*NO COVER LETTER

980411-8
IPOS COPY

PCT WORLD INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY ORGANIZATION
International Bureau

INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION PUBLISHED UNDER THE PATENT COOPERATION TREATY (PCT)

(51) International Patent Classification 6 : H04L 29/06 — A1

(11) International Publication Number: WO 97/30537

(43) International Publication Date: 21 August 1997 (21.08.97)

(21) International Application Number: PCT/GB97/00348

(22) International Filing Date: 7 February 1997 (07.02.97)

(30) Priority Data:
9603020.0 14 February 1996 (14.02.96) GB

(71) Applicant: BRITISH TELECOMMUNICATIONS PLC [GB/GB]; 81 Newgate Street, London EC1A 7AJ (GB).

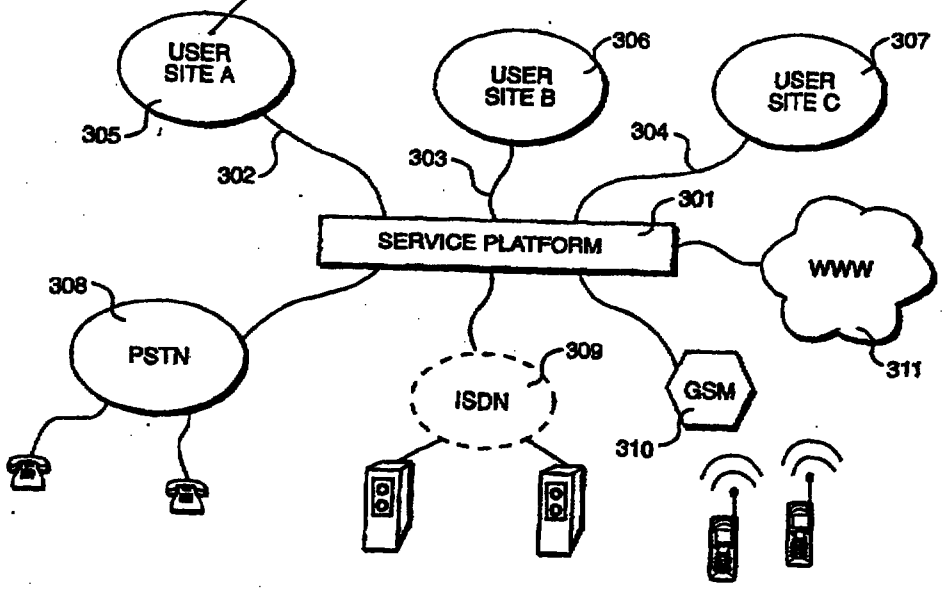
(72) Inventors: HARRIS, Stephen; 9 Haughgate Close, Woodbridge, Suffolk IP12 1LQ (GB). GITTINS, Christopher, John; 34 Roman Way, Felixstowe, Suffolk IP11 9NJ (GB).

(74) Agent: ATKINSON, Ralph; Atkinson & Co., The Technology Park, 60 Shirland Lane, Sheffield S9 3SP (GB).

(81) Designated States: AU, CA, CN, JP, KR, MX, NO, NZ, SG, European patent (AT, BE, CH, DE, DK, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, PT, SE).

Published
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.

(54) Title: ESTABLISHING COMMUNICATION IN A PACKET DATA NETWORK



(57) Abstract

Communications are established between a source user (305) and a destination user (307). Data is transmitted between these users in packets (204) having a destination address (205) and communication data (206). A destination name is identified in a first packet and this packet is transmitted to a service control platform (301) identifying, in its communication data, a destination name. A packet is then returned from the control platform (301) to the originating source (305) identifying a real contactable address for the identified destination (307). Subsequent packets of data are generated at the source (305) for transmission to the destination (307) wherein the transmitted packets have the actual destination address, as returned from the service platform, appended thereto.