

- j) forwarding the connection request to the alternate visited gateway if the visited gateway is incapable of servicing the connection request; and
- k) setting-up a call.

16. A method as recited in claim 15, wherein the subscriber unit sent the connection request for the call, and wherein step (f) 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.

17. A method as recited in claim 15, wherein the subscriber unit sent the connection request for the call, and wherein step (f) comprises the step of selecting the visited gateway from a list of gateways based on if the call is to be intercepted.

18. A method as recited in claim 15, wherein the subscriber unit sent the connection request for the call, and wherein step (f) 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.

19. A method as recited in claim 15, wherein the subscriber unit sent the connection request for the call, and wherein step (f) 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.

20. A method as recited in claim 15, further comprising the steps of:

- l) determining whether the visited gateway is capable of servicing the connection request;
- m) selecting an alternate visited gateway from a list of alternate visited gateways; and
- n) forwarding the connection request to the alternate visited gateway.

21. A method as recited in claim 20, further comprising the steps of:

- o) determining whether the alternate visited gateway is capable of servicing the connection request;
- p) rejecting the connection request if the alternate visited gateway is incapable of servicing the connection request; and
- q) the alternate visited gateway setting up the call if the connection request is not rejected in step (p).

22. A method as recited in claim 20, further comprising the steps of:

- o) determining whether the alternate visited gateway is capable of servicing the connection request;
- p) selecting another alternate visited gateway from a list of alternate visited gateways if the alternate visited gateway is incapable of servicing the connection request;
- q) forwarding the connection request to the another alternate visited gateway if the alternate visited gateway is incapable of servicing the connection request;
- r) repeating steps (p) and (q) until an alternate visited gateway is found that can service the connection request or until steps (p) and (q) are repeated a predetermined number of times;

- s) rejecting the connection request if the alternate visited gateway is incapable of servicing the connection request or steps (p) and (q) are repeated the predetermined number of times; and

- t) the another alternate visited gateway selected in step (p) setting up the call.

23. A method as recited in claim 20, further comprising the steps of:

- o) determining whether the alternate visited gateway is capable of servicing the connection request;
- p) selecting another alternate visited gateway from a list of alternate visited gateways if the alternate visited gateway is incapable of servicing the connection request;
- q) forwarding the connection request to the another alternate visited gateway if the alternate visited gateway is incapable of servicing the connection request;
- r) rejecting the connection request if the alternate visited gateway is incapable of servicing the connection request; and
- s) the another alternate visited gateway setting up the call.

24. A method for assigning a subscriber unit to a visited gateway, the method comprising the steps of:

- a) a currently serving satellite receiving a connection request;
- b) the currently serving satellite forwarding the connection request to a home gateway;
- c) the currently serving satellite determining whether the home gateway is capable of servicing the connection request;
- d) the currently serving satellite selecting an alternate home gateway if the home gateway is incapable of servicing the connection request;
- e) the currently serving satellite forwarding the connection request to the home gateway or to the alternate home gateway selected in step (d);
- f) the home gateway selecting the visited gateway from a list of gateways to service the connection request;
- g) the home gateway forwarding the connection request to the visited gateway;
- h) the visited gateway determining whether the visited gateway is capable of servicing the connection request;
- i) the visited gateway selecting an alternate visited gateway from a list of alternate visited gateways if the visited gateway is incapable of servicing the connection request;
- j) the visited gateway forwarding the connection request to the alternate visited gateway if the visited gateway is incapable of servicing the connection request;
- k) the visited gateway setting-up a call if the visited gateway is capable of servicing the connection request; and
- l) the alternate visited gateway setting-up the call if the visited gateway is incapable of servicing the connection request.