(12) INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION PUBLISHED UNDER THE PATENT COOPERATION TREATY (PCT)

(19) World Intellectual Property Organization
International Bureau

(43) International Publication Date
28 February 2002 (28.02.2002)

PCT

(10) International Publication Number
WO 02/017103 A3

(51) International Patent Classification[7]: G06F 15/17, H04L 12/56

(21) International Application Number: PCT/US01/25547

(22) International Filing Date: 14 August 2001 (14.08.2001)

(25) Filing Language: English

(26) Publication Language: English

(30) Priority Data:
09/641,708 21 August 2000 (21.08.2000) US

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(81) Designated States *(national)*: AE, AG, AL, AM, AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BR, BY, BZ, CA, CH, CN, CO, CR, CU, CZ, DE, DK, DM, DZ, EC, 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, MA, MD, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, MZ, NO, NZ, PL, PT, RO, RU, SD, SE, SG, SI, SK, SL, TJ, TM, TR, TT, TZ, UA, UG, UZ, VN, YU, ZA, ZW.

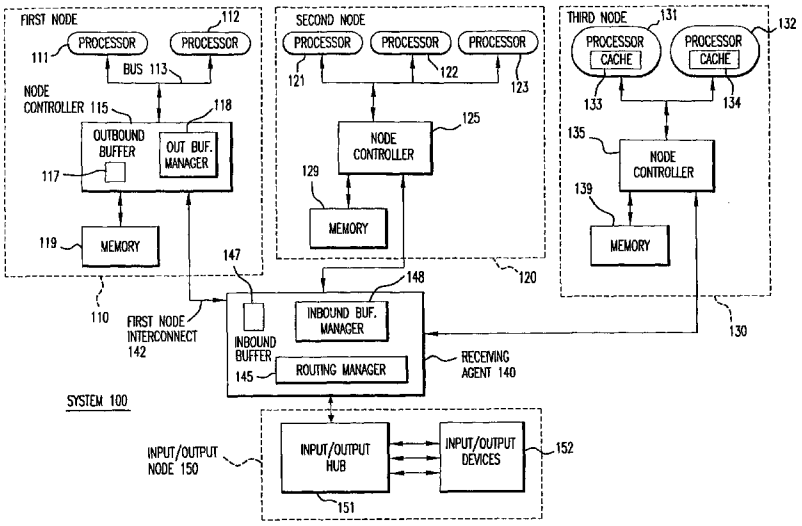
(84) Designated States *(regional)*: ARIPO patent (GH, GM, KE, LS, MW, MZ, SD, SL, SZ, TZ, UG, ZW), Eurasian patent (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM), European patent (AT, BE, CH, CY, DE, DK, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, PT, SE, TR), OAPI patent (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, GQ, GW, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG).

Published:
— *with international search report*

(88) Date of publication of the international search report:
21 August 2003

For two-letter codes and other abbreviations, refer to the "Guidance Notes on Codes and Abbreviations" appearing at the beginning of each regular issue of the PCT Gazette.

(54) Title: METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR PREVENTING STARVATION IN A MULTI-NODE ARCHITECTURE



(57) Abstract: A method of sending messages from a node to a receiving agent. In one embodiment, if an outbound message that is stored in a buffer in the node is unsuccessfully sent to the receiving agent more than a threshold number of times, outbound messages currently stored in the buffer are sent to the receiving agent. It is determined that these outbound messages have been successfully sent before any other outbound messages are sent to the receiving agent. In a further embodiment, an outbound message is successfully sent if a success confirmation message is received for the outbound message from the receiving agent. In a still further embodiment, a retry response is received from the receiving agent for an outbound message if a buffer in the receiving agent that stores incoming outbound messages does not have room for the outbound message.

WO 02/017103 A3