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(54) **JOINING A BROADCAST CHANNEL**

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(58) Field of Search 709/221, 220, 709/252, 243, 227, 223, 204, 238; 370/225, 260, 400; 455/428

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(57) **ABSTRACT**

A technique for adding a participant to a network is provided. This technique allows for the simultaneous sharing of information among many participants in a network without the placement of a high overhead on the underlying communication network. To connect to the broadcast channel, a seeking computer first locates a computer that is fully connected to the broadcast channel. The seeking computer then establishes a connection with a number of the computers that are already connected to the broadcast channel. The technique for adding a participant to a network includes identifying a pair of participants that are connected to the network, disconnecting the participants of the identified pair from each other, and connecting each participant of the identified pair of participants to the added participant.

17 Claims, 39 Drawing Sheets
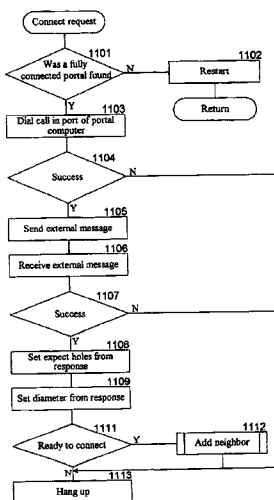
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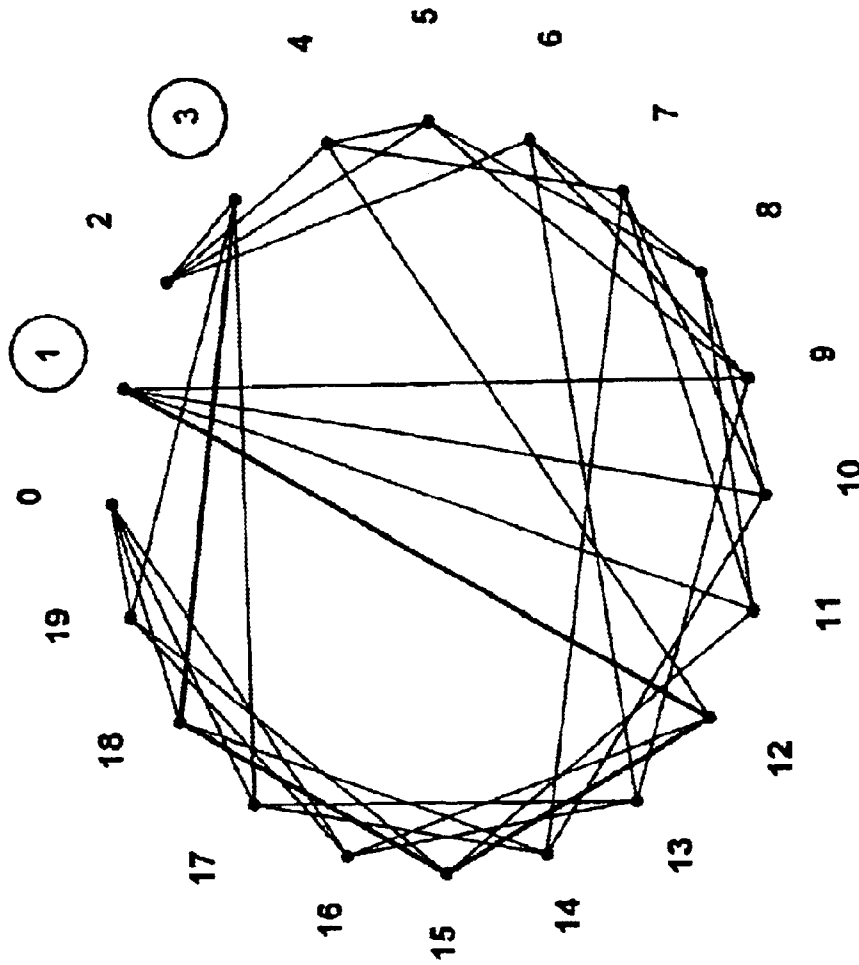
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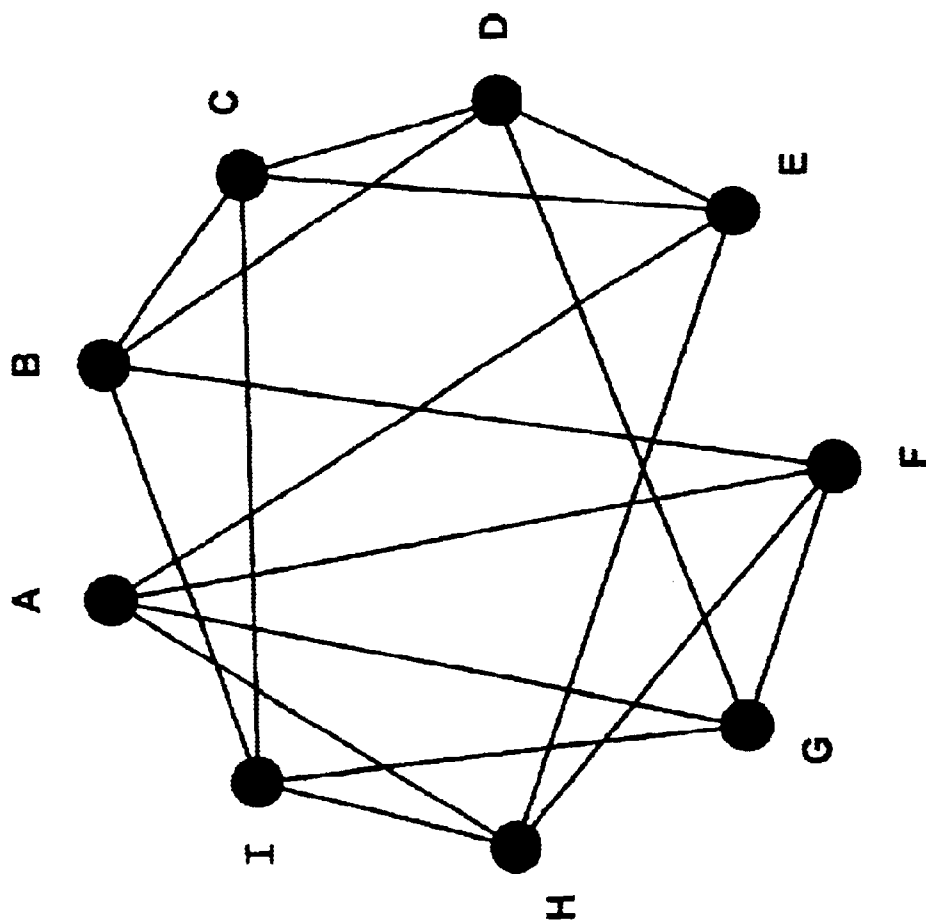
Fig. 1

Fig. 2

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