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(57) Abstract

A communications network has means for interconnecting a user computer terminal to a further computer terminal, which further computer terminal is one of a plurality of computer terminals connected in the network. To achieve this a virtual message path is established from the further computer terminal to the user computer terminal in response to an open message sent form the user computer terminal to a user router which sends a service request to the further computer terminal via one or more further routers. Typically the communications network will be the Internet or a similar service.