

Chart comparing Riddle's Claims 1, 8, and 11 to '864 Provisional

Riddle Claim Elements	U.S. Provisional Application No.
<p>1. A method for automatically classifying traffic in a packet communications network, said network having any number of flows, including zero, comprising the steps of:</p>	<p>'864 Provisional, 5:29-6:3: "According to the packet communication environment, a method for automatically classifying packet flows for use of bandwidth resources by a rule of assignment. The method comprising applying individual classification paradigms to packet network flow selectable information obtained from a plurality of multi-layered communication protocol in order to identify a characteristic class, then mapping the flow to the class. It is useful to note that the automatic classification is sufficiently robust to classify a complete enumeration of all possible traffic."</p> <p>'864 Provisional, 7:7-14: "The present invention teaches techniques to automatically classify a plurality of packets in a packet telecommunications system to conserve network bandwidth in systems such as a packet wide area network or an internetwork. Systems of the present invention enable network managers to define traffic classes, for which policies may be defined specifying service levels for the traffic classes and bandwidth resources associated with certain classes. Inbound as well as outbound traffic may be routed."</p>
<p>[1.1] parsing a packet into a first flow specification, wherein said first flow specification contains at least one instance of any one of the following: a protocol family designation, a direction of packet flow designation, a protocol type designation, a pair of hosts,</p>	<p>'864 Provisional, 7:7-14: "The present invention teaches techniques to automatically classify a plurality of packets in a packet telecommunications system to conserve network bandwidth in systems such as a packet wide area network or an internetwork. Systems of the present invention enable network managers to define traffic classes, for which policies may be defined specifying service levels for the traffic classes and bandwidth resources associated with certain classes. Inbound as well as outbound traffic may be routed."</p>

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<p>a pair of ports, in HTTP protocol packets, a pointer to a MIME type</p>	<p>specifying service levels for the traffic classes and bandwidth resources associated with certain traffic. Inbound as well as outbound traffic may be managed.</p> <p>'864 Provisional, 10:24-11:2: "The hardware is in general standard and will be described only in accordance with known practice, server 20 includes processors 30 which communicate with a number of peripheral devices via a bus subsystem 32. These peripherals typically include a storage subsystem 35, control subsystem 35a and a file storage subsystem 35b. Computer programs (e.g., code or instruction sets) are stored in user interface input and output devices 37, and are connected to outside networks, which may employ Ethernet, ATM, IEEE 802.3, ITU X.25, Serial Link Interface (SLIP) or the public switched telephone network. The network is shown schematically as a "Network Interface" coupled to corresponding interface devices in a client via a network connection 45."</p> <p>'864 Provisional, 11:21-26: "Fig. 1B is a functional block diagram of a computer system such as that of Fig 1A. Fig. 1A shows a server 20, and a representative client 25 of a plurality of clients may interact with the server 20 via the Internet using any communications method. Blocks to the right of the server 20 are indicative of the processing steps and functions of the server's program and data storage indicated by blocks 35 and 35b in Fig. 1A."</p> <p>'864 Provisional, 12:14-30; See Fig. 1A, 1B, which are illustrative of the internetworking of a plurality of clients 25 of Figs. 1A and 1B and a plurality of servers 20.</p>

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	<p>server 20 of Figs 1A and 1B as described here. Network 70 is an example of a Token Ring network. Network 70 links host 71, such as a workstation, which may be running the AIX operating system, host 72, which is a personal computer, which may be running Windows 95, IBM OS/2 or a DOS operating system, and host 73, which may be an IBM AS/400 computer, which may be running the OS/400 operating system. Network 70 is connected to network 60 via a system gateway which is described in Fig. 75, but which may also be a gateway having a system gateway network bridge. Network 60 is an example of a Token Ring network that interconnects host 61, which is a workstation, which may be running SUNOS operating system, with host 62, which may be a Digital Equipment Corporation computer which may be running the VMS operating system. Router 75 is a network access point (NAP) of network 60. Router 75 employs a Token Ring network interface and an Ethernet adapter. This enables router 75 to interconnect heterogeneous networks. Router 75 is also capable of supporting network Protocols, such as ICMP ARP and RARP. Router 75 is described herein below.”</p> <p>’864 Provisional, 16:8-17: “The present invention provides a method for classifying traffic according to a classification attributes selectable by the manager. The method of selecting a subset of traffic of interest to be classified. The invention provides the ability to classify and filter traffic based upon multiple orthogonal classification attributes. The traffic membership may be hierarchical. Thus, a flow of traffic may be classified by a series of steps through a traffic class tree (i.e., at the leaves on the classification tree) resulting in a classification policy. The policy is a rule of assignment for</p>

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	<p>the first step in classification may be the clas traffic, the next may further classify this flow server X, and the final classification may be “*.avi”.”</p> <p>’864 Provisional, 18:24-19:2: “Network traff classified under existing classes, beginning v classes, an inbound traffic class and an outbo protocol layer independent categories. For ex instance of traffic may be classified accordi layer characteristics, e.g., Internet Protocol p as its application layer information, e.g., SM such as MIME types may also be automatica Standard protocols, such as, IPX, SNA, and SMTP and FTP are recognized for automatica Classification is performed to the most speci determinable. For example, in select embodi such as SNA, may be classified only by prote Internet Protocol traffic may be classified to level. Classification beyond a terminal classi detected and prevented. For example, in a se class matching “ipx” or “nntp” will not be fu classified.”</p> <p>’864 Provisional, 19:5-14: “A service aggreg certain applications that use more than one c particular conversation between a client and example, an FTP client in conversation with employs a command channel and a transfer c distinct TCP sessions on two different ports. or three TCP or UDP sessions exist for each between one client and one server, it is usefu</p>

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	<p>common traffic class i.e., the service aggregates separate conversations. In practice, these types are between the same two hosts, but use different. According to the invention, a class is created for traffic specifications, each matching various conversations.”</p> <p>’864 Provisional, 21:16-22:22: “Fig. 4A depicts a flow of processing steps for automatically classifying traffic. In step 402, a flow specification is parsed from the flow. Then in a step 404, the flow specification is compared with the traffic specifications of the classification tree. Rules are checked from most specific to least specific. In a decisional step 406, a determination is made if traffic matches the class being classified. If the traffic is more specific, i.e., reaches the match_all node, then in a step 408, an entry is made in the classification tree identifying characteristics, such as protocol type, port number, protocol number, server port, traffic type if known, and time of occurrence of the traffic. In an optional step 410, instances having the same identifying characteristics are suppressed, in favor of keeping a count of the number of most recent time traffic with these identifying characteristics encountered. In an optional step 412, a byte count for the type has been detected is included. If, in a decisional step 414, it is determined that traffic specification did not match any specification for the class being classified, the processing backtracks up the classification tree to the next parent node and in a decisional step 416, a determination is made if there are any more parent nodes, or if processing has reached the root of the tree. If there is a valid parent node, the processing continues with step 404 comparing the flow specification with the traffic specifications of the parent node.”</p>

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