

ABSTRACT

COMMUNICATIONS SERVER APPARATUS AND METHOD FOR PROCESSING SERVICE REQUESTS

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A communications server apparatus for processing a service provision request for a service is described. The communications server apparatus comprises a processor, a memory and a formula database configured to contain a set of string-based arithmetic
10 expressions, each expression defining a price calculation to be applied to a service provision request. The apparatus is configured, under control of the processor, to execute instructions stored in the memory to receive data representative of a specified service provision request including data representative of one or more parameters associated therewith, wherein a price for said specified service provision is at least partially
15 dependent on the values of said parameters. In response to receipt of said data representative of said specified service provision request, the apparatus is configured to identify a price calculation to be performed for the service provision request, the price calculation associated with a given one of the set of a string-based arithmetic expressions, and to obtain an abstract syntax tree, AST, corresponding to the given string-based
20 arithmetic expression, the AST having been generated from the given string-based arithmetic expression by parsing the expression. A Symbol Table is populated with values for said parameters associated with said specified service provision request and a price is then calculated for said specified service provision request using said AST and the values in said Symbol Table.

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(Fig.1)