



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

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(54) **METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR TRANSMITTING PACKETS ONTO A NETWORK**

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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 802 days.

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(51) **Int. Cl.**<sup>7</sup> ..... **H04L 1/00**

(52) **U.S. Cl.** ..... **370/230; 370/236.1**

(58) **Field of Search** ..... **370/230, 236, 370/236.1, 329, 390, 250, 412; 710/63**

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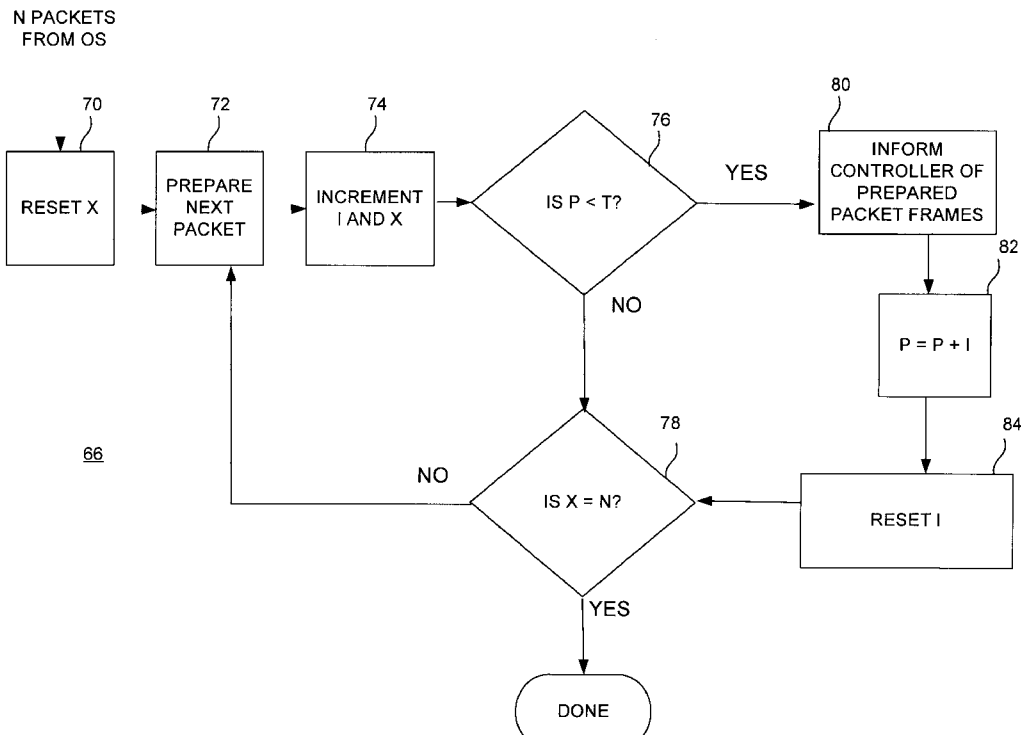
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(57) **ABSTRACT**

A network driver for transmitting packets. For a particular embodiment the driver receives an indication that a packet is available for transmission and monitors a packet pending transmission status of a network controller. The driver then indicates to the network controller that the packet is available for transmission only when the pending transmission status in one particular embodiment reaches a threshold value. Thus the driver determines how many packets to provide a network controller based on the amount of packets still waiting to be transmitted by the controller.

**36 Claims, 6 Drawing Sheets**



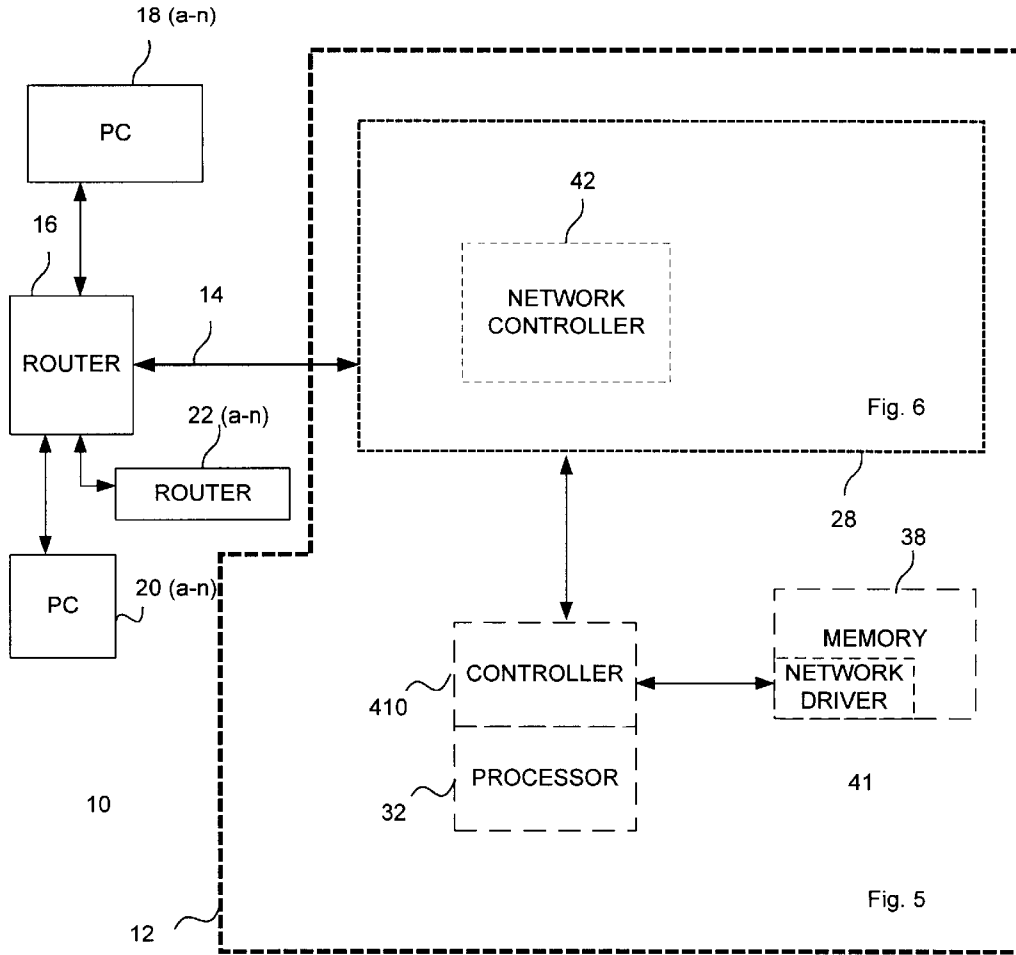


Fig. 1

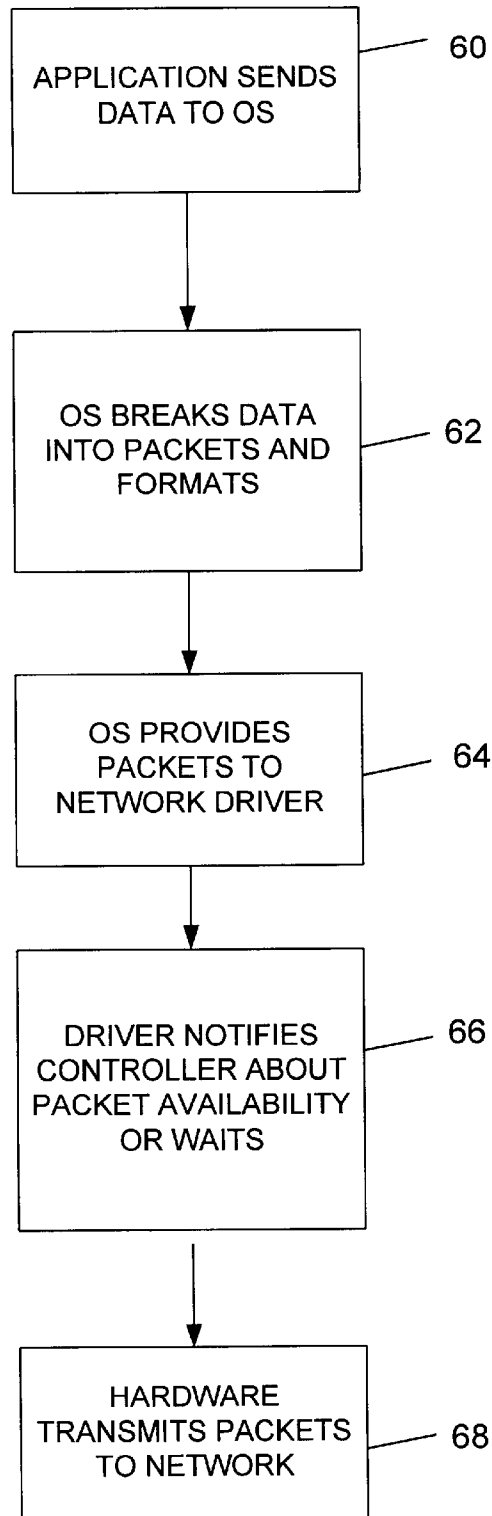


Fig. 2

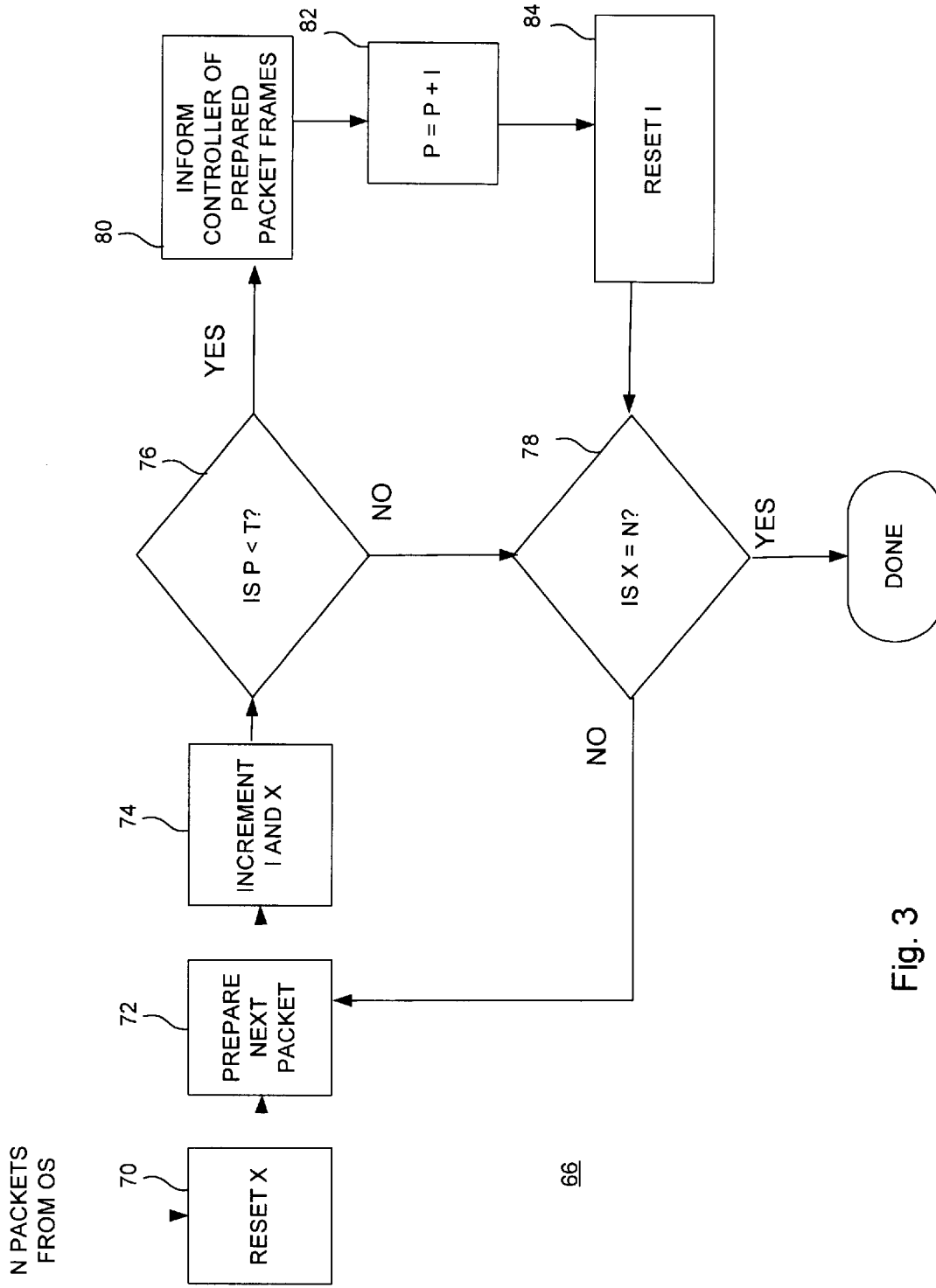


Fig. 3

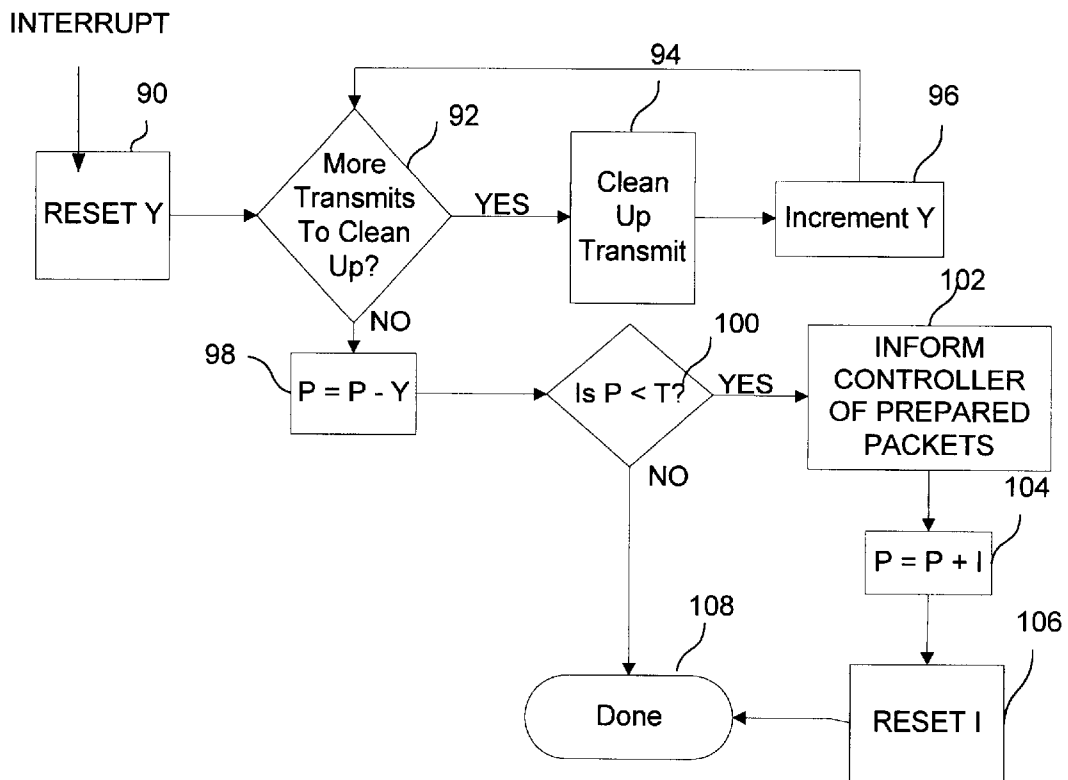


Fig. 4

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