

ABSTRACT (Figure 1)

METHOD OF CONTROLLING A TELECOMMUNICATIONS NETWORK

A method of controlling a telecommunications network in which local exchanges (1) are connected to a network of trunk exchanges (6) via one or more parent trunk exchanges (3,4). The method provides a network traffic management system (NTMS) which detects focused overloads at parent trunk exchanges (3,4) and, rather than applying call restriction to the parent trunk exchange (3,4) itself, applies call restriction to one or more of the other trunk exchanges (6) in the network, known as far-end trunk exchanges.

- This arrangement can allow added flexibility in the way call restriction is applied. For instance, cases arise when certain routes (7) into a parent trunk exchange (3,4) contribute more than others to a focused overload. It may then be preferable to apply call restriction in relation to a route which is inversely proportional to that route's contribution to the focused overload.