

(19) World Intellectual Property Organization
International Bureau



(43) International Publication Date
7 February 2002 (07.02.2002)

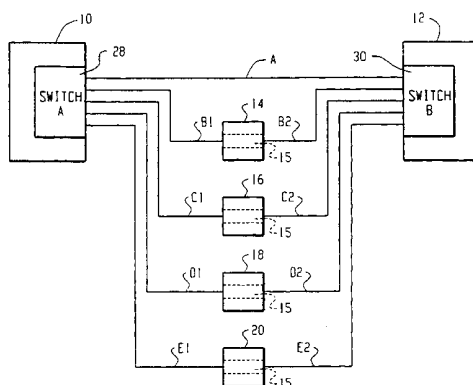
PCT

(10) International Publication Number
WO 02/10930 A3

- (51) International Patent Classification⁷: H04L 12/44, G06F 13/00
- (21) International Application Number: PCT/US01/41220
- (22) International Filing Date: 2 July 2001 (02.07.2001)
- (25) Filing Language: English
- (26) Publication Language: English
- (30) Priority Data:
60/221,417 28 July 2000 (28.07.2000) US
09/721,230 22 November 2000 (22.11.2000) US
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- (81) Designated States (*national*): AE, AG, AL, AM, AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BR, BY, BZ, CA, CH, CN, CO, CR, CU, CZ, DE, DK, DM, DZ, EE, ES, FI, GB, GD, GE, GH, GM, HR, HU, ID, IL, IN, IS, JP, KE, KG, KP, KR, KZ, LC, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LV, MA, MD, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, MZ, NO, NZ, PL, PT, RO, RU, SD, SE, SG, SI, SK, SL, TJ, TM, TR, TT, TZ, UA, UG, UZ, VN, YU, ZA, ZW.
- (84) Designated States (*regional*): ARIPO patent (GH, GM, KE, LS, MW, MZ, SD, SL, SZ, TZ, UG, ZW), Eurasian patent (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM), European patent (AT, BE, CH, CY, DE, DK, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, PT, SE, TR), OAPI patent (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, GW, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG).
- Published:
— with international search report
— before the expiration of the time limit for amending the claims and to be republished in the event of receipt of amendments
- (88) Date of publication of the international search report:
20 June 2002

[Continued on next page]

(54) Title: PROTECTED ETHERNET BACKPLANE COMMUNICATION



WO 02/10930 A3 (57) Abstract: A multiprocessor system is provided that has a plurality of processor modules coupled together via a backplane. The system comprises a first processor module having a first processor and a first switch with a plurality of I/O ports and a plurality of communication paths coupled to the I/O ports of the first switch, the first switch being operable to route data packets. The system further comprises a second processor module having a second processor and a second switch with a plurality of I/O ports and a plurality of communication paths coupled to the I/O ports of the second switch, the second switch being operable to route data packets. The system also comprises a third processor module having a third processor and a first communication device that is operable to communicate with the first switch via a first communication path on the backplane and operable to communicate with the second switch via a second communication path on the backplane. In addition, the system comprises a fourth processor module having a fourth processor and a second communication device that is operable to communicate with the first switch via a third communication path on the backplane and operable to communicate with the second switch via a fourth communication path on the backplane. The first switch is operable to route data packets from one of the first, second, third or fourth processors to another of the first, second, third or fourth processors. The second switch is also operable to route data packets from one of the first, second, third or fourth processors to another of the first, second, third or fourth processors.



For two-letter codes and other abbreviations, refer to the "Guidance Notes on Codes and Abbreviations" appearing at the beginning of each regular issue of the PCT Gazette.

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International Application No
PC1/US 01/41220

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER
IPC 7 H04L12/44 G06F13/00

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 7 H04L G06F

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)

EPO-Internal

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category °	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
A	US 5 058 110 A (BEACH ROBERT ET AL) 15 October 1991 (1991-10-15) column 5, line 23 -column 6, line 40; figures 2,3A ---	1, 12, 30
A	US 5 345 447 A (NOEL CHRIS R) 6 September 1994 (1994-09-06) column 2, line 9 - line 42; figure 1 ---	1, 12, 30
A	EP 0 952 702 A (XYLAN CORP) 27 October 1999 (1999-10-27) column 3, line 25 - line 54 -----	1, 12, 30

Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C.

Patent family members are listed in annex.

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Date of the actual completion of the international search

26 March 2002

Date of mailing of the international search report

22/04/2002

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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Information on patent family members

International Application No

PCT/US 01/41220

Patent document cited in search report	Publication date	Patent family member(s)	Publication date
US 5058110	A	15-10-1991	NONE
US 5345447	A	06-09-1994	NONE
EP 0952702	A	27-10-1999	US 6314106 B1 06-11-2001
			EP 0952702 A2 27-10-1999
			EP 0957612 A2 17-11-1999
			US 2001022786 A1 20-09-2001