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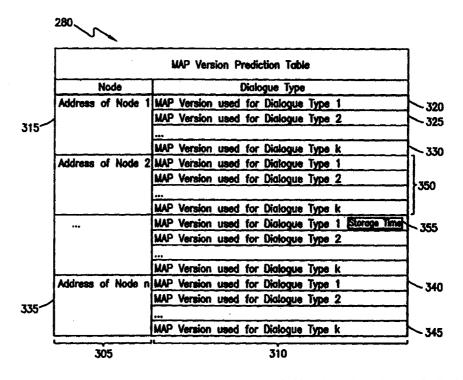
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(54) Title: SYSTEM AND METHOD FOR FACILITATING INTER-NODAL PROTOCOL AGREEMENT IN A TELECOMMUNICATIONS SYSTEM

(57) Abstract

A system and method in a communications network for minimizing the number of attempts required to establish communication between two nodes is disclosed. Each node maintains a database table composed of addresses of other nodes within the communications system. Associated with each nodal entry is a list of dialogue types that have been initiated with or terminated from the relevant node. Associated with each dialogue type entry is the most-advanced protocol version, such as the Mobile Application Part (MAP), that has been negotiated with the affiliated node for that dialogue type. When a first node wishes to initiate a dialogue with a second node, the first node checks the database table. The first node locates the second node in the table by address,



locates the appropriate dialogue by type, and then determines the appropriate MAP version. If either the node or the specifically desired dialogue type is not within the database table, the first node attempts to establish the dialogue with the highest MAP version that the first node supports. After any resulting fall-back procedure has occurred, the first node stores in the database table the highest MAP version that was negotiated. The database table is periodically refreshed by clearing one or more entries.

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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

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A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER
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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) $IPC \ 6 \ H04L \ H04Q$

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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Υ	abstract page 3, column 4, line 14 -page 4, column	17,22
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	page 7, column 11, line 15 -column 12, line 5/	43 40
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X Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C.	Patent family members are listed in annex.
"A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance "E" earlier document but published on or after the international filling date "L" document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified) "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	"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 "X" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone "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
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