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(54) Title: INTELLIGENT NETWORK WITH DISTRIBUTED SERVICE CONTROL FUNCTION

(57) Abstract

An intelligent network in which the service switching points (SSPs) consult a lookup table for services which require the use of a service control point (SCP), and send respective request messages containing a service type field. If such a service is one which can be handled by an SCP whose LAN (for the intercommunication of its various data processors) has become partitioned because of, say, a LAN fault, the SSP writes a first value for service type into the field, and if the service is one which must not be handled by a partitioned SCP, the SSP writes a second value. The request messages are sent via service transfer points (STPs). The network includes transmission control means which has first and second states. Any SCP which detects that its LAN has become partitioned commands the transmission control means to enter the second state. In the first state the transmission control means is transparent to all messages regardless of the contents of the service type field, but in the second state it does not pass requests of the second service type. In one embodiment, each STP is integrally constructed with a respective transmission control means. In another embodiment, each SCP includes one or more respective transmission control means disposed at the junction of its signalling servers and the signalling link from the STP.

