

ABSTRACT

A METHOD OF CONTROLLING OVERLOADS
IN A TELECOMMUNICATIONS NETWORK

In a method of controlling overloads in a
5 telecommunications network, a module 46 for detecting and
monitoring overloads is provided at a node 40. The node 40
includes a module 44 for controlling access to terminal
resources such as telephones and fax machines. The module 44
also detects failed calls. Upon detecting an initial failed
10 call to a particular called party number, a counter in module
46 is initialised. The counter is incremented for each
further failed call to the particular called party number and
also decremented at a fixed rate. When the number of calls
in the counter rises above a first threshold, the counter
15 goes into an overload state. When the number of calls in the
counter falls below a second threshold, the counter goes into
a no overload state. The module 46 sends an indication of
the state of the counter and the identity of the called
number to a module 48 in a node 41 which sets and updates a
20 restriction parameter. The node 41 is upstream from the node
40 in the direction of call set up and the overload status is
transmitted in the backward call set up messages. The module
48 then sets the restriction parameter in accordance with the
overload status of calls to the called number and supplies
25 this parameter to a module 49 which restricts calls to the
called number. Call restriction is maintained until the
overload to the called number subsides completely. The
invention may also be used to detect and control calls whose
call identities belong to a common set of call identities.

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See Figure 4

This Sheet Has Been Replaced

