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(54) Title: ROLE-BASED NETWORK SERVICE MANAGEMENT

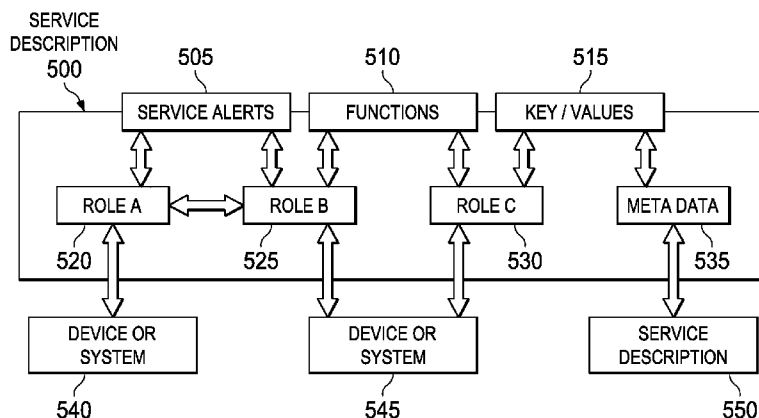


FIG. 5

(57) Abstract: A service management system and method. In one embodiment, the service management system includes: (1) a service description repository configured to contain service descriptions that define services in terms of a set of systems and devices that assume roles based on at least one of capabilities and attributes thereof and (2) a service management engine coupled to the service description repository and configured to employ the service description repository and at least one of the systems to deliver a service corresponding to at least one of the service descriptions via at least one of the devices.

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<b>A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER</b> INV. H04L12/24 ADD. H04L29/08		
According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC		
<b>B. FIELDS SEARCHED</b>		
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) EPO-Internal, WPI Data, COMPENDEX, IBM-TDB		
<b>C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT</b>		
Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	WO 2007/110090 A1 (ERICSSON TELEFON AB L M [SE]; SACHS JOACHIM [DE]; MAGNUSSON PER [SE];) 4 October 2007 (2007-10-04) page 3, line 25 - page 9, line 7 abstract figures 1-3; table 1 page 2, line 19 - line 34 page 9, line 10 - page 14, line 2	1-24
X	US 2003/018792 A1 (SHIOUCHI MASATOSHI [JP] ET AL) 23 January 2003 (2003-01-23) paragraph [0015] - paragraph [0020] abstract figure 6	1-24
X	US 2007/220521 A1 (CHEVANNE MICHEL [FR] ET AL) 20 September 2007 (2007-09-20) the whole document	1-24
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<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C.		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> See patent family annex.
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Name and mailing address of the ISA/ European Patent Office, P.B. 5818 Patentlaan 2 NL - 2280 HV Rijswijk Tel. (+31-70) 340-2040, Fax: (+31-70) 340-3016	Authorized officer  <p style="text-align: center;">Aura Marcos, F</p>	

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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>WO 2007/039833 A2 (ALCATEL LUCENT [FR]; ZABIHI ATTAULLAH [CA]; CALIPPE JOEL REGINALD [CA]) 12 April 2007 (2007-04-12) abstract page 2, line 20 - page 9, line 15 figures 1-16</p> <p align="center">-----</p>	1-24
A	<p>US 2002/147801 A1 (GULLOTTA TONY J [US] ET AL) 10 October 2002 (2002-10-10) abstract paragraph [0011] - paragraph [0018] paragraph [0084] - paragraph [0084]</p> <p align="center">-----</p>	1-24

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Information on patent family members

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