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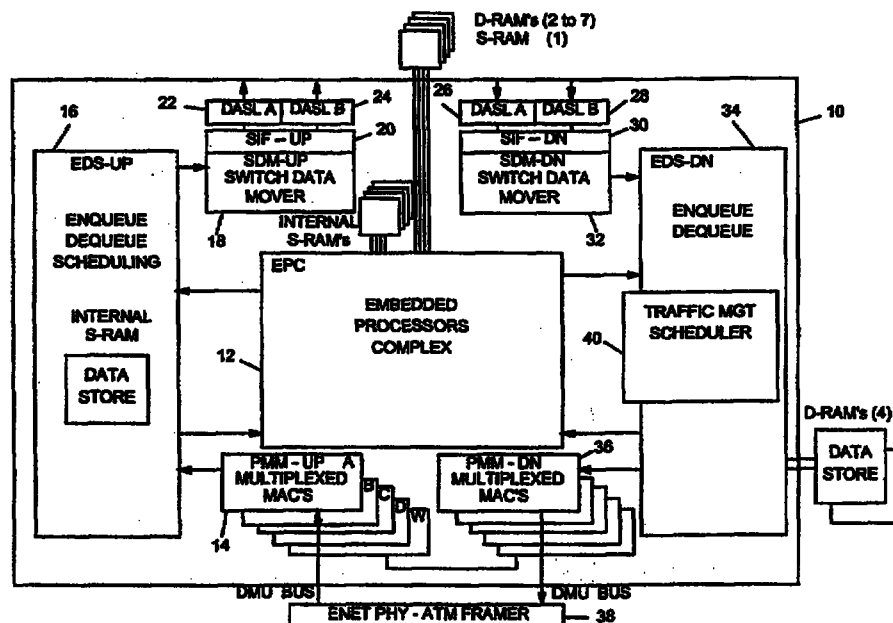
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(54) Title: NETWORK SWITCH USING NETWORK PROCESSOR AND METHODS



(57) Abstract: A network switching apparatus, components for such an apparatus, and methods of operating such an apparatus in which data flow handling and flexibility is enhanced by the cooperation among a plurality of interface processors (12) and a suite of peripheral elements formed on a semiconductor substrate (10). The interface processors (12) and peripherals together form a network processor capable of cooperating with other elements including an optional switch fabric device in executing instructions directing the flow of data in the network.

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