entity or functionality, comprising the product identifier information) are unable to be achieved by the conventionally known approach such as the use of a slice identifier or a service identifier in the 5G network slicing context. Such a slice identifier might help to build separate virtual networks for, e.g., VoLTE Voice (Voice over LTE, Long Term Evolution), VoLTE M2M (machine-to-machine communication) or fixed network, and it might ensure in practice that the service is getting the appropriate quality-of-service handling (e.g., by using the correct quality of service parameter). However, such service identifier is mainly used to signal the required slice or quality-of-service level over networks (or network boundaries) of different service providers ensuring that a service is getting its requested or required resources or quality.

However, sharing, e.g., a virtual P-CSCF via network slicing will not help to implement product-specific procedures since the P-CSCF slices typically has all the same configuration for one specific product; by means of network slicing, a commonly used resource is only shared for groups of users expecting the same behavior from a P-CSCF. However, by means of using a product identifier information according to the present invention, it is advantageously possible to allow that the different groups of users are also able to have different products, i.e. it applies for different products (or product identifiers or different pieces of product identifier information) within one network slice. In case multiple network slices are available, product identifiers are able to be unique within one slice or reused in a different network slice, e.g. in case a different quality-of-service behavior is required.

[0013] According to the present invention, it is advantageously possible and preferred that, the invite message comprises the product identifier information as a session initiation protocol header or header field, especially as a private-product-identifier header or header field, especially according to RFC 7315,

wherein especially the product identifier information comprises – besides a product-related information or product-related information content – at least one further parameter or information content, wherein the further parameter or information content is especially related to a quality-of-service level or indication and/or a latency level or indication.

[0014] By means of the invite message comprising the product identifier information as a session initiation protocol header or header field, especially as a private-product-

identifier header or header field, especially according to RFC 7315, it is advantageously possible, according to the present invention, to transmit the product identifier information in an easy and straightforward manner.

Additionally or alternatively, by means of the product identifier information comprising –
5 besides a product-related information or product-related information content – at least one further parameter or information content, especially being related to a quality-of-service level or indication and/or a latency level or indication, it is advantageously possible, according to the present invention, to additionally differentiate the service provision of the telecommunications network (i.e. especially the processing of the user
10 equipment-initiated requests or request messages) in order to account not only for different products or product variants but also to provide a differentiation regarding, e.g., quality-of-service and/or latency.

[0015] According to the present invention, it is furthermore advantageously possible and preferred that the invite message comprises the product identifier information as a
15 session initiation protocol uniform resource identifier parameter, SIP URI parameter.

[0016] Thereby, it is likewise advantageously possible to transmit the product identifier information in an easy and straightforward manner.

[0017] Furthermore, it is advantageously possible and preferred according to the present invention that – in the second step – the product identifier information is
20 transmitted to the user equipment as part of a register answer message, especially subsequent to the first step, the register answer message being related to the register message received from the user equipment.

[0018] It is thereby advantageously possible, according to the present invention, to efficiently transmit the product identifier information as part of the registration procedure
25 of the user equipment with the telecommunications network.

[0019] According to the present invention, it is furthermore advantageously possible and preferred that the product identifier information is transmitted to the user equipment by means of an autoconfiguration method or mechanism, especially as defined in technical report 069 of the Broadband Forum, or by means of or as part of a universal
30 integrated circuit card, especially as part of a subscriber identity module, of the user equipment.

[0020] It is thereby advantageously possible, according to the present invention, to efficiently transmit the product identifier information to the user equipment in an easy and straightforward manner.

[0021] According to the present invention, it is advantageously furthermore possible
5 and preferred that the processing entity or functionality is or corresponds to a call state control function, CSCF, as part of the telecommunications network, especially a proxy call state control function P-CSCF, wherein the processing entity or functionality retrieves or requests the product identifier information from a repository entity or functionality of the telecommunications network, especially based on a user profile information associated to
10 the user equipment,

wherein especially the product identifier information is retrieved or requested by means of at least one out of the following:

- a server assignment request, SAR, and a server assignment answer, SAA,
 - a hypertext transfer protocol 2.0 exchange, HTTP/2.0 exchange, over a service
15 based interface (Nudr/Nudsf),
- wherein especially the repository entity or functionality is or corresponds to a home subscriber server of the telecommunications network or to a unified data repository, UDR, or to a unstructured data storage function, UDSF, of the telecommunications network, wherein especially the product identifier information is retrieved or requested
- 20 -- by means of using at least one attribute-value-pair, AVP, or
 - by means of using an e2 request (according to the IMS standard), or
 - by means of using a representational state transfer interface, REST interface, or
 - by means of using a generic database interface,
- between the processing entity or functionality and the repository entity or functionality.

25 **[0022]** According to the present invention, it is furthermore advantageously possible and preferred that the processing entity or functionality is or corresponds to an application server as part of the telecommunications network or associated to the telecommunications network.

[0023] According to the present invention, it is advantageously furthermore possible
30 and preferred that handling or processing of the invite message by the processing entity or functionality is at least partly different dependent on the information content of the product identifier information,

wherein especially, in dependence of the information content of the product identifier information, different components or microservices or sub-functions of the processing

entity or functionality, especially different virtual network function components, are used for at least partly handling or processing the corresponding request.

[0024] By means of an at least partly different handling or processing of the invite message, by the processing entity or functionality, dependent on the information content 5 of the product identifier information, it is advantageously possible according to the present invention to realize the processing entity or functionality as a generic (or at least more generic) processing entity or functionality; thereby, it is advantageously possible, e.g., to deploy or to provide only one processing entity or functionality for a plurality of products or product variants such that a higher degree of flexibility in providing network 10 performance is possible according to the present invention. Additionally, by means of using different components or microservices or sub-functions of the processing entity or functionality, it is advantageously possible to address for the (comparatively slight) differences between different product variants handled by one and the same (generic) processing entity or functionality.

15 **[0025]** According to the present invention, it is furthermore advantageously possible and preferred that the telecommunications network is an IP multimedia subsystem network.

[0026] Furthermore, the present invention relates to a telecommunications network for realizing communication sessions using the telecommunications network and 20 involving at least one user equipment as well as a processing entity or functionality of the telecommunications network, wherein – in order to establish a communication session regarding the user equipment – a signaling session is initiated by means of the telecommunications network receiving at least one register message and at least one invite message according to the session initiation protocol, SIP, wherein the signaling 25 session is handled by the processing entity or functionality of the telecommunications network,

wherein the telecommunications network is configured such that:

- the register message is received by the processing entity or functionality, and the processing entity or functionality generates or retrieves or requests a product identifier 30 information, the product identifier information being indicative of a product alternative used by the user equipment out of a plurality of different product alternatives,
- the product identifier information is transmitted to the user equipment,
- the invite message is received by the processing entity or functionality, wherein the invite message comprises the product identifier information, and wherein the invite

message is handled, by the processing entity or functionality, in dependence of the product identifier information received from the user equipment.

[0027] Furthermore, the present invention relates to a processing entity or functionality for realizing communication sessions using a telecommunications network and involving at least one user equipment as well as the processing entity or functionality of the telecommunications network, wherein – in order to establish a communication session regarding the user equipment – a signaling session is initiated by means of the processing entity or functionality receiving at least one register message and at least one invite message according to the session initiation protocol, SIP, wherein the signaling session is handled by the processing entity or functionality of the telecommunications network,

wherein the processing entity or functionality is configured such that:

- the register message is received by the processing entity or functionality, and the processing entity or functionality generates or retrieves or requests a product identifier information, the product identifier information being indicative of a product alternative used by the user equipment out of a plurality of different product alternatives,
- the product identifier information is transmitted to the user equipment,
- the invite message is received by the processing entity or functionality, wherein the invite message comprises the product identifier information, and wherein the invite message is handled, by the processing entity or functionality, in dependence of the product identifier information received from the user equipment.

[0028] Furthermore, the present invention relates to a user equipment for realizing communication sessions using a telecommunications network and involving the user equipment as well as a processing entity or functionality of the telecommunications network, wherein – in order to establish a communication session regarding the user equipment – the user equipment initiates a signaling session using at least one register message and at least one invite message according to the session initiation protocol, SIP, the signaling session being able to be handled by a processing entity or functionality of the telecommunications network,

wherein the user equipment is configured such that:

- the user equipment transmits the register message to the processing entity or functionality, and the processing entity or functionality generates or retrieves or requests a product identifier information, the product identifier information being indicative of a product alternative used by the user equipment out of a plurality of different product alternatives,
- the product identifier information is received by the user equipment,

-- the user equipment transmits the invite message to the processing entity or functionality, wherein the invite message comprises the product identifier information, and wherein the invite message is handled, by the processing entity or functionality, in dependence of the product identifier information received from the user equipment.

5 [0029] Additionally, the present invention relates to a program comprising a computer readable program code which, when executed on a computer or on a network node of a telecommunications network or on a user equipment or on a processing entity or functionality, or in part on a network node of a telecommunications network and/or in part on a user equipment and/or in part on a processing entity or functionality, causes the
10 computer and/or the network node of the telecommunications network and/or the user equipment and/or the processing entity or functionality to perform the inventive method.

[0030] Still additionally, the present invention relates to a computer-readable medium comprising instructions which when executed on a computer or on a network node of a telecommunications network or on a user equipment or on a processing entity or
15 functionality, or in part on a network node of a telecommunications network and/or in part on a user equipment and/or in part on a processing entity or functionality, causes the computer and/or the network node of the telecommunications network and/or the user equipment and/or the processing entity or functionality to perform the inventive method.

[0031] These and other characteristics, features and advantages of the present
20 invention will become apparent from the following detailed description, taken in conjunction with the accompanying drawings, which illustrate, by way of example, the principles of the invention. The description is given for the sake of example only, without limiting the scope of the invention. The reference figures quoted below refer to the attached drawings.

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BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

[0032] Figure 1 schematically illustrates a telecommunications network and a user equipment contacting a processing entity or functionality.

[0033] Figures 2 and 3 schematically illustrate a communication diagram showing
30 the inventive method.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

[0034] The present invention will be described with respect to particular embodiments and with reference to certain drawings, but the invention is not limited thereto but only by the claims. The drawings described are only schematic and are non-limiting. In the drawings, the size of some of the elements may be exaggerated and not drawn on scale for illustrative purposes.

[0035] Where an indefinite or definite article is used when referring to a singular noun, e.g. "a", "an", "the", this includes a plural of that noun unless something else is specifically stated.

[0036] Furthermore, the terms first, second, third and the like in the description and in the claims are used for distinguishing between similar elements and not necessarily for describing a sequential or chronological order. It is to be understood that the terms so used are interchangeable under appropriate circumstances and that the embodiments of the invention described herein are capable of operation in other sequences than described or illustrated herein.

[0037] In Figure 1, a telecommunications network 100 is schematically shown being contacted by a user equipment 20 for realizing an exemplary communication session using the telecommunications network 100.

[0038] In order to establish the communication session regarding the user equipment 20, the user equipment 20 initiates a signaling session (not specifically shown in Figure 1) using at least one register message and at least one invite message according to the session initiation protocol, SIP. The signaling session is handled by a processing entity or functionality 150 of the telecommunications network 100. The processing entity or functionality 150 is arranged to be able to handle such communication requests by user equipments 20 for different products or variants of a product. In the exemplary embodiment shown in Figure 1, the processing entity or functionality 150 is able to handle three different product variants. Each specific product or product variant might require a common processing or common processing part within (or as part of) the processing entity or functionality 150 as well as a specific processing part within (or as part of) the processing entity or functionality 150. In the example shown, the common processing or common processing part is schematically illustrated by means of a box and reference sign 1501, whereas a first specific processing or specific processing part is schematically

illustrated by means of a further box and reference sign 1502; a second specific processing or specific processing part is schematically illustrated by means of still a further box and reference sign 1503, and a third specific processing or specific processing part is schematically illustrated by means of still a further box and reference
5 sign 1504. A product identifier information 200 is used to identify which one of the three (in the exemplary embodiment shown in Figure 1) different products or product variants applies for a specific request of a specific user equipment 20 (and, hence, to which specific processing or specific processing part 1502, 1503, 1504 (within or as part of the processing entity or functionality 150) the corresponding request or message shall be
10 addressed). In the exemplary embodiment shown in Figure 1, the product identifier information 200 specifies or indicates the second specific processing or specific processing part 1503 to be relevant. Hence, the request is (after having been processed by the common processing or common processing part 1501) addressed to the second specific processing or specific processing part 1503.

15 In the example shown in Figure 1, the processing entity or functionality 150 might be a proxy call state control function 150, and – after traversing this proxy call state control function as processing entity or functionality 150 – the request or the message of the user equipment 20 might be directed to a further processing entity or functionality 151 (such as an interrogating call state control function 151) and/or a still further processing entity or
20 functionality 152 (such as a serving call state control function 152) – both being schematically illustrated, in Figure 1, only by means of one box and reference sign 151/152. According to the present invention, as the information of the product identifier information is present in the request of the user equipment 20 (shown on the left-hand side of Figure 1), it is advantageously possible to also differentiate between the different
25 specific products or product variants at the output of the further processing entity or functionality 151/152, i.e. in case of the information content or value of the product identifier information 200 corresponding to (or indicating) the second product variant, the request or the processing flow is directed or addressed to still a further processing entity or functionality 153 (and in case that the information content or value of the product
30 identifier information 200 would have corresponded to (or indicated) another product variant, the request or the processing flow would have been directed or addressed to still a further processing entity or functionality 154.

[0039] In the exemplary embodiment shown in Figure 1, the processing entities or functionalities 150, 151, 152, 153, 154 are, e.g., realized as call state control functions or
35 related functions (especially proxy call state control function 150, interrogating call state control function 151, serving call state control function 152). However, the processing

entity or functionality 150 (and/or the further processing entities 151, 152, 153, 154) schematically shown in Figure 1 could also correspond, at least in part, to application servers 150, 151, 152, 153, 154. In addition, further applications servers or application server entities or functionalities (not represented in Figure 1) are able to be involved in the handling and processing of the user equipment's request (comprising the product identifier information 200).

[0040] According to the present invention, in order to establish a communication session regarding the user equipment 20, the user equipment 20 initiates a signaling session using at least one register message (210, cf. Figure 2) and at least one invite message (310, cf. Figure 3) according to the session initiation protocol, SIP, wherein the signaling session is handled by a processing entity or functionality 150 of the telecommunications network 100.

[0041] This is schematically shown in the communication diagrams of Figures 2 and 3. In a first step 210, a register message (also designated by reference sign 201) is sent, by the user equipment 20, to the telecommunications network 100, especially (or eventually) arriving at the processing entity or functionality 150. By means of further processing steps, the processing entity or functionality 150 generates or retrieves or requests the product identifier information 200 appropriate for the requesting user equipment 20 and/or for the requested service or product (this being done especially involving other instances, nodes or functionalities of the telecommunications network 100). The product identifier information 200 is indicative of a product alternative used by (or required by) the user equipment 20 out of a plurality of different product alternatives. In a second step, the product identifier information 200 is transmitted to the user equipment 20. In the exemplary embodiment shown in Figure 2, the product identifier information 200 is returned to the user equipment 20 by the processing entity or functionality 150. Especially, the product identifier information 200 is transmitted to the user equipment 20 as part of a register answer message 230, especially subsequent to the first step, the register answer message 230 being especially related to the (initial) register message 210 received from the user equipment 20.

[0042] According to the present invention, typically, the user equipment 20 is – per se – unable to identify (and, hence, to transmit) the product identifier information 200. Hence, the user equipment 20 needs to receive this information in some way. Especially, the product identifier information 200 is provided to the user equipment 20 as part of the register answer message 230, transmitted to the user equipment 20 by the processing entity or functionality 150 (and schematically shown in Figure 2); alternatives to such a

transmission mechanism or method include a transmission (to the user equipment 20 as part of the second step – that does not necessarily occur subsequent to the first step) of the product identifier information 200 by means of an autoconfiguration method or mechanism, especially as defined in technical report 069 of the Broadband Forum, or by means of or as part of a universal integrated circuit card, especially as part of a subscriber identity module, of the user equipment 20.

[0043] According to the present invention, in a third step, the invite message 310 is received by the processing entity or functionality 150 (i.e. sent by the user equipment 20, cf. Figure 1), wherein the invite message 310 comprises the product identifier information 200, and wherein the invite message 310 is handled, by the processing entity or functionality 150, in dependence of the product identifier information 200 received from the user equipment 20. An example of such a processing in dependence of the product identifier information 200 is schematically shown in Figure 1.

[0044] The telecommunications network 100 is typically able to provide communication services, such as voice communication services to a plurality of users of the telecommunications network 100; for the sake of simplicity, only the user equipment 20 is exemplarily shown in Figure 1 as a user of the telecommunications network 100 – however, the telecommunications network 100 is typically able to provide communication services to many more users. Many such communication services, especially voice-related and/or video-related communication services might correspond to different product variants, depending, e.g., from the user equipment 20 used and/or from the (type of) access used or chosen by the user equipment and/or by the telecommunications network 100.

[0045] In the following, the exemplary embodiment shown in Figure 2 and 3 are explained in detail:

In a first processing step 210 (corresponding to the first step 210), the register message is transmitted, by the user equipment 20 to the processing entity or functionality 150 (especially corresponding to the proxy call state control function). In a second processing step 211, the processing entity or functionality 150 (or proxy call state control function) transmits the register message (the same or a slightly modified message) to the further processing entity or functionality 151 (especially corresponding to the interrogating call state control function). In a third processing step 212, the further processing entity or functionality 151, transmits a user-authorization request (UAR) message to a repository entity or functionality 160 (of the telecommunications network 100, especially a home subscriber server of the telecommunications network 100 or a unified data repository,

UDR, or a unstructured data storage function, UDSF, of the telecommunications network 100), and in a fourth processing step 213, the repository entity or functionality 160 transmits a user-authorization answer (UAA) message to the further processing entity or functionality 151. In a fifth processing step 214, the further processing entity or functionality 151 transmits a register message (the same or a slightly modified message) to still a further processing entity or functionality 152 (especially corresponding to the serving call state control function). In a sixth processing step 215, the still further processing entity or functionality 152, transmits a multimedia-authorization request (MAR) message to the repository entity or functionality 160, and in a seventh processing step 216, the repository entity or functionality 160 transmits a multimedia-authorization answer (MAA) message to the still further processing entity or functionality 152. In an eighth processing step 217, the still further processing entity or functionality 152, transmits a server-assignment request (SAR) message to the repository entity or functionality 160, and in a ninth processing step 218, the repository entity or functionality 160 transmits a server-assignment answer (SAA) message to the still further processing entity or functionality 152. In a tenth processing step 219, the still further processing entity or functionality 152 transmits a message comprising the product identifier information 200 (especially as a 200-OK-message) to the further processing entity or functionality 151. In an eleventh processing step 220, the further processing entity or functionality 151 transmits a message comprising the product identifier information 200 (especially as a 200-OK-message) to the processing entity or functionality 150, and in a twelfth processing step 230 (corresponding to the exemplary embodiment of the second step according to the example shown in Figure 2) the product identifier information 200 is transmitted to the user equipment 20 as part of the register answer message 230. In a thirteenth processing step 221, the still further processing entity or functionality 152 transmits a register IMPU message (register IMS public user identity message) to an application server 170. In a fourteenth processing step 222, the application server 170 transmits a corresponding answer message (typically 200 ok message) back to the still further processing entity or functionality 152. In a fifteenth processing step 310 (corresponding to the third step 310), the invite message (especially a SIP invite message) is transmitted, by the user equipment 20 to the processing entity or functionality 150 (especially corresponding to the proxy call state control function), the invite message comprising the product identifier information 200. In a sixteenth processing step 311, the processing entity or functionality 150 (or proxy call state control function) transmits the invite message (the same or a slightly modified message) to the further processing entity or functionality 151 (especially corresponding to the interrogating call state control function), the invite message comprising the product

identifier information 200. In a seventeenth processing step 312, the further processing entity or functionality 151 transmits the invite message (the same or a slightly modified message) to the still further processing entity or functionality 152 (especially corresponding to the serving call state control function), the invite message comprising the product identifier information 200. In an eighteenth processing step 313, the still further processing entity or functionality 152 transmits a message (especially as a 200-OK-message) to the further processing entity or functionality 151. In a nineteenth processing step 314, the further processing entity or functionality 151 transmits a message (especially as a 200-OK-message) to the processing entity or functionality 150, and in twentieth processing step 320, a message (especially as a 200-OK-message) is transmitted to the user equipment 20.

[0046] The method according to the present invention might, e.g., be applied to the following exemplary situation:

One service (variant of a product or product family) in the IMS fixed network needs an e2 query, and another service (variant of the same product or product family) does not need it, e.g. an MSAN POTS using a classical PSTN phone versus voice functionality being generated on an IAD (integrated access device); this example might differ per service provider. A similar situation occurs for different products for business subscribers or business products. The profiling (of the different products belonging to the same family or group of products) is typically only different in nuances (today handled mostly by SMML scripts). According to the present invention, the transmission of the product identifier information 200 between the telecommunications network 100 and the user equipment 20 helps to achieve a correct handling of the subroutines and their scaling. This especially means that dedicated P-CSCFs (projectable on other functions or components) for each product variant are no longer required according to the present invention: The same generic P-CSCF instance (as an example of the processing entity or functionality 150) is able to drive the corresponding functions as microservices or VNF-C (VNF components) per product (variant) in the (generic) P-CSCF.

In conventionally known telecommunications networks 100, the dedicated P-CSCFs have to be controlled in a dedicated manner and cannot handle different products differentially, because they do not recognize the product (variant), even if only nuances are different.

[0047] The benefit of the product identifier information 200 is as follows: In case that there is a number of (slightly) different products (e.g., for voice-related services in the fixed network, for example one for SIP Trunk, one for cloud PBX, one for voice consumer, one for internal or external access on IP multimedia subsystem), an additional product identifier (information) is needed to allow for a differentiated profiling in the P-CSCF or

other related IMS components. According to the present invention, a better scaling of virtual network resources are used in a more optimal manner. The product identifier information 200 is designed in such a way that only one network (or network slice) needs to be used, and on the basis of the product identifier (information), it is advantageously possible to address different procedures in the IP multimedia subsystem. According to the present invention, the customer groups or different services (or different products) inside the IMS core are differentiated for a more efficient service fulfilment. It is, hence, advantageously possible according to the present invention to use one converged IMS core, i.e. resulting in a more simple signaling flow, harmonized network deployment and services. Furthermore, no distinct network elements (for, e.g., retail, business, mobile customers) are needed any more. Additionally, a differentiation of customer/product/services is possible by means of dedicated product/service identifiers, using services (or products) in a shared environment or in the same (network) domain. Furthermore, the product identifier information is able to be extended using parameters such as, e.g., for QoS or Latency.

[0048] During the registration procedure according to the specific embodiment shown in Figure 2, the user equipment 20 receives the product identifier information 200 especially as part of the SIP Registration Response. Especially, this registration procedure applies to or corresponds to the 3GPP 22.229 standardization document.

20 **[0049]** The product identifier information 200 is able to be exchanged or transmitted in different manners:
E.g. it is able to be exchanged in a new SIP header field P-Product-ID Header (Private-Product-Identifier), especially according to RFC 7315. Thus, the product identifier information 200 might be or be part of a session initiation protocol header or header field, especially as a private-product-identifier header or header field, especially according to RFC 7315. Alternatively, the product identifier information 200 is transmitted as a session initiation protocol uniform resource identifier parameter, SIP URI parameter.

[0050] Especially, the product identifier information 200 comprises – besides a product-related information or product-related information content – at least one further parameter or information content, wherein the further parameter or information content is especially related to a quality-of-service level or indication and/or a latency level or indication.

[0051] An example of a the product identifier information 200 being transmitted in the form of a private SIP header is provided below:

35 The syntax of the P-Product-ID header is described as follows:

P-Product-ID = "P-Product-ID" HCOLON product-id-spec
 product-id-spec = (token / quoted-string) *(SEMI product-id-param)
 product-id-param = generic-param

e.g. P-Product-ID: "PID#1"

5 The call flow for registration is provided in Figure 2, and the register answer message 230 (transporting or comprising the product identifier information 200) is especially provided as a SIP Register '200 OK message' of the following form:

200 OK SIP Server -> UA

10 SIP/2.0 200 OK

Via: SIP/2.0/TLS client.biloxi.example.com:5061;branch=z9hG4bKnashd92
 ;received=192.0.2.201

From: Bob <sips:bob@biloxi.example.com>;tag=ja743ks76zlfIH

To: Bob <sips:bob@biloxi.example.com>;tag=37GkEhwI6

15 Call-ID: 1j9FpLxk3uxtm8tn@biloxi.example.com

CSeq: 2 REGISTER

Contact: <sips:bob@client.biloxi.example.com>;expires=3600

Content-Length: 0

P-Product-ID: "PID#1"

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The further processing entity or functionality 151 and/or the still further processing entity or functionality 152 (especially realized as I/S-CSCFs) will request the repository entity or functionality 160 for receiving the registration setup of the calling user equipment 20 (UE-A) derived from the user profile including the product identifier (e.g. "Product_1").

25 During the call setup the UE-A (i.e. the user equipment 20) requests the required service including the product identifier (information) 20 in the SIP INVITE (message).

The associated functions for the product identifier (information) 200 will be reached smoothly without providing service dependent P-CSCF interfaces (i.e. Proxy call state control function instance) or other functions to which the user equipment 20 needs to be
 30 connected. Furthermore, it is also advantageously possible to reach customer specific services only based on the existing information (i.e. including the product identifier information 200) in the routing request.

[0052] The call flow for the SIP invite process is provided in Figure 3, and the invite message 310 is especially provided as a SIP INVITE message. In the following, an
 35 example showing the form of such a message is provided (however, the iDNS request for resolving the IP-address is not reproduced here):

SIP INVITE Example:

INVITE sip:joe@example.com SIP/2.0

Via: SIP/2.0/UDP 192.0.2.4:5060;branch=z9hG4bKnashds7

To: sip:joe@example.com

5 From: sip:ua1@home1.net;tag=456248

Call-ID: 843817637684230998sdasdh09

CSeq: 18 INVITE

Contact: sip:ua1@192.0

P-Product-ID: "PID#1"

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PATENT CLAIMS

1. Method for realizing communication sessions using a telecommunications network (100) and involving at least one user equipment (20), wherein – in order to
5 establish a communication session regarding the user equipment (20) – the user equipment (20) initiates a signaling session using at least one register message (210) and at least one invite message (310) according to the session initiation protocol, SIP, wherein the signaling session is handled by a processing entity or functionality (150) of the telecommunications network (100),
10 wherein the method comprises the following steps:
-- in a first step, the register message (210) is received by the processing entity or functionality (150), and the processing entity or functionality (150) generates or retrieves or requests a product identifier information (200), the product identifier information (200) being indicative of a product alternative used by the user
15 equipment (20) out of a plurality of different product alternatives,
-- in a second step, the product identifier information (200) is transmitted to the user equipment (20),
-- in a third step, the invite message (310) is received by the processing entity or functionality (150), wherein the invite message (310) comprises the product
20 identifier information (200), and wherein the invite message (310) is handled, by the processing entity or functionality (150), in dependence of the product identifier information (200) received from the user equipment (20).
2. Method according to claim 1, wherein the invite message (310) comprises the
25 product identifier information (200) as a session initiation protocol header or header field, especially as a private-product-identifier header or header field, especially according to RFC 7315,
wherein especially the product identifier information (200) comprises – besides a product-related information or product-related information content – at least one
30 further parameter or information content, wherein the further parameter or information content is especially related to a quality-of-service level or indication and/or a latency level or indication.
3. Method according to one of the preceding claims, wherein the invite message
35 (310) comprises the product identifier information (200) as a session initiation

protocol uniform resource identifier parameter, SIP URI parameter.

4. Method according to one of the preceding claims, wherein – in the second step –
the product identifier information (200) is transmitted to the user equipment (20)
5 as part of a register answer message (230), especially subsequent to the first
step, the register answer message (230) being related to the register message
(210) received from the user equipment (20).
5. Method according to one of the preceding claims, wherein the product identifier
10 information (200) is transmitted to the user equipment (20) by means of an
autoconfiguration method or mechanism, especially as defined in technical report
069 of the Broadband Forum, or by means of or as part of a universal integrated
circuit card, especially as part of a subscriber identity module, of the user
equipment (20).
- 15 6. Method according to one of the preceding claims, wherein the processing entity or
functionality (150) is or corresponds to a call state control function, CSCF, as part
of the telecommunications network (100), especially a proxy call state control
function P-CSCF, wherein the processing entity or functionality (150) retrieves or
20 requests the product identifier information (200) from a repository entity or
functionality (160) of the telecommunications network (100), especially based on a
user profile information associated to the user equipment (20),
wherein especially the product identifier information (200) is retrieved or requested
by means of at least one out of the following:
25 -- a server assignment request, SAR, and a server assignment answer, SAA,
-- a hypertext transfer protocol 2.0 exchange, HTTP/2.0 exchange, over a
service based interface (Nudr/Nudsf),
wherein especially the repository entity or functionality (160) is or corresponds to a
home subscriber server of the telecommunications network (100) or to a unified
30 data repository, UDR, or to a unstructured data storage function, UDSF, of the
telecommunications network (100),
wherein especially the product identifier information (200) is retrieved or requested
-- by means of using at least one attribute-value-pair, AVP, or
-- by means of using an e2 request, or
35 -- by means of using a representational state transfer interface, REST interface,
or
-- by means of using a generic database interface,

between the processing entity or functionality (150) and the repository entity or functionality (160).

7. Method according to one of the preceding claims, wherein the processing entity or
5 functionality (150) is or corresponds to an application server as part of the telecommunications network (100) or associated to the telecommunications network (100).
8. Method according to one of the preceding claims, wherein the handling or
10 processing of the invite message (310) by the processing entity or functionality (150) is at least partly different dependent on the information content of the product identifier information (200),
wherein especially, in dependence of the information content of the product
15 identifier information (200), different components or microservices or sub-functions of the processing entity or functionality (150), especially different virtual network function components, are used for at least partly handling or processing the corresponding request.
9. Method according to one of the preceding claims, wherein the
20 telecommunications network (100) is an IP multimedia subsystem network
10. Telecommunications network (100) for realizing communication sessions using the telecommunications network (100) and involving at least one user equipment (20) as well as a processing entity or functionality (150) of the telecommunications
25 network (100), wherein – in order to establish a communication session regarding the user equipment (20) – a signaling session is initiated by means of the telecommunications network (100) receiving at least one register message (210) and at least one invite message (310) according to the session initiation protocol, SIP, wherein the signaling session is handled by the processing entity or
30 functionality (150) of the telecommunications network (100),
wherein the telecommunications network (100) is configured such that:
- the register message (210) is received by the processing entity or functionality (150), and the processing entity or functionality (150) generates or retrieves or requests a product identifier information (200), the product identifier information
35 (200) being indicative of a product alternative used by the user equipment (20) out of a plurality of different product alternatives,
 - the product identifier information (200) is transmitted to the user equipment

(20),

-- the invite message (310) is received by the processing entity or functionality (150), wherein the invite message (310) comprises the product identifier information (200), and wherein the invite message (310) is handled, by the
5 processing entity or functionality (150), in dependence of the product identifier information (200) received from the user equipment (20).

11. Processing entity or functionality (150) for realizing communication sessions using a telecommunications network (100) and involving at least one user equipment
10 (20) as well as the processing entity or functionality (150) of the telecommunications network (100), wherein – in order to establish a communication session regarding the user equipment (20) – a signaling session is initiated by means of the processing entity or functionality (150) receiving at least one register message (210) and at least one invite message (310) according to
15 the session initiation protocol, SIP, wherein the signaling session is handled by the processing entity or functionality (150) of the telecommunications network (100),

wherein the processing entity or functionality (150) is configured such that:

-- the register message (210) is received by the processing entity or functionality (150), and the processing entity or functionality (150) generates or retrieves or requests a product identifier information (200), the product identifier information (200) being indicative of a product alternative used by the user equipment (20) out of a plurality of different product alternatives,

-- the product identifier information (200) is transmitted to the user equipment
25 (20),

-- the invite message (310) is received by the processing entity or functionality (150), wherein the invite message (310) comprises the product identifier information (200), and wherein the invite message (310) is handled, by the processing entity or functionality (150), in dependence of the product identifier
30 information (200) received from the user equipment (20).

12. User equipment (20) for realizing communication sessions using a telecommunications network (100) and involving the user equipment (20) as well as a processing entity or functionality (150) of the telecommunications network
35 (100), wherein – in order to establish a communication session regarding the user equipment (20) – the user equipment (20) initiates a signaling session using at least one register message (210) and at least one invite message (310) according

to the session initiation protocol, SIP, the signaling session being able to be handled by a processing entity or functionality (150) of the telecommunications network (100),

wherein the user equipment (20) is configured such that:

- 5 -- the user equipment (20) transmits the register message (210) to the processing entity or functionality (150), and the processing entity or functionality (150) generates or retrieves or requests a product identifier information (200), the product identifier information (200) being indicative of a product alternative used by the user equipment (20) out of a plurality of different product alternatives,
- 10 -- the product identifier information (200) is received by the user equipment (20),
- the user equipment (20) transmits the invite message (310) to the processing entity or functionality (150), wherein the invite message (310) comprises the product identifier information (200), and wherein the invite message (310) is handled, by the processing entity or functionality (150), in dependence of the
- 15 product identifier information (200) received from the user equipment (20).

13. Program comprising a computer readable program code, which, when executed on a computer or on a network node of a telecommunications network (100) or on a user equipment (20) or on a processing entity or functionality (150), or in part on

20 a network node of a telecommunications network (100) and/or in part on a user equipment (20) and/or in part on a processing entity or functionality (150), causes the computer and/or the network node of the telecommunications network (100) and/or the user equipment (20) and/or the processing entity or functionality (150) to perform a method according one of claims 1 to 9.

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14. Computer-readable medium comprising instructions which when executed on a computer or on a network node of a telecommunications network (100) or on a user equipment (20) or on a processing entity or functionality (150), or in part on a

30 network node of a telecommunications network (100) and/or in part on a user equipment (20) and/or in part on a processing entity or functionality (150), causes the computer and/or the network node of the telecommunications network (100) and/or the user equipment (20) and/or the processing entity or functionality (150) to perform a method according one of claims 1 to 9.

35

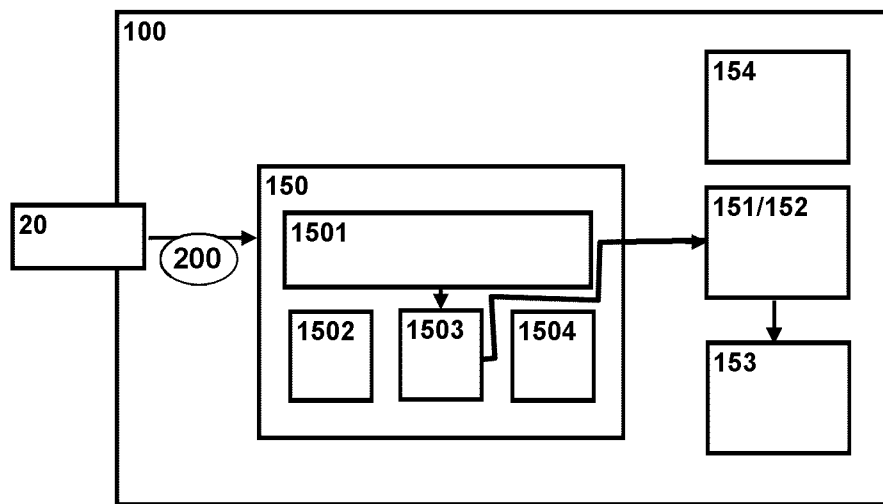


Fig. 1

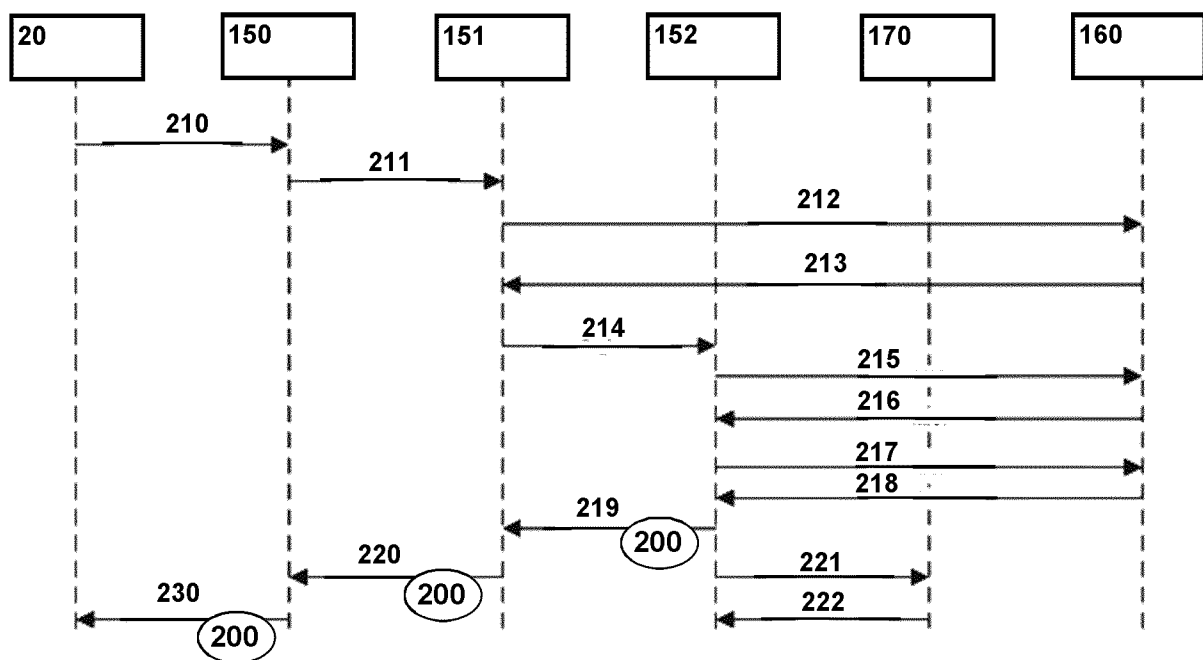


Fig. 2

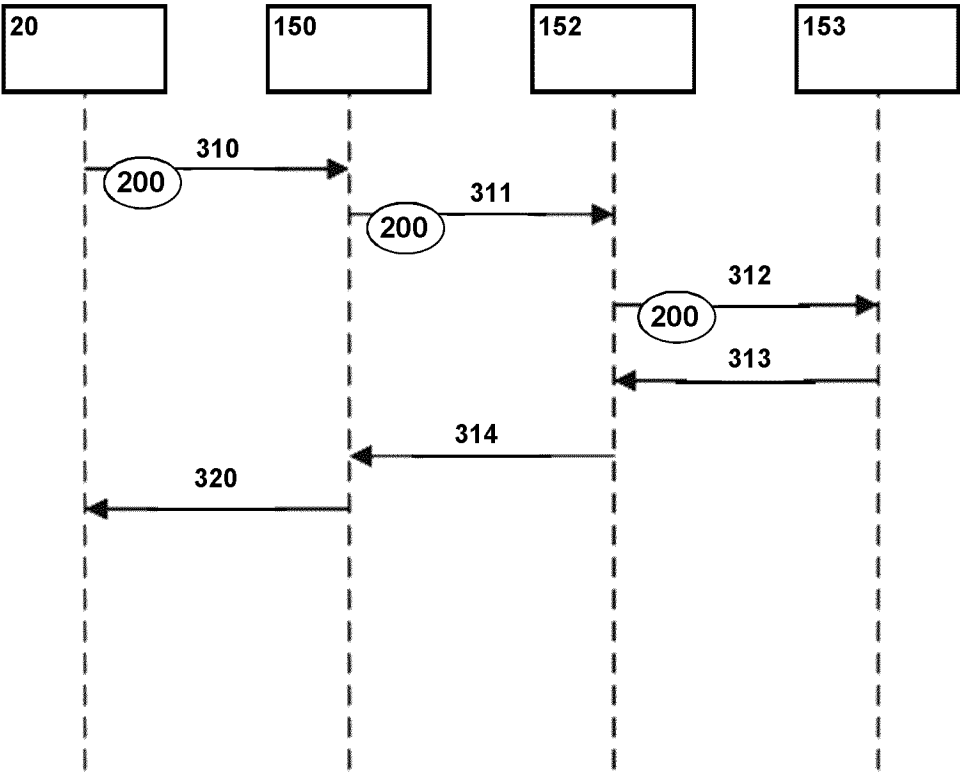


Fig. 3

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No

PCT/EP2022/061708

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

INV. H04L65/1104 H04L65/80

ADD.

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 practicable, search terms used)

EPO-Internal, WPI Data

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	WO 2020/167616 A1 (APPLE INC [US]) 20 August 2020 (2020-08-20) paragraph [0047] paragraph [0278] - paragraph [0288] -----	1-14



Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C.



See patent family annex.

* Special categories of cited documents :

"A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance

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"P" document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed

"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

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"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

"&" document member of the same patent family

Date of the actual completion of the international search

1 July 2022

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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Information on patent family members

International application No

PCT/EP2022/061708

Patent document cited in search report	Publication date	Patent family member(s)	Publication date
WO 2020167616 A1	20-08-2020	CN 113424508 A	21-09-2021
		US 2022131908 A1	28-04-2022
		WO 2020167616 A1	20-08-2020
