Exhibit 6

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(12) **United States Patent**
Bourassa et al.

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(54) **CONTACTING A BROADCAST CHANNEL**

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(*) Notice: Subject to any disclaimer, the term of this patent is extended or adjusted under 35 U.S.C. 154(b) by 750 days.

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(52) **U.S. Cl.** **709/227**; 709/250
(58) **Field of Search** 709/249, 250, 709/227; 370/389, 392, 463; 710/62

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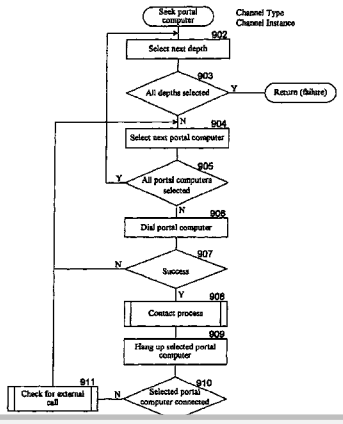
(57) **ABSTRACT**

A method of connecting to a network through a portal computer. A seeking computer dials the communications ports of a portal computer until it locates a call-in port. A port ordering algorithm is used to identify the call-in port. Communications ports selected by the port ordering algorithm may be re-ordered. The seeking computer uses the selected call-in port to request that the portal computer coordinate the connection of the seeking computer to the network.

16 Claims, 39 Drawing Sheets



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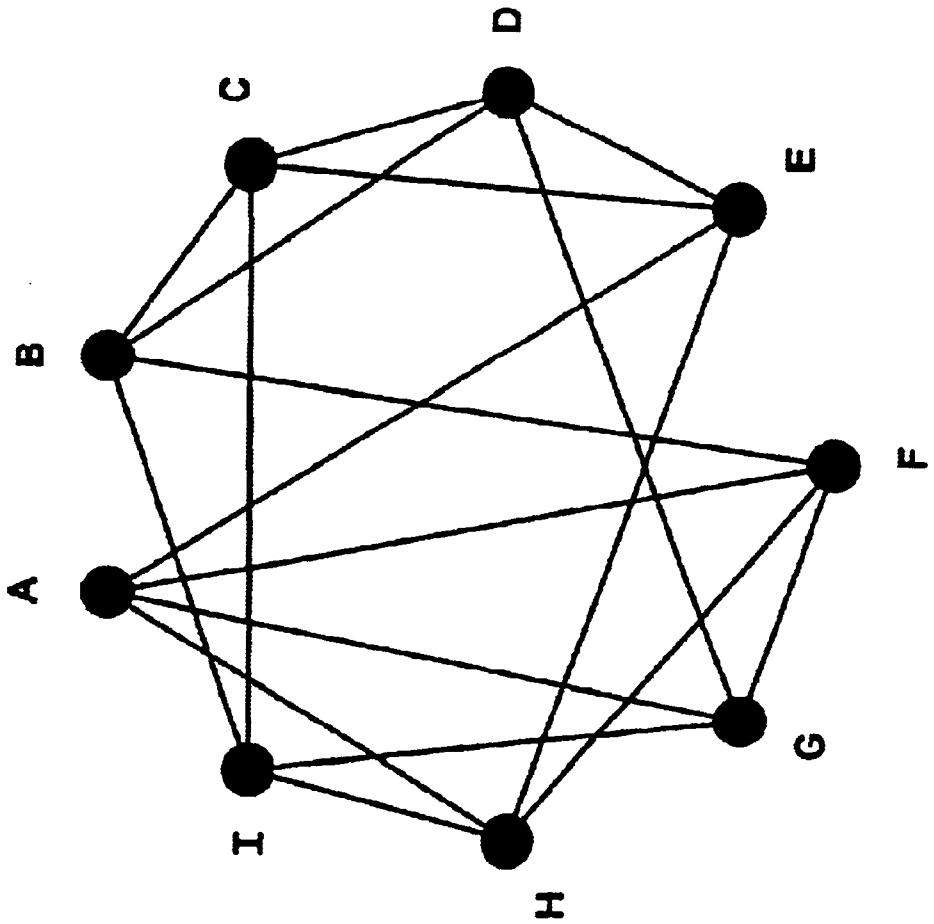

Fig. 1

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