# A CENTRALIZED BILLING SERVICE FOR A COMPUTER NETWORK


## ABSTRACT

A centralized electronic billing apparatus (3) to which at least one supplier (2a-2c) and at least one consumer (1a-1c) connects to in a computer network, to thus enable electronic commerce to be carried out between the suppliers (1a-1c) and consumers (1a-1c) has a means for accepting from an identified supplier (2a-2c) usage charging terms concerning how prices are to be associated with amounts of consumption of a good or service by consumers (1a-1b); a means for accepting from the identified supplier (2a-2c), a consumer (1a-1c) usage amount indicating an amount of consumption of a good or service by an identified consumer (1a-1c); and a means for preparing a total price amount which the identified consumer (1a-1c) owes the identified supplier (2a-2c) by correlating the usage charging terms with the consumer (1a-1c) usage amount, and for preparing a bill reflecting the total price amount.


Fig. 1