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- (71) Applicant: SUN MICROSYSTEMS, INC. [US/US]; 901 San Antonio Road, Palo Alto, CA 94303 (US).
- (72) Inventors: GENTRY, Denton; 34892 Sea Cliff Terrace, Fremont, CA 94555 (US). CHENG, Linda; 1318 Burkette Drive, San Jose, CA 95129 (US).
- (74) Agents: VAUGHAN, Daniel, E. et al.; Park & Vaughan LLP, Suite 310, 702 Marshall Street, Redwood City, CA 94063 (US).
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(54) Title: METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR INTERRUPT HANDLING

(57) Abstract: Interrupts are issued from a communication device, such as a network interface, to a host processor in response to the transfer of packets to the host. An interrupt is generated in response to the transfer of a packet only if a predetermined period of time has elapsed or a predetermined number of packets have been transferred since a previous interrupt was processed. A time counter may be used to track the passage of time; a packet counter may be used to track the number of packets transferred. After the processing of one interrupt by the host processor the time and packet counters are reset to threshold values and thereafter begin decrementing toward a final time count and final packet count. The threshold and/or final time and packet counts may be adjusted to ensure that interrupts are generated often enough to avoid a negative impact on the processing of network traffic.

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

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A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER
 IPC 7 H04L29/06

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)

IPC 7 H04L

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used)

EPO-Internal

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category °	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
A	EP 0 496 177 A (IBM) 29 July 1992 (1992-07-29) abstract	1, 14, 18
A	US 5 319 752 A (PETERSEN BRIAN ET AL) 7 June 1994 (1994-06-07) abstract	1, 14, 18

Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C.

Patent family members are listed in annex.

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Name and mailing address of the ISA

European Patent Office, P.B. 5818 Patentlaan 2
 NL - 2280 HV Rijswijk
 Tel. (+31-70) 340-2040, Tx. 31 651 epo nl,
 Fax: (+31-70) 340-3016

Authorized officer

Canosa Aresté, C

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Information on patent family members

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