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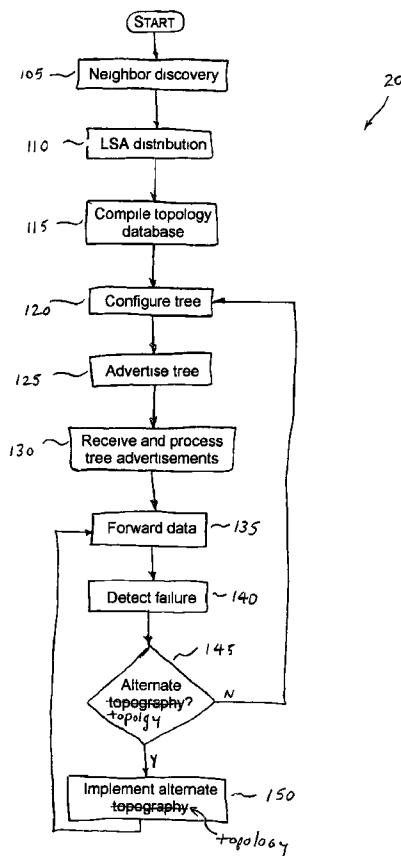
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[Continued on next page]

(54) **Title:** METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR NETWORK TREE MANAGEMENT

Figure 16
A



(57) **Abstract:** There is disclosed a manner of managing the active topology, that is the scheme for forwarding data, in a computer network such as an Ethernet local area network. A root bridge is selected from a plurality of bridges in the network, the root bridge calculating at least one spanning tree from a topology database that has been populated by bridge neighbor information gleaned from link state advertising messages. The root bridge may also calculate an alternate topology for implementation in the event a failure condition that affects the primary spanning tree is detected. The root bridge then advertises the spanning tree and remotely configures the port states of the bridges in the spanning tree through tree advertising messages that the bridges are arranged to process and set their ports accordingly.

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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)

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C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	<p>NORMAN FINN: "SHORTEST PATH BRIDGING" INTERNET CITATION, [Online] 22 September 2005 (2005-09-22), pages 1-95, XP002471513 Retrieved from the Internet: URL :http://www.ieee802.org/1/files/pub/tc/docs2005/aq-nf_inn-shortest-path_0905.pdf > [retrieved on 2008-03-03] page 5 - page 6 page 85 page 93</p>	1-28

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See patent family annex.

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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.
X	<p>N. FINN: "Shortest Path Bridging - Additional information" [Online] 13 January 2006 (2006-01-13), INET , XP002485131</p> <p>Retrieved from the Internet: URL :http://www.ieee802.org/1/files/public/docs2006/aq-nf-inn-shortest-path-2-0106.pdf > [retrieved on 2008-06-20] pages 1,4,5,11 page 18</p>	1-28
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A	<p>US 6 578 086 B1 (REGAN JOSEPH [US] ET AL) 10 June 2003 (2003-06-10) column 4, line 40 - column 7, line 13</p>	1-28
A	<p>US 2006/198323 A1 (FINN NORMAN [US]) 7 September 2006 (2006-09-07) the whole document</p>	1-28

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Information on patent family members

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US 2006198323	A1	07-09-2006	EP 1854249 A2 14-11-2007
		WO 2006096315 A2	14-09-2006