

Patent 6,108,7

Point-to-Point Internet

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between on-line proces
computer netwo**

Representative Metho

4. A method for enabling point-to-point communication between a first process and a second process on a computer network, the method comprising the steps of:
- A. receiving and storing into a computer network a plurality of respective network protocol addresses for a plurality of processes that have an on-line status with respect to the computer network, each respective network protocol addresses received following the respective process to the computer network;
 - B. receiving a query from the first process for determining the on-line status of the second process;
 - C. determining the on-line status of the second process and
 - D. transmitting an indication of the on-line status of the second process to the first process over the computer network.

Representative Apparatus

1. A computer program product for use with a computer system, the computer system executing a first process, the first process operatively connectable to a second process, the second process being accessible over a computer network, the computer program product comprising:

a computer usable medium having program code embodied in the medium, the program code comprising:

- program code for transmitting to the server a network protocol address received by the first process following connection to the computer network;

- program code for transmitting, to the server, a request to determine whether the second process is connected to the computer network;

- program code for receiving a network protocol address of the second process from the server in response to the second process is connected to the computer network; and

- program code, responsive to the network protocol address of the second process, for establishing a point-to-point communication link between the first process and the second process.

'704 Patent Abstr

A point-to-point Internet protocol exchange protocol (IP) addresses between processing units over a point-to-point communication link between processing units through the Internet. A first point-to-point protocol includes the steps of (a) storing a respective IP address of a set of processing units and an on-line status with respect to the Internet; (b) receiving a query from a first processing unit to a connection server to determine the on-line status of a second processing unit; (c) retrieving the IP address of the second processing unit from a database using the connection server, in response to the determination of a positive on-line status of the second processing unit, for establishing a point-to-point

'704 Patent Summary of the Inv 1:63-2:9

A first point-to-point Internet protocol is disclosed that includes the steps of:

- (a) storing in a database a respective IP address for each processing unit that have an on-line status to the Internet;
- (b) transmitting a query from a first processing unit to a connection server to determine the on-line status of a second processing unit; and
- (c) retrieving the IP address of the second processing unit from the database using the connection server, in response to a determination of a positive on-line status of the second processing unit, for establishing a point-to-point connection between the first and second processing units.

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