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S. Bond
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AMENDMENT		Docket No. N0003/7000
Applicant:	Glenn W. Hutton, et al.	
Serial No.	08/533,115	
Filed:	September 25, 1995	
For:	METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR ESTABLISHING POINT-TO-POINT COMMUNICATIONS OVER A COMPUTER NETWORK	
Examiner:	M. Rinehart	
Art Unit:	2756	

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Frances M. Cunningham
 Frances M. Cunningham

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
 Washington, D.C. 20231

In response to the office communication dated October 28, 1998, please amend the above-identified application as follows:

In the Specification:

- Page 2, line 13, change "XXX.XXX.XXX.XXX" to --XXX.XXX.XXX--;
- line 14, change "XXX.XXX.XXX.XXX.10" to --XXX.XXX.XXX.10--;
- line 15, change "XXX.XXX.XXX.XXX.11" to --XXX.XXX.XXX.11--;
- line 15, change "XXX.XXX.XXX.XXX.12" to --XXX.XXX.XXX.12--;
- Page 11, line 10, change "2³²" to --32-bit--.

In the claims:

- Please amend the claims as follows:
- Please cancel claims 1-4 and 6-11, without prejudice.

21. (Amended) A computer program product for use with a computer system, the computer system executing a first process and operatively connectable to a

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second process [having first and second processors] and a server [operatively coupled] over a computer network, the computer program product comprising:

a computer usable medium having program code [means] embodied in the medium [for establishing a point-to-point communications link between the first processor and the second processor over the computer network], the [medium further] 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 [means] for transmitting, [from the first processor] to the server, a query as to whether the second [processor] process is connected to the computer network;

program code [means] for receiving a network protocol address of the second [processor] process from the server, when the second [processor] process is connected to the computer network; and

program code [means], responsive to the network protocol address of the second [processor] process, for establishing a point-to-point communication link between the first [processor] process and the second [processor] process over the computer network.

23. (Amended) [A computer server] An apparatus for enabling point-to-point communications between a first and a second [processor] process over a computer network, the [server] apparatus comprising:

a [server] processor;

a network interface [means], operatively coupled to the [server] processor, for connecting the [server] apparatus to the computer network;

a memory, operatively coupled to the processor, for storing a network protocol address for selected of a plurality of [processors connected] processes, each network protocol address stored in the memory following connection of a respective process to the computer network;

means, responsive to a query from the first [processor] process, for determining the on-line status of the second [processor] process and for

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transmitting [the] a network protocol address of the second [processor] process to the first [processor] process in response to a positive determination of the on-line status of the second [processor] process.

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~~24.~~ (Amended) The computer server apparatus of claim ²~~23~~ further comprising a timer [means], operatively coupled to the [server] processor, for time stamping the network protocol addresses stored in the memory.

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~~26.~~ (Amended) [In a connection server having a database and a computer network operatively coupled thereto, a] A method for enabling point-to-point communication between a first [processing unit] process and a second [processing unit] process over a computer network, the method comprising the steps of:

- A. receiving and storing into a computer memory [storing in the database,] a respective network protocol address for [each] selected of a plurality of [processing units] processes that have an on-line status with respect to the computer network, each of the network protocol addresses received following connection of the respective process to the computer network;
- B. receiving a query from the first [processing unit] process to determine the on-line status of the second [processing unit] process;
- C. determining the on-line status of the second [processing unit] process; and
- D. transmitting an indication of the on-line status of the second [processing unit] process to the first [processing unit] process over the computer network.

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~~27.~~ (Amended) The method of claim ⁴~~26~~ wherein step C further comprises the steps of:

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c.1 searching the [database] computer memory for an entry relating the second [processing unit] process; and

c.2 retrieving [the] a network protocol address of the second [processing unit] process in response to a positive determination of the on-line status of the second [processing unit] process.

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28. (Amended) The method of claim ~~26~~⁴ wherein step D further comprises the steps of:

d.1 transmitting the network protocol address of the second [processing unit] process to the first [processing unit] process when the second [processing unit] process is determined in step C to have a positive on-line status with respect to the computer network.

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29. (Amended) The method of claim ~~26~~⁴ wherein step D further comprises the steps of:

d.1 generating an off-line message when the second [processing unit] process is determined in step C to have a negative on-line status with respect to the computer network; and

d.2 transmitting the off-line message to the first [processing unit] process.

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30. (Amended) The method of claim ~~26~~⁴ further comprising the steps of:

E. receiving an E-mail signal comprising a first network protocol address from the first [processing unit] process; and

F. transmitting the E-mail signal over the computer network to the second [processing unit] process.

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31. (Amended) The method of claim ~~30~~⁸ wherein the E-mail signal further comprises a session number and wherein step F further comprises the step of:

f.1 transmitting the session number and network protocol address over the computer network to the second [processor] process.

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~~32.~~ (Amended) In a computer system, a [A] method for establishing a point-to-point communication link from a caller [processor] process to a callee [processor] process over a computer network, the caller [processor having] process having a user interface and being operatively [coupled] connectable to the callee [processor] process and a server over the computer network, the method comprising the steps of:

C³

- A. [generating an] providing a user interface element representing a first communication line;
- B. [generating an] providing a user interface element representing a first callee [processor] process; and
- C. establishing a point-to-point communication link from the caller [processor] process to the first callee [processor] process, in response to a user associating the element representing the first callee [processor] process with the element representing the first communication line.

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~~33.~~ (Amended) The method of claim ~~32~~ wherein step C further comprises the steps of:

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- c.1 querying the server as to the on-line status of the first callee [processor] process and
- c.2 receiving a network protocol address of the first callee [processor] process over the computer network from the server.

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~~34.~~ (Amended) The method of claim ~~32~~ further comprising the step of:

- D. [generating] providing an element representing a second communication line.

E

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~~35.~~ (Amended) The method of claim ~~34~~ further comprising the step^S of:

- E. terminating the point-to-point communication link from the caller [processor] process to the first callee [processor] process, in response to the

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