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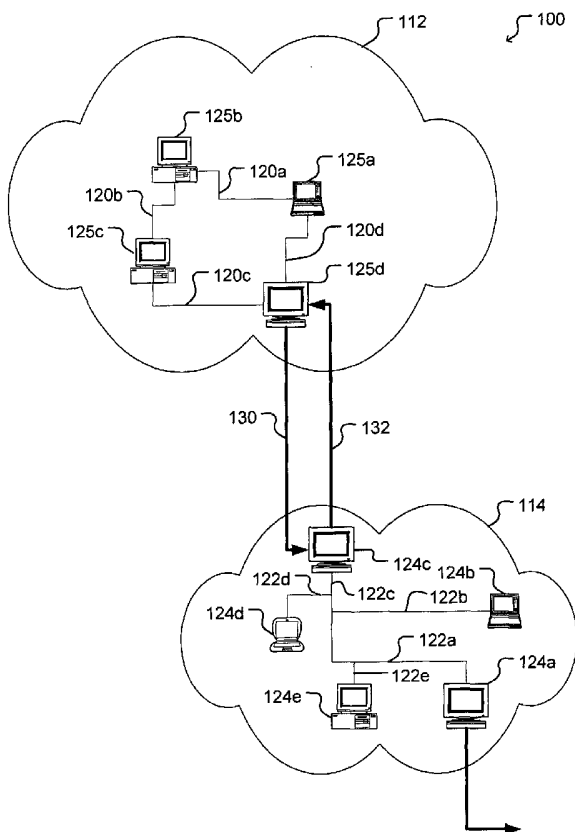
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(54) Title: METHODS AND SYSTEMS FOR DETERMINING NETWORK INTEGRITY AND PROVIDING IMPROVED NETWORK AVAILABILITY



(57) Abstract: In one embodiment, the invention provides methods and systems for determining status of nodes and related communication channels to configure paths on a network so as to improve network efficiency.

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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.

PCT/US04/09970

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

IPC(7) : H04J 1/16, 3/16, 3/24; H04L 1/00, 12/28; G06F 11/00, 11/34, 13/00, 15/173; H02H 3/05
 US CL : 370/216, 241, 248, 252, 253, 400, 454, 469; 709/221, 223, 224, 227, 242, 245, 250; 714/39, 43, 47
 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. : 370/216, 241, 248, 252, 253, 400, 454, 469; 709/221, 223, 224, 227, 242, 245, 250; 714/39, 43, 47

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched
 NONE

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practicable, search terms used)
 EAST/WEST search, APS.

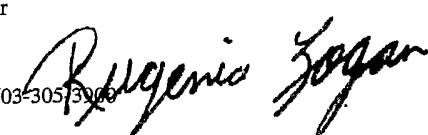
C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
A,E	US 6,747,957 B1 (PITHAWALA et al.) 08 June 2004, entire document	1-28
A	US 6,487,593 B2 (BANKS) 26 November 2002, entire document	1-28
A,E	US 6,721,801 B2 (NAJJAR) 13 April 2004, entire document	1-28
A,P	US 6,560,723 B1 (MATSUI) 06 May 2003, entire document	1-28
A	US 6,079,036 A (MOHARRAM) 20 June 2000, entire document	1-28
A	US 6,446,222 B1 (PHAAL) 03 September 2002, entire document	1-28
A	US 5,627,766 A (BEAVEN) 06 May 1997, entire document	1-28
A	US 5,726,972 A (FERGUSON) 10 March 1998, entire document	1-28
A	US 5,012,468 (SIEGEL et al.) 30 April 1991, entire document	1-28

Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C.

See patent family annex.

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"O" document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means		
"P" document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed	"&"	document member of the same patent family

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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	US 6,404,733 B1 (SHAH et al.) 11 June 2002, entire document	1-28
A	US 6,115,393 A (ENGEL et al.) 05 September 2000, entire document	1-28