

- e) setting-up a call.
2. A method as recited in claim 1, wherein step (a) comprises the steps of:
- a1) a subscriber unit transmitting the connection request to a currently serving satellite; and
 - a2) the currently serving satellite receiving the connection request.
3. A method as recited in claim 1, wherein step (b) comprises the steps of:
- b1) the currently serving satellite determining whether the home gateway is capable of servicing the connection request;
 - b2) the currently serving satellite selecting an alternate home gateway if the home gateway is incapable of servicing the connection request; and
 - b3) the currently serving satellite routing the connection request to the home gateway.
4. A method as recited in claim 1, wherein the subscriber unit sent the connection request for the call, and wherein step (c) comprises the step of selecting the visited gateway from a list of gateways based on at least one of the following: where the subscriber unit is located, whether the visited gateway is capable of servicing the connection request, and whether the call is to be intercepted.
5. A method as recited in claim 1, wherein the subscriber unit sent the connection request for the call, and wherein step (c) comprises the step of selecting the visited gateway from a list of gateways based on if the call is to be intercepted.
6. A method as recited in claim 1, wherein the subscriber unit sent the connection request for the call, and wherein step (c) comprises the step of selecting the visited gateway from a list of gateways based on if the visited gateway is capable of servicing the connection request.
7. A method as recited in claim 1, wherein the subscriber unit sent the connection request for the call, and wherein step (c) comprises the step of selecting the visited gateway from a list of gateways based on if the visited gateway is not overloaded, not down and not reaching maximum capacity.
8. A method as recited in claim 1, wherein step (c) comprises the step of the home gateway selecting the visited gateway to service the connection request.
9. A method as recited in claim 1, wherein the visited and home gateways are part of a network of nodes, step (d) comprises the step of forwarding the connection request through some of the network of nodes.
10. A method as recited in claim 1, wherein step (c) comprises the steps of:
- c1) the home gateway selecting the visited gateway; and
 - c2) the home gateway setting-up the call according to the connection request if the home gateway selected itself to be the visited gateway.
11. A method for assigning a subscriber unit to a visited gateway, the method comprising the steps of:
- a) receiving a connection request;
 - b) forwarding the connection request to a home gateway;
 - c) selecting the visited gateway from a list of gateways to service the connection request;
 - d) forwarding the connection request to the visited gateway;
 - e) setting-up a call;
 - f) determining whether the visited gateway is capable of servicing the connection request;
 - g) selecting an alternate visited gateway from a list of alternate visited gateways; and

- h) forwarding the connection request to the alternate visited gateway.
12. A method as recited in claim 11, further comprising the steps of:
- i) determining whether the alternate visited gateway is capable of servicing the connection request;
 - j) rejecting the connection request if the alternate visited gateway is incapable of servicing the connection request; and
 - k) the alternate visited gateway setting up the call.
13. A method as recited in claim 11, further comprising the steps of:
- i) determining whether the alternate visited gateway is capable of servicing the connection request;
 - j) selecting another alternate visited gateway from a list of alternate visited gateways if the alternate visited gateway is incapable of servicing the connection request;
 - k) forwarding the connection request to the another alternate visited gateway if the alternate visited gateway is incapable of servicing the connection request;
 - l) repeating steps (j) and (k) until an alternate visited gateway is found that can service the connection request or until steps (j) and (k) are repeated a predetermined number of times;
 - m) rejecting the connection request if the alternate visited gateway is incapable of servicing the connection request or steps (j) and (k) are repeated the predetermined number of times; and
 - n) the alternate visited gateway selected in step (j) setting up the call.
14. A method as recited in claim 11, further comprising the steps of:
- i) determining whether the alternate visited gateway is capable of servicing the connection request;
 - j) selecting another alternate visited gateway from a list of alternate visited gateways if the alternate visited gateway is incapable of servicing the connection request;
 - k) forwarding the connection request to the another alternate visited gateway if the alternate visited gateway is incapable of servicing the connection request;
 - l) rejecting the connection request if the alternate visited gateway is incapable of servicing the connection request; and
 - m) the another alternate visited gateway setting up the call.
15. A method for assigning a subscriber unit to a visited gateway, the method comprising the steps of:
- a) receiving a connection request;
 - b) forwarding the connection request to a home gateway;
 - c) determining whether the home gateway is capable of servicing the connection request;
 - d) selecting an alternate home gateway if the home gateway is incapable of servicing the connection request;
 - e) forwarding the connection request to the home gateway or the alternate home gateway selected in step (d);
 - f) selecting the visited gateway from a list of gateways to service the connection request;
 - g) forwarding the connection request to the visited gateway;
 - h) determining whether the visited gateway is capable of servicing the connection request;
 - i) selecting an alternate visited gateway from a list of alternate visited gateways if the visited gateway is incapable of servicing the connection request;