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# United States Patent [19]

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[54] NETWORK HUB WITH INTEGRATED BRIDGE

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[58] Field of Search ..... **370/85.12, 85.13, 85.14; 395/200**

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### [57] ABSTRACT

A hub circuit with an integrated bridge circuit carried out in software including a switch for bypassing the bridge process such that the two bridged networks effectively become one network. An in-band management process in software is disclosed which receives and executes network management commands received as data packets from the LANs coupled to the integrated hub/bridge. Also disclosed is hardware and software to implement an isolate mode where data packets which would ordinarily be transferred by the bridge process are not transferred except in-band management packets are transferred to the in-band management process regardless of which network from which they arrived. An out-of-band to in-band management process receives network management commands and executes them or forwards them in-band to whatever device to which they are addressed.

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37 Claims, 6 Drawing Sheets

