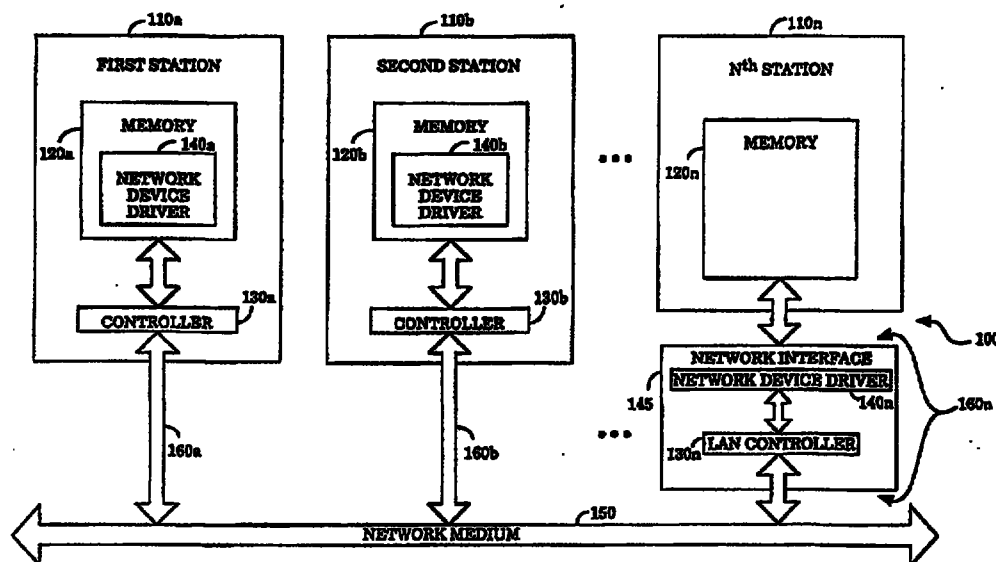


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(54) Title: A SYSTEM AND METHOD FOR IMPROVING NETWORK PERFORMANCE THROUGH INTER FRAME SPACING ADAPTATION



(57) Abstract

An Inter Frame Spacing ("IFS") adaptation routine, operating in combination with a network controller (130), to alter the IFS parameter utilized by the network controller to regulate data throughput. Such alteration is performed in real time according to the topology and load of its Ethernet network (150). Upon determining that current Back-to-Back frames of data propagating through the Ethernet network are sensitive to IFS adaptation (step 115), the IFS adaptation routine configures the IFS parameter of its network controller based on its transmit activity and collision intensity (step 130).