

(19) World Intellectual Property Organization
International Bureau



(43) International Publication Date
22 March 2007 (22.03.2007)

PCT

(10) International Publication Number
WO 2007/033237 A3

(51) International Patent Classification:

H04L 12/56 (2006.01) **H04Q 7/32** (2006.01)
H04Q 7/38 (2006.01) **H04Q 7/00** (2006.01)

(21) International Application Number:

PCT/US2006/035630

(22) International Filing Date:

13 September 2006 (13.09.2006)

(25) Filing Language:

English

(26) Publication Language:

English

(30) Priority Data:

60/716,815	13 September 2005 (13.09.2005)	US
60/756,656	5 January 2006 (05.01.2006)	US
60/774,502	16 February 2006 (16.02.2006)	US
60/774,720	16 February 2006 (16.02.2006)	US
60/790,240	6 April 2006 (06.04.2006)	US
60/791,689	12 April 2006 (12.04.2006)	US

(71) Applicant (for all designated States except US): **IST INTERNATIONAL INC.** [US/US]; 8308 City Lights Drive, Aliso Viejo, CA 92656 (US).

(72) Inventors; and

(75) Inventors/Applicants (for US only): **ROS-GIRALT,**

Jordi [ES/US]; 8308 City Lights Drive, Aliso Viejo, CA 92656 (US). **TSAL, Wei, K.** [US/US]; 8 Young Court, Irvine, CA 92617 (US).

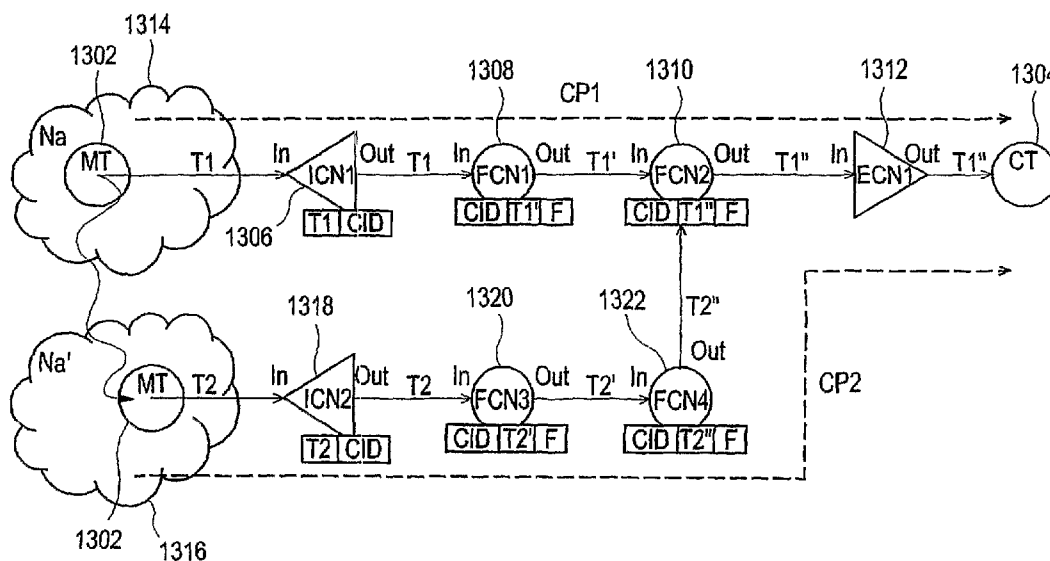
(74) Agents: **SPIVAK, Marvin, J.** et al.; OBLON, SPIVAK, MCCLELLAND, MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C., 1940 Duke Street, Alexandria, VA 22314 (US).

(81) Designated States (unless otherwise indicated, for every kind of national protection available): AE, AG, AL, AM, AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BR, BW, BY, BZ, CA, CH, CN, CO, CR, CU, CZ, DE, DK, DM, DZ, EC, EE, EG, ES, FI, GB, GD, GE, GH, GM, HN, HR, HU, ID, IL, IN, IS, JP, KE, KG, KM, KN, KP, KR, KZ, LA, LC, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LV, LY, MA, MD, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, MY, MZ, NA, NG, NI, NO, NZ, OM, PG, PH, PL, PT, RO, RS, RU, SC, SD, SE, SG, SK, SL, SM, SV, SY, TJ, TM, TN, TR, TT, TZ, UA, UG, US, UZ, VC, VN, ZA, ZM, ZW.

(84) Designated States (unless otherwise indicated, for every kind of regional protection available): ARIPO (BW, GH, GM, KE, LS, MW, MZ, NA, SD, SL, SZ, TZ, UG, ZM, ZW), Eurasian (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM), European (AT, BE, BG, CH, CY, CZ, DE, DK, EE, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, HU, IE, IS, IT, LT, LU, LV, MC, NL, PL, PT, RO, SE, SI, SK, TR), OAPI (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, GQ, GW, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG).

[Continued on next page]

(54) Title: SYSTEM AND METHOD FOR SUPPORTING FLEXIBLE OVERLAYS AND MOBILITY IN IP COMMUNICATION AND COMPUTER NETWORKS



(57) Abstract: There is provided a system and method for providing a simple yet flexible overlay network on top of any IP networks to enable diverse network applications whereby much of the rigidities of IP protocol suite are eliminated without any modifications to the applications. In particular, the system includes: a plurality of c-nodes; one or more source terminal nodes connected to an IP network; and one or more destination terminal nodes connected to the IP network. Here, the source terminal nodes send IP packets over the plurality of c-nodes to the destination terminal nodes to accomplish arbitrary communications between arbitrary groups of the source terminal nodes to arbitrary groups of the destination terminal nodes. More specifically, a method employing the system utilizes the concept of connection ID and headers that can be inserted anywhere in the IP packet.



Published:

- with international search report
- before the expiration of the time limit for amending the claims and to be republished in the event of receipt of amendments

For two-letter codes and other abbreviations, refer to the "Guidance Notes on Codes and Abbreviations" appearing at the beginning of each regular issue of the PCT Gazette.

(88) Date of publication of the international search report:

24 January 2008

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.
PCT/US 06/35630

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

IPC(8) - H04L 12/56, H04Q 7/38, H04Q 7/32, H04Q 0007/00 (2007.01)

USPC - 370/332

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)
USPC - 370/332

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched
USPC - 370/254, 328-332, 338, 252; 455/434, 436-444 (text search -- see terms below)

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practicable, search terms used)

PubWEST(PGPB,USPT,USOC,EPAB,JPAB); DialogPRO(Engineering); Google Scholar

Search Terms Used: --- Please see extra sheet ---

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X --- Y	US 6,631,122 B1 (ARUNACHALAM et al.) 07 October 2003 (7.10.2003), entire document especially Figs 1-3, 6, 8, 9; col 3, ln 51-67; col 4, ln 7-11; col 6, ln 3-12; col 7, ln 60-67; col 8, ln 7-12; col 10, ln 20-23, 46-48	1 and 2 ----- 3 - 16
Y	US 2005/0094640 A1 (HOWE) 05 May 2005 (05.05.2005), entire document especially para [0179]-[0180]	3 - 16
Y	US 5,936,937 A (FUJITA et al.) 10 August 1999 (10.08.1999), entire document especially Fig 2, col 3, ln 38-54	4 - 16
Y	US 5,457,680 A (KAMM et al.) 10 October 1995 (10.10.1995), entire document especially Figs 1A-1D, 1i; col 6, ln 21 to col 7, ln 3	5 - 16

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Date of the actual completion of the international search

22 July 2007 (22.07.2007)

Date of mailing of the international search report

23 NOV 2007

Name and mailing address of the ISA/US

Mail Stop PCT, Attn: ISA/US, Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
Facsimile No. 571-273-3201

Authorized officer:

Lee W. Young

PCT Helpdesk: 571-272-4300
PCT OSP: 571-272-7774