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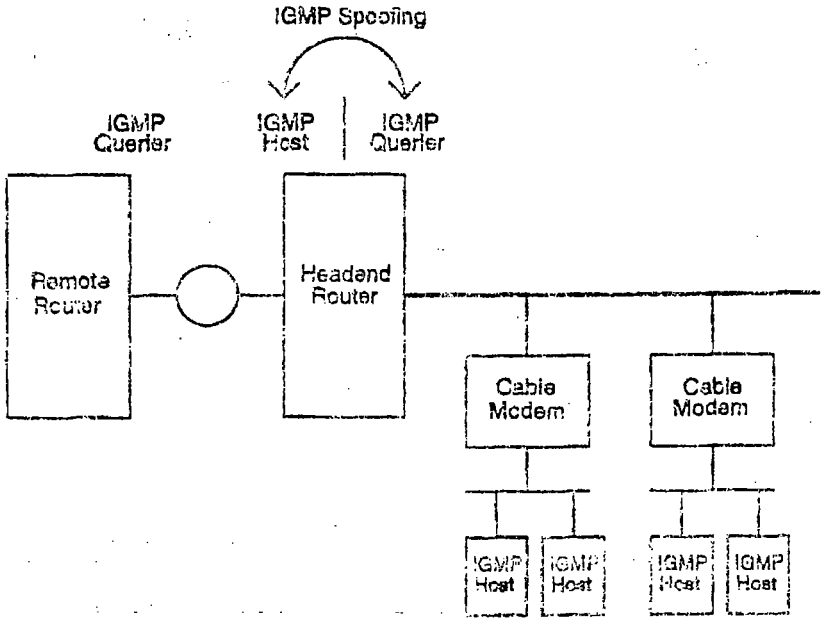
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(54) Title: SYSTEM, DEVICE, AND METHOD FOR MANAGING MULTICAST GROUP MEMBERSHIPS IN A MULTICAST NETWORK

(57) Abstract

A system (300, 400, 500), device (1200), and method (600) for managing multicast group memberships in a multicast network uses IGMP spoofing to consolidate the multicast group memberships of a number of multicast hosts into a single IGMP Host. The IGMP spoofing agent maintains a group list indicating the multicast group membership status for the number of multicast hosts. The IGMP spoofing agent establishes a multicast group membership with a remote multicast device when at least one of the number of mulicast hosts requests membership in the multicast group. The IGMP spoofing agent cancels the multicast group with the remote multicast device when all of the multicast hosts have left the multicast group. The IGMP spoofing agent responds to status inquiries from the remote multicast device as a proxy on behalf of the number of multicast hosts.



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