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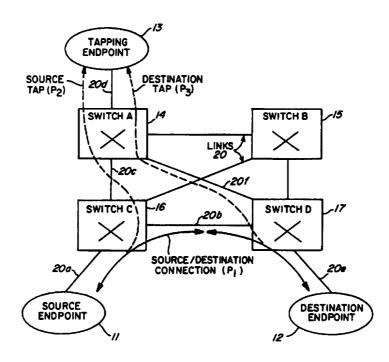
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(54) Title: USE OF MULTIPOINT CONNECTION SERVICES TO ESTABLISH CALL-TAPPING POINTS IN A SWITCHED NETWORK



#### (57) Abstract

Method and apparatus for providing a call-tapping point (13) in a switched network with point-to-multipoint functionality. The tapping point is added as an additional destination for data being sent from a source node (11) to a first destination node (12). The tapping point is also added as a destination for data being sent from the first destination node to the source node. A merge operation is performed for finding and combining common segments of the paths between the source and destination, the source and tapping point, and the destination and tapping point.

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#### INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Inter onal Application No PCI/US 96/00571

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER IPC 6 H04L12/26 H04L12/18 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) H04L H04M IPC 6 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) C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT Relevant to claim No. Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages Category \* 1-9 EP,A,O 453 128 (AT&T) 23 October 1991 Α see column 2, line 31 - column 3, line 52 see column 17, line 57 - column 18, line see column 20, line 31 - column 21, line see column 27, line 30 - column 28, line EP,A,0 462 691 (IBM) 27 December 1991 1,3,9 A see page 4, line 6 - line 36 1-9 PATENT ABSTRACTS OF JAPAN vol. 011, no. 117 (E-498), 11 April 1987 & JP.A.61 263350 (HITACHI LTD), 21 November 1986. see abstract -/--Patent family members are listed in annex. IX X Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C. \* Special categories of cited documents: "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 "A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance invention "E" earlier document but published on or after the international 'X' document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to filing 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) 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 docu-"O" document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or ments, such combination being obvious to a person skilled 'P' document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed "&" document member of the same patent family Date of mailing of the international search report Date of the actual completion of the international search 03.07.96 20 June 1996 Authorized officer Name and mailing address of the ISA European Patent Office, P.B. 5818 Patentiaan 2 NL - 2280 HV Rijswijk Tel. (+ 31-70) 340-2040, Tx. 31 651 epo nl, Fax: (+ 31-70) 340-3016 Vaskimo, K

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