

Abstract**A shared network system and a method for operating the shared network system**

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The shared network system according to the invention includes a plurality of computer nodes and connections between the computer nodes. A plurality of first computer nodes are adapted to define a plurality of looping paths, with each of the looping paths traversing at least two of the first computer nodes. Data can be stored in the shared network system by circulating in one of the looping paths. Each looping path is associated with a logical address which is unique within the shared network system and is independent from the physical address of any of the computer nodes in the shared network system. The shared network system further includes at least one second computer node which is able to inject data into one of the looping paths and is also able to retrieve data from one of the looping paths. When data is to be injected into one of the looping paths by the second computer node, the logical address of the looping path the data is to be injected into is determined, and is associated with the data to be injected into the looping path. When data is to be retrieved from one of the looping paths by the second computer node, the logical address of the looping path the data is to be retrieved from is determined.

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Figure 1