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(54) **Title:** OVERLOAD CONTROL FOR SESSION SETUPS

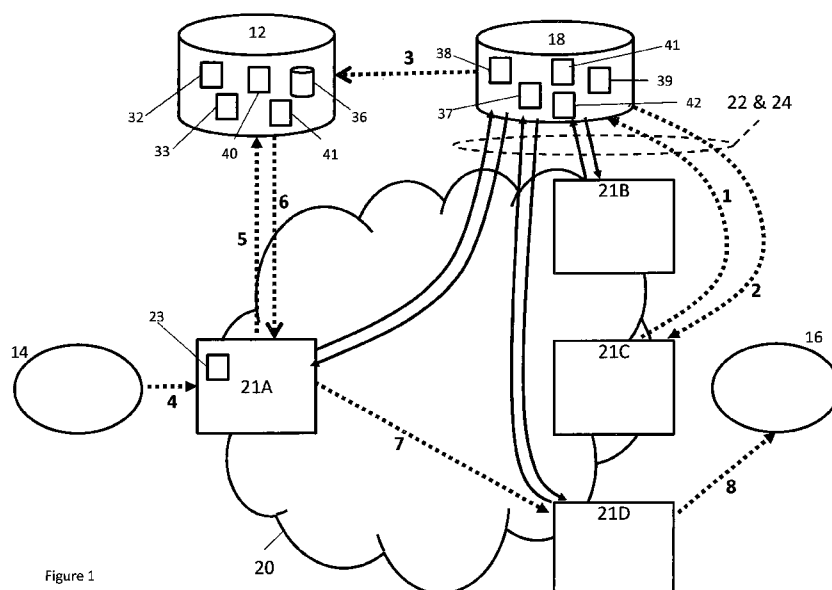


Figure 1

(57) **Abstract:** A centralised server system (12, 18) is arranged to monitor overload restriction requirements of session control nodes (21A-D) within a globally scalable VoIP and Multimedia network (20) in order to handle session set-up requests. An overload status module (38) in the server system receives overload status messages (22) from the session control nodes and based on these messages and the demand on each session control node determined from session set-up requests, the server system (12, 18) selects which session control nodes (21A-D) as well as which of their associated interconnects to other networks to include in a session setup response (6) to a session setup request (5) from a source session control node (21A-D).