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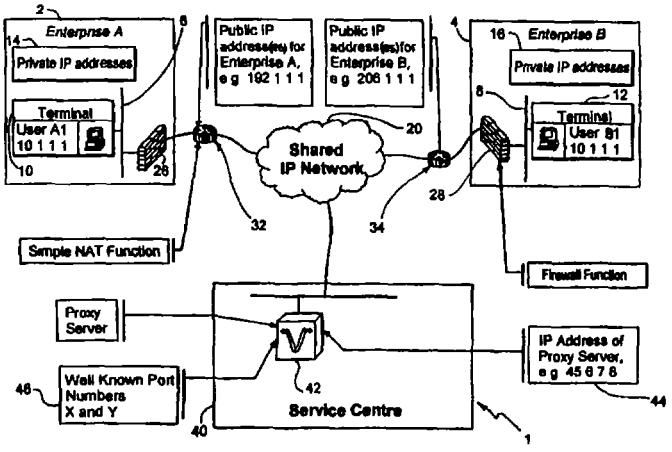
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(54) Title: AUDIO-VIDEO TELEPHONY WITH FIREWALLS AND NETWORK ADDRESS TRANSLATION



(57) Abstract: The present invention relates to a communications system (1) for making multimedia calls. The system comprises two multimedia terminals (10, 12) and communication means for making a multimedia call over a shared communications network (20), including a firewall (26) through which the multimedia call must pass, and which restricts certain types of communication. Each terminal (10, 12) has a number of logical communication ports for the multimedia call, including at least one dynamically assigned port. In the course of setting up the multimedia call, at least one of the terminals (10, 12) is adapted to send a request to the other of the terminals to open up one or more of the dynamic ports in the other terminal. The system includes a proxy server (40) between the terminals (10, 12) that acts for each terminal as a proxy for the other terminal during the course of the call. The proxy server (40) has logical communication ports for communication with the terminals including one or more pre-assigned ports. The firewall (26) is configured not to restrict communication between one or both terminals (10, 12) and the pre-assigned port(s) of the proxy server (40). The proxy server (40) is configured to receive and forward the request(s) to open up said dynamic port(s) via one of its pre-assigned ports.

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WO 02/11400 A1

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