METHOD OF REGULATING THE NUMBER OF CONCURRENT PARTICIPANTS IN A VIDEO CONFERENCING SYSTEM

ABSTRACT

A method for regulating to within predetermined number of concurrent participants of a video conferencing system, comprising disparate mixture of end points of PSTN, ISDN, IP and 3G-based end points through which multimedia data streams in ITU H.323 codec. The method includes authenticating a participant joining a conference session and determining if he has a reservation or is seeking *ad hoc* conferencing. A scheduled participant's gatekeeper web account is presented as an H.323 client and registered with the H.323 gatekeeper's server upon joining the video conference. An *ad hoc* participant is checked for free concurrent participant available in the H.323 gatekeeper. If availability, the *ad hoc* participant is admitted into the video conference session by presenting the participant's gatekeeper web account as an H.323 client and registering it with the H.323 gatekeeper server. Upon each participant (both *ad hoc* or having reservation) leaving a teleconferencing session by logging off, deregistering said participant's gatekeeper web account from the H.323 gatekeeper to be released back to the pool of available free concurrent participants.

FIGURE 28 accompanies the abstract.