

ABSTRACT

To provide a data communication system in which a host computer is connected with a plurality of peripheral storage
5 devices, which may carry out data transfer simultaneously without any substantial increase in data transfer time. A data transfer node includes a plurality of data compression means of different compression ratios, measuring means for
10 measuring the effective data transfer rate of data transfer performed by the data transfer node over a communication channel, selection means for selecting one of the data compression means according to the effective data transfer rate obtained by the measuring means, and means for adding
15 a data compression method to transferred data. A data receiving node includes means for decompressing received data by recognizing the compression method of the received data based on information about the compression method contained in the transferred data.



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