



INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION PUBLISHED UNDER THE PATENT COOPERATION TREATY (PCT)

(51) International Patent Classification ⁶ : H04L 29/06, 12/40, G06F 15/16	A1	(11) International Publication Number: WO 99/59309 (43) International Publication Date: 18 November 1999 (18.11.99)
(21) International Application Number: PCT/JP99/02454 (22) International Filing Date: 12 May 1999 (12.05.99) (30) Priority Data: 10/128475 12 May 1998 (12.05.98) JP (71) Applicant: SONY CORPORATION [JP/JP]; 7-35, Kitashinagawa 6-chome, Shinagawa-ku, Tokyo 141-0001 (JP). (72) Inventors: KATO, Junji; Sony Corporation, 7-35, Kitashinagawa 6-chome, Shinagawa-ku, Tokyo 141-0001 (JP). MIYANO, Michio; Sony Corporation, 7-35, Kitashinagawa 6-chome, Shinagawa-ku, Tokyo 141-0001 (JP). (74) Agents: YAMAGUCHI, Kunio et al.; Hirayama Building 5F., 15-2, Uchikanda 1-chome, Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo 101-0047 (JP).		(81) Designated States: JP, KR, SG, European patent (DE, FR, GB). Published <i>With international search report. Before the expiration of the time limit for amending the claims and to be republished in the event of the receipt of amendments.</i>

(54) Title: METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR SETTING CONNECTIONS BETWEEN A NUMBER OF INFORMATION PROCESSING APPARATUSES

(57) Abstract

An apparatus and method for connecting a number of information processing apparatuses together in a desired manner in which each information processing apparatus is connected to a network. Signals may be formed which represent a graphical interface for display on a display unit. Such graphical interface may indicate available connections between the information processing apparatuses connected to the network. A user may select a desired connection by use of the graphical interface, whereupon a control signal may be formed therefrom. The desired connection between the corresponding information processing apparatuses may be established in accordance with the control signal. As a result, an input/output connection setting or settings of information processing apparatuses coupled to a network may be easily performed.

