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(54) **Method and apparatus for improved throughput in a multi-node communication system with a shared resource**

(57) A non-quota access indicator is circulated among nodes in a multi-node quota based communication system with a shared resource, indicating maximum possible non-quota access to the shared resource to a given node receiving same. Upon arrival at a node, the indicator is saved and then updated to reflect the current status of that node as either starved or satisfied, the former being a condition of currently having quota remaining and a shared resource access requirement,

and the latter being a condition of either currently having no remaining quota or having no current shared resource access requirement. After updating, the node immediately propagates the indicator to the next node in the system. When a node without quota requires access to the shared resource, it compares its requirement to the last stored indicator and accesses the shared resource if the stored indicator is equal to or greater than the access requirement.

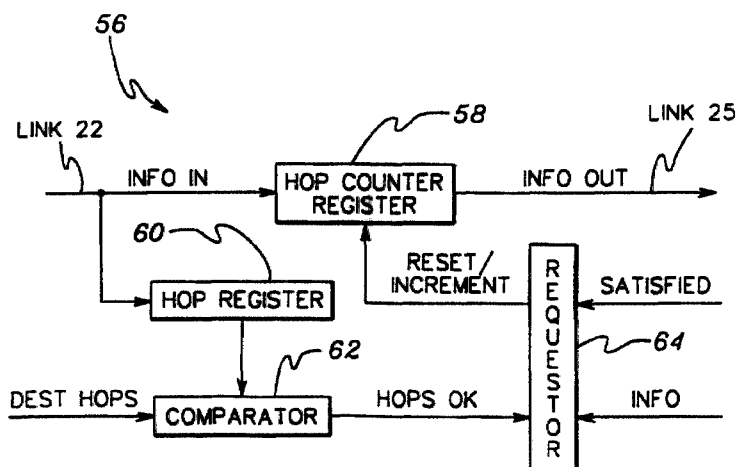


fig. 4

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EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application Number
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DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT			
Category	Citation of document with indication, where appropriate, of relevant passages	Relevant to claim	CLASSIFICATION OF THE APPLICATION (Int.Cl.6)
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			H04L
The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			
Place of search THE HAGUE		Date of completion of the search 1 November 2002	Examiner Mikkelsen, C
CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS X : particularly relevant if taken alone Y : particularly relevant if combined with another document of the same category A : technological background O : non-written disclosure P : intermediate document T : theory or principle underlying the invention E : earlier patent document, but published on, or after the filing date D : document cited in the application L : document cited for other reasons & : member of the same patent family, corresponding document			

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**ANNEX TO THE EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT
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