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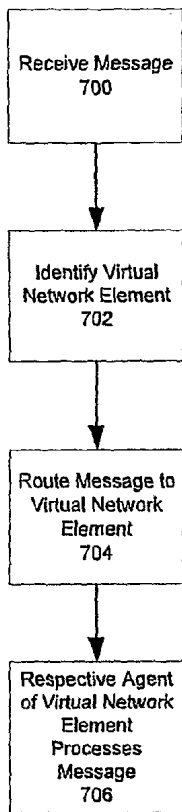
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[Continued on next page]

(54) Title: VIRTUAL NETWORK ELEMENT FRAMEWORK AND OPERATING SYSTEM FOR MANAGING MULTI-SERVICE NETWORK EQUIPMENT



(57) Abstract: A managed network element is partitioned into one or more virtual network elements. The managed network element may be partitioned based on physical components or services provided by that network element. Each virtual network element is then provided a respective agent to monitor and manage its portion of the managed network element.

Figure 7

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USPC: **709/206,238**  
 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. : 709/206, 238

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched  
 709/203, 206, 209, 223, 229, 238

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

**C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT**

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	US 7,099,947 (NADEAU et al) June 8, 2001	1 - 18
Y	PGPUB 2002/0174207 (BATTOU et al) February 28, 2001.	19, 20

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	"&" document member of the same patent family
"P" document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed	

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