

(19) World Intellectual Property
Organization
International Bureau



(43) International Publication Date
27 January 2005 (27.01.2005)

PCT

(10) International Publication Number
WO 2005/009019 A3

(51) International Patent Classification⁷: **H04M 7/00**,
3/38, 15/00, H04L 29/06, 9/00

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(21) International Application Number:
PCT/IB2004/002282

(22) International Filing Date: 14 July 2004 (14.07.2004)

(25) Filing Language: English

(26) Publication Language: English

(30) Priority Data:
60/487,242 16 July 2003 (16.07.2003) US

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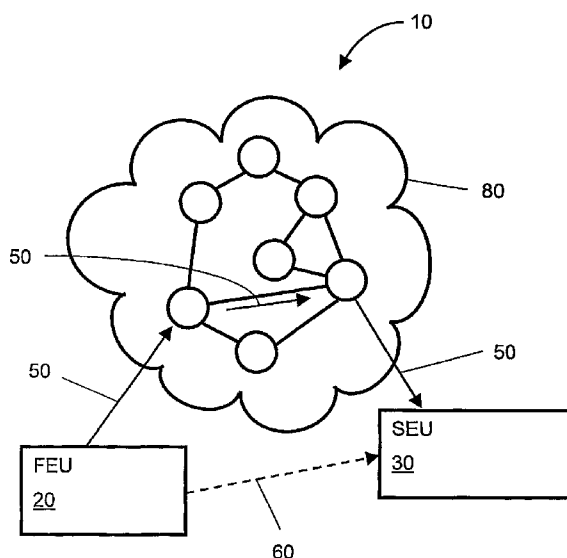
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(81) Designated States (unless otherwise indicated, for every
kind of national protection available): AE, AG, AL, AM,
AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BR, BW, BY, BZ, CA, CH, CN,
CO, CR, CU, CZ, DE, DK, DM, DZ, EC, EE, EG, ES, FI,
GB, GD, GE, GH, GM, HR, HU, ID, IL, IN, IS, JP, KE,
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MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, MZ, NA, NI, NO, NZ, OM, PG,
PH, PL, PT, RO, RU, SC, SD, SE, SG, SK, SL, SY, TJ, TM,
TN, TR, TT, TZ, UA, UG, US, UZ, VC, VN, YU, ZA, ZM,
ZW.

(84) Designated States (unless otherwise indicated, for every
kind of regional protection available): ARIPO (BW, GH,
GM, KE, LS, MW, MZ, NA, SD, SL, SZ, TZ, UG, ZM,
ZW), Eurasian (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM),
European (AT, BE, BG, CH, CY, CZ, DE, DK, EE, ES, FI,
FR, GB, GR, HU, IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, PL, PT, RO, SE, SI,
SK, TR), OAPI (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, GQ,
GW, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG).

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(54) Title: **PEER-TO-PEER TELEPHONE SYSTEM AND METHOD**



(57) Abstract: There is provided a peer-to-peer telephone system (10) comprising a plurality of end-users (20, 30) and a communication structure (80) through which one or more end-users (20, 30) are couplable for communication purposes. The system (10) is distinguished in that: (a) the communication structure (80) is substantially de-centralized with regard to communication route switching therein for connecting said one or more end-users (20, 30); (b) said one or more end-users (20, 30) are operable to establish their own communication routes through the structure (80) based on exchange of one or more authorisation certificates, namely User Identity Certificates (UIC), to acquire access to the structure (80); and (c) said structure (80) includes an administration arrangement (100) for issuing said one or more certificates to said one or more end-users (20, 30).

WO 2005/009019 A3



Published:

- with international search report
- before the expiration of the time limit for amending the claims and to be republished in the event of receipt of amendments

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.

(88) Date of publication of the international search report:

28 April 2005