

(19) World Intellectual Property Organization
International Bureau



(43) International Publication Date
23 February 2006 (23.02.2006)

PCT

(10) International Publication Number
WO 2006/020738 A2

(51) International Patent Classification:

H04L 12/28 (2006.01) *H04L 12/56* (2006.01)

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(21) International Application Number:

PCT/US2005/028481

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(22) International Filing Date: 11 August 2005 (11.08.2005)

(25) Filing Language:

English

(26) Publication Language:

English

(30) Priority Data:

10/918,262 13 August 2004 (13.08.2004) US

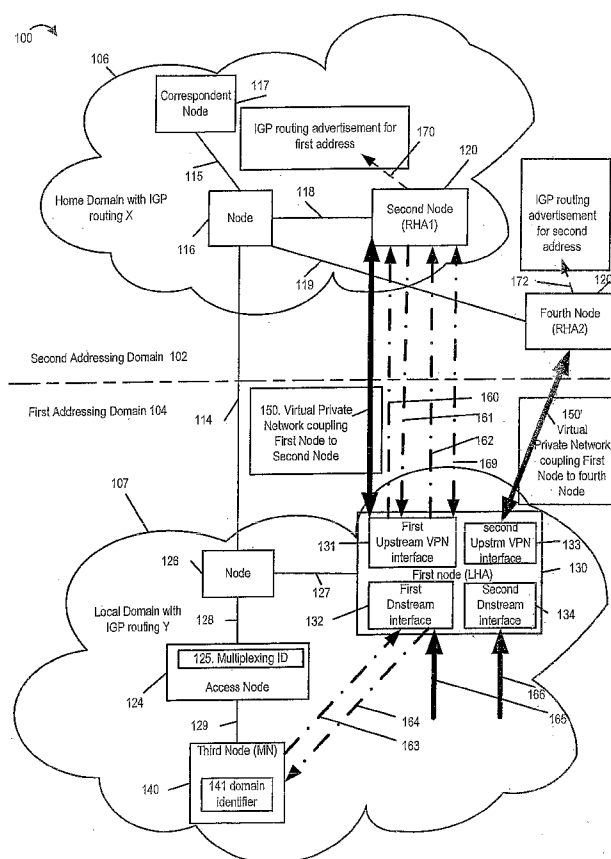
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(81) Designated States (unless otherwise indicated, for every kind of national protection available): AE, AG, AL, AM, AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BR, BW, BY, BZ, CA, CH, CN, CO, CR, CU, CZ, DE, DK, DM, DZ, EC, EE, EG, ES, FI, GB, GD, GE, GH, GM, HR, HU, ID, IL, IN, IS, JP, KE, KG, KM, KP, KR, KZ, LC, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LV, MA, MD, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, MZ, NA, NG, NI, NO, NZ, OM, PG, PH, PL, PT, RO, RU, SC, SD, SE, SG, SK, SL, SM, SY, TJ, TM, TN, TR, TT, TZ, UA, UG, US, UZ, VC, VN, YU, ZA, ZM, ZW.

(84) Designated States (unless otherwise indicated, for every kind of regional protection available): ARIPO (BW, GH, GM, KE, LS, MW, MZ, NA, SD, SL, SZ, TZ, UG, ZM, ZW), Eurasian (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM),

[Continued on next page]

(54) Title: METHODS AND APPARATUS FOR EFFICIENT VPN SERVER INTERFACE, ADDRESS ALLOCATION, AND SIGNALING WITH A LOCAL ADDRESSING DOMAIN



(57) Abstract: The present invention relates to communications systems and, more particularly, to methods and apparatus for efficient address delegation and/or assignment and/or signaling in a virtual communications network, e.g., a network supporting virtual private networks (VPNs) and one or more addressing domains. The methods are well suited for systems such as mobile communications systems, where the number of mobile nodes in each of a plurality of visited domains can change on a relatively rapid time scale, so rendering static address delegation from the home to each visited domain highly inefficient. Address delegation may be undertaken in advance of address assignment requests from a visiting mobile node, or address delegation may be triggered by the address assignment request. Information update messages keep the home domain aware of the assignment status of its delegated addresses and can specifically trigger further delegations so that a number of unassigned delegated addresses is maintained.



European (AT, BE, BG, CH, CY, CZ, DE, DK, EE, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, HU, IE, IS, IT, LT, LU, LV, MC, NL, PL, PT, RO, SE, SI, SK, TR), OAPI (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, GQ, GW, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG).

Declarations under Rule 4.17:

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Published:

- *without international search report and to be republished upon receipt of that report*

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