

ABSTRACT

It is possible to easily recognize the network topology of the LAN, and when a change in the network topology occurs, it is possible to quickly
5 recognize the changed portion. The relay device performs a process of periodically collecting the contents and the MAC address stored in a MAC address table from a switching hub included in the LAN that is connected to a communication network such as the Internet via the relay device itself, and generating network topology data representing the network topology of
10 the LAN using the tree structure by analyzing the data collected from each switching hub. Then, the relay device sets the nodes of up to directly below the relay device itself as a drawing target, and displays the image of the tree structure on a display device. As a response to being given an expansion instruction for a certain node, the router may perform a process of setting
15 the nodes of up to directly below the node to which the expansion instruction is given as a new drawing target, and displaying again the tree structure.