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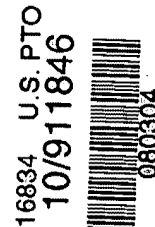
Transmitted herewith for filing is the patent application of Datta, et al. for TOOLS AND TECHNIQUES FOR DIRECTING PACKETS OVER DISPARATE NETWORKS comprising 44 pages of specification and claims.

- This continuation application claims priority to U.S. application no. 10/361,837 filed February 7, 2003.

Enclosed also are:

- 6 sheet(s) of drawings.
- Applicant claims small entity status under 37 CFR 1.9(b) & 1.27(c).
- Copy of executed Assignment filed in prior application, with cover sheet, from the inventors to Ragula Systems (FatPipe Networks).
- Copy of executed Declaration and Petition filed in prior application.
- Copy of executed Power of Attorney filed in prior application.
- A Preliminary Amendment is enclosed.
- Nonpublication Request Under 35 USC 122(b)(2)(B)(i).
- A Certificate of Mailing by "Express Mail" certifying a filing date of August 3, 2004, by use of Express Mail Label No. EV 389082077 US.
- Information Disclosure Statement under 37 C.F.R. § 1.97, PTO Form-1449 with listed references attached (if indicated as being attached by the Information Disclosure Statement).

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The filing fee has been calculated as shown below.

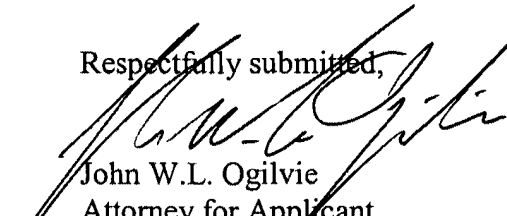
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			RATE	FEE	RATE	FEE
BASIC FEE			\$385.00	\$385.00	\$ 770.00	
TOT. CLAIMS	11-20=	0	x \$9.00 =		x \$18.00 =	
IND. CLAIMS	9-03=	6	x \$43.00 =	\$ 258.00	x \$86.00 =	
MULTIPLE DEPENDENT CLAIMS PRESENTED		0	\$145.00		\$290.00	
ASSIGNMENT RECORDATION FEE			\$40.00		\$40.00	
			TOTAL	\$ 643.00	TOTAL	

A check in the amount of \$ 643.00 is enclosed to cover the filing fee.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees associated with this communication or to credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 20-0100. Please address all future correspondence in connection with the above-identified patent application to the attention of the undersigned.

Dated this 3rd day of August, 2004.


Respectfully submitted,



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PATENT APPLICATION
DOCKET NO. 3003.2.11A

UNITED STATES
PATENT APPLICATION

OF

SANCHAITA DATTA AND RAGULA BHASKAR

FOR

TOOLS AND TECHNIQUES FOR
DIRECTING PACKETS OVER DISPARATE NETWORKS

TOOLS AND TECHNIQUES FOR DIRECTING PACKETS OVER DISPARATE NETWORKS

RELATED APPLICATIONS

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This application claims priority to commonly owned copending U.S. provisional patent application serial no. 60/355,509 filed February 8, 2002, which is also incorporated herein by reference. This application is a continuation-in-part of U.S. patent application serial no. 10/034,197 filed December 28, 2001, which claims priority to U.S. provisional
10 patent application serial no. 60/259,269 filed December 29, 2000, each of which is also incorporated herein by reference.

FIELD OF THE INVENTION

The present invention relates to computer network data transmission, and more
15 particularly relates to tools and techniques for communications using disparate parallel networks, such as a virtual private network ("VPN") or the Internet in parallel with a point-to-point, leased line, or frame relay network, in order to help provide benefits such as load balancing across network connections, greater reliability, and increased security.

TECHNICAL BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

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Organizations have used frame relay networks and point-to-point leased line networks for interconnecting geographically dispersed offices or locations. These networks have been implemented in the past and are currently in use for interoffice communication, data exchange and file sharing. Such networks have advantages, some of
25 which are noted below. But these networks also tend to be expensive, and there are

relatively few options for reliability and redundancy. As networked data communication becomes critical to the day-to-day operation and functioning of an organization, the need for lower cost alternatives for redundant back-up for wide area networks becomes important.

5 Frame relay networking technology offers relatively high throughput and reliability. Data is sent in variable length frames, which are a type of packet. Each frame has an address that the frame relay network uses to determine the frame's destination. The frames travel to their destination through a series of switches in the frame relay network, which is sometimes called a network "cloud"; frame relay is an example of
10 packet-switched networking technology. The transmission lines in the frame relay cloud must be essentially error-free for frame relay to perform well, although error handling by other mechanisms at the data source and destination can compensate to some extent for lower line reliability. Frame relay and/or point-to-point network services are provided or have been provided by various carriers, such as AT&T, Qwest, XO, and MCI WorldCom.

15 Frame relay networks are an example of a network that is "disparate" from the Internet and from Internet-based virtual private networks for purposes of the present invention. Another example of such a "disparate" network is a point-to-point network, such as a T1 or T3 connection. Although the underlying technologies differ somewhat, for purposes of the present invention frame relay networks and point-to-point networks
20 are generally equivalent in important ways, such as the conventional reliance on manual switchovers when traffic must be redirected after a connection fails, and their implementation distinct from the Internet. A frame relay permanent virtual circuit is a virtual point-to-point connection. Frame relays are used as examples throughout this

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