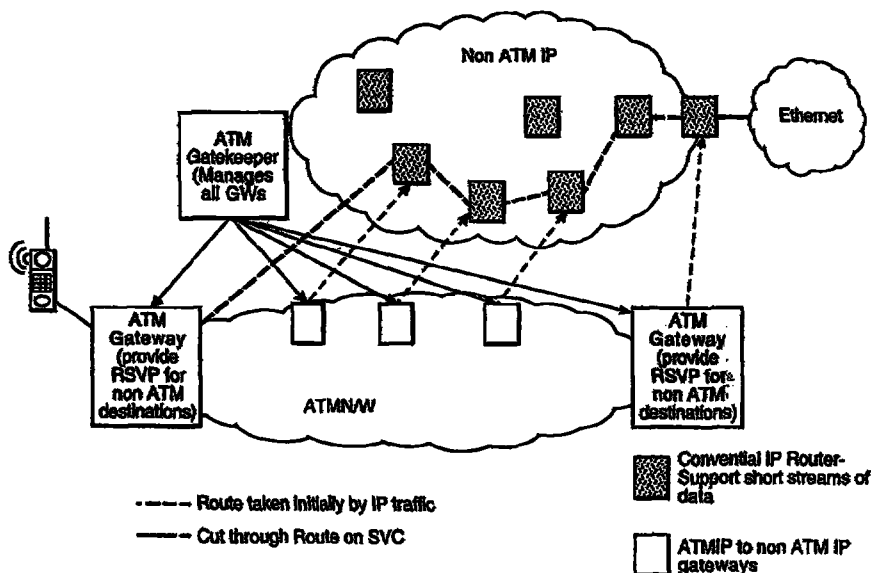




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(54) Title: COMMUNICATIONS NETWORK



(57) Abstract

A communication system includes a packet-switched network and a circuit-switched network. Gateways on the circuit-switched network adapt packet traffic for transmission on the circuit-switched network. The end-point of the switched virtual circuit is chosen by transmitting polling messages from the gateways to the destination address of the packet and selecting a gateway depending on the delay in the response to the respective polling message.