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(21) International Application Number: PCT/GB99/01765 (22) International Filing Date: 4 June 1999 (04.06.99) (30) Priority Data: <table border="0"> <tr> <td>9812161.9</td> <td>5 June 1998 (05.06.98)</td> <td>GB</td> </tr> <tr> <td>98309609.0</td> <td>24 November 1998 (24.11.98)</td> <td>EP</td> </tr> <tr> <td>9825723.1</td> <td>24 November 1998 (24.11.98)</td> <td>GB</td> </tr> <tr> <td>9902052.1</td> <td>29 January 1999 (29.01.99)</td> <td>GB</td> </tr> <tr> <td>9902648.6</td> <td>5 February 1999 (05.02.99)</td> <td>GB</td> </tr> </table> (71) Applicant (for all designated States except US): BRITISH TELECOMMUNICATIONS PUBLIC LIMITED COMPANY [GB/GB]; 81 Newgate Street, London EC1N 7AJ (GB). (72) Inventors; and (75) Inventors/Applicants (for US only): BRISCOE, Robert, John [GB/GB]; Home Farm, Parham, Woodbridge, Suffolk IP13 9NW (GB). RIZZO, Michael [MT/GB]; 12 Dewar Lane, Kesgrave, Ipswich, Suffolk IP5 2GJ (GB). (74) Agent: EVERSLED, Michael; BT Group Legal Services, Intellectual Property Dept., Holborn Centre, 8th floor, 120 Holborn, London EC1N 2TE (GB).		9812161.9	5 June 1998 (05.06.98)	GB	98309609.0	24 November 1998 (24.11.98)	EP	9825723.1	24 November 1998 (24.11.98)	GB	9902052.1	29 January 1999 (29.01.99)	GB	9902648.6	5 February 1999 (05.02.99)	GB	(81) Designated States: AE, AL, AM, AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BR, BY, CA, CH, CN, CU, CZ, DE, DK, EE, ES, FI, GB, GD, GE, GH, GM, HR, HU, ID, IL, IN, IS, JP, KE, KG, KP, KR, KZ, LC, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LV, MD, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, NO, NZ, PL, PT, RO, RU, SD, SE, SG, SI, SK, SL, TJ, TM, TR, TT, UA, UG, US, UZ, VN, YU, ZA, ZW, ARIPO patent (GH, GM, KE, LS, MW, SD, SL, SZ, UG, ZW), Eurasian patent (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM), European patent (AT, BE, CH, CY, DE, DK, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, PT, SE), OAPI patent (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, GW, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG). Published <i>Without international search report and to be republished upon receipt of that report.</i>
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(54) Title: COMMUNICATIONS NETWORK (57) Abstract In a communications network, which may be a federated network such as the Internet, a tariff is distributed via the network to customer terminals. At each terminal a charge for use of the network is calculated by using the tariff. Different tariffs may be communicated for different services and a respective tariff may be varied depending upon the operational condition of the service. Different tariffs may be calculated for different customers and the tariffs may be varied in dependence upon the loading of network resources and different tariffs may have different volatilities. Part of the traffic from a user to the network may be sampled and the status of the user may be amended when a discrepancy is detected between the sampled parameters and the contracted parameters in the user's contract.																	

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