

EXHIBIT A

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(54) Method for Establishing Communication Between Two Elements Connected to an Internet-Type Computer Network

(57) The method is used to establish communication through an Internet-type computer network (3) between two Internet information transmission elements, calling (1) and called (2), with direct call addresses for accessing signaling channels between elements (1, 2) and able to access the computer network (3) by

respective computer addresses, one of the two information transmission elements (1, 2) having called the other (2, 1) by a signaling channel by sending it the computer address thereof, it is in turn called by said other element (2, 1), but via the computer network (3) at the transmitted computer address.

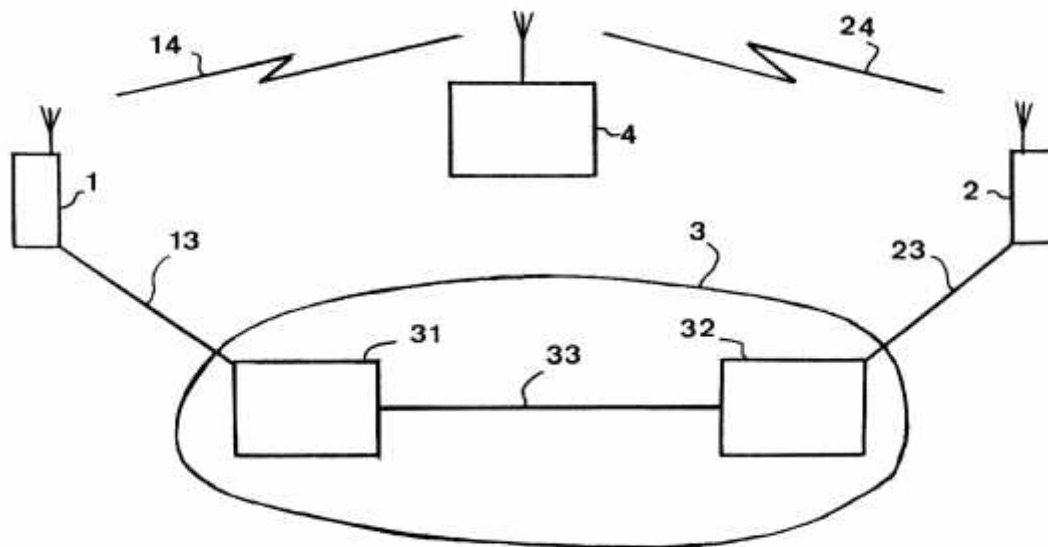


FIGURE 1

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METHOD FOR ESTABLISHING COMMUNICATION BETWEEN TWO ELEMENTS CONNECTED TO AN INTERNET TYPE COMPUTER NETWORK

Description

[0001] The present invention relates to communications over Internet type information networks for data transmission and more specifically communications in telephonic mode for voice and data transmission.

[0002] Through the Internet, PC type terminals can access data servers continuously connected to the Internet and to which a permanent IP address was assigned.

[0003] PCs, since they are never called, do not need a permanent IP address. To call a server, the PC user first calls their Internet access service provider by the switched telephone network and their provider supplies a temporary IP address valid solely for communication which is going to be established with the server. The server can thus in return send the requested data.

[0004] Such an operation avoids wasting addresses. However, it is not suited for communication to simple terminal elements such as PCs, telephone stations, fax machines or others without permanent IP address. The calling party in fact cannot warn the called party of their call so that the called party can connect on the Internet.

[0005] The present invention aims to establish communication, through an Internet type computer network for data transmission, from a calling information transmission element with an homologous called element without permanent address on this network.

[0006] For that purpose, the invention relates to a method for establishing communication through an Internet type computer network with two Internet information transmission elements, calling and called, with call addresses for accessing signaling channels between the elements and able to access the computer network by respective computer addresses, the method characterized by the fact that:

One of the two information transmission elements, calling and called, having called the other by a signaling channel by sending it the computer address thereof, it is in turn called by said other elements, but via the computer network at the transmitted computer addresses.

[0007] In that way, the computer network and the signaling channels are functionally integrated for forming a telephone type network, meaning all elements thereof can be reached directly. Establishing communication by computer network just requires the prior use of signaling channels without involving establishment of communication strictly speaking, while a possible tax will only represent a limited cost.

[0008] It is thus possible to manage without any appointment server and any prior agreement as to a meeting time, because the communications are established in real time.

[0009] In the case where the two elements belong to a single information transmission network, the call to one by the other and also the communication through the computer network can be done through the single network.

[0010] Thus, the complexity of the elements and the subscription costs are limited.

[0011] If the elements belong to at least two information transmission networks, the call to one by the other is done through one of the transmission networks and the communication through computer network can be done through the same transmission network or else through another of the transmission networks.

[0012] In this latter case, signaling channels available in one of the networks, like the GSM network, can be used and communication established through the other network, if it offers a lower communication cost or higher throughput or transmission quality, for example the switched telephone network or the ISDN network.

[0013] The invention will be better understood with the help of the following description of a preferred embodiment of the method of the invention with reference to the attached drawings in which:

- Figure 1 schematically shows two telephone stations from the GSM cellular radiotelephone network connected to the Internet; and
- Figure 2, formed by Figures 2A and 2B, is a flow diagram showing the steps of the method.

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