

[0173] With reference to FIGS. 6A-6C, logical diagrams representing signal flows between components of the system of FIG. 2 during a stage where at least one call parameter associated with the communication session is retrieved from a memory for maintaining scheduling data are described.

[0174] FIG. 6A depicts a first non-limiting embodiment, where the communication session handling entity 112 can generate a signal 600A and transmit the signal 600A to the scheduling server 108' via the communication network 206 in an attempt to retrieve the at least one call parameter. In response to receipt of the signal 600A, the scheduling server 108' generates a signal 610A which it can transmit to the communication session handling entity 112 via the communication network 206. Signals 600A and 610A can be representative of the request transmitted from the communication session handling entity 112 to the scheduling server 108' in an attempt to retrieve the at least one call parameter and a response thereto respectively. How the signals 600A and 610A are generated, as well as various protocols for transmission thereof, have been described in detail herein above.

[0175] FIG. 6B depicts another non-limiting embodiment, in which the communication session handling entity 112 and the scheduling server 108' are coupled via a local connection. The local connection can be embodied in an Ethernet connection, a local area network, a wireless connection or any other suitable data connection. In this non-limiting scenario, the communication session handling entity 112 can generate the signal 600B and transmit the signal 600B via the local connection. Similarly, the scheduling server 108' can, in response to receipt of the signal 600B, generate a signal 610B and transmit the signal 610B to the communication session handling entity 112 via the local connection. Signals 600B and 610B can be representative of the request transmitted from the communication session handling entity 112 to the scheduling server 108' in an attempt to retrieve the at least one call parameter and a response thereto respectively. How the signals 600B and 610B are generated, as well as various protocols for transmission thereof, have been described in detail herein above.

[0176] FIG. 6C depicts another non-limiting embodiment, in which the communication session handling entity 112 is coupled to a data network 612B. The data network 612B can comprise any suitable type of data network, such as a WAN, a LAN and the like. It should be noted that in some non-limiting embodiments of the present invention, the data network 612B can comprise a portion of the communication network 206 and vice versa. Further coupled to the data network 612B can be the scheduling server 108'. In this non-limiting scenario, the communication session handling entity 112 can generate the signal 600C and transmit the signal 600C via the data network 612B to the scheduling server 108'. Similarly, the scheduling server 108' can, in response to receipt of the signal 600C, generate a signal 610C and transmit the signal 610C to the communication session handling entity 112 via the data network 612B. Signals 600C and 610C can be representative of the request transmitted from the communication session handling entity 112 to the scheduling server 108' in an attempt to retrieve the at least one call parameter and a response thereto respectively. How the signals 600C and 610C are generated, as well as various protocols for transmission thereof, have been described in detail herein above.

[0177] The communication between the auxiliary scheduling server 109 and the communication session handling entity

112 can be performed in substantially the same manner as described above with reference to communication between the scheduling server 108' and the communication session handling entity 112. It should be noted that the example arrangements presented with reference to FIGS. 6A-6C can be used interchangeably. For example, the communication between the communication session handling entity 112 and the scheduling server 108' can be implemented as described with reference to FIG. 6A, while the communication between the communication session handling entity 112 and the auxiliary scheduling server 109 can be implemented as described with reference to FIG. 6B. Naturally, other combinations are also possible.

[0178] With reference to FIGS. 7A-7C, logical diagrams representing signal flows between components of the system of FIG. 2 during a stage where the communication session is established with a communication device associated with the user 102A are described.

[0179] FIG. 7A depicts a first non-limiting embodiment, where the communication session handling entity 112 can generate a signal 700A and issue the signal 700A towards the network element 206a serving the communication device 204a, the signal 700A containing a termination identifier associated with a destination party associated with the communication session. The network element 206a can trigger establishment of the communication session between the communication device 204a and the communication device 204b, the communication device 204b being associated with the termination identifier transmitted within signal 700A. This communication session is depicted as "CS" in FIG. 7A. It should be noted, that in an alternative embodiment of the present invention, the signal 700A can be sent to a network element servicing a communication device associated with the destination party. Alternatively, the signal 700A can be sent to the communication device 204a (or the destination communication device) and the communication device 204a (or the destination communication device) can trigger establishment of the communication session in accordance with the signal 700A.

[0180] FIG. 7B depicts another non-limiting embodiment, where the communication session handling entity 112 can generate a signal 700B and to transmit the signal 700B towards the multi-party call entity 110 via the communication network 206, the multi-party call entity 110 being the destination party associated with the communication session. The signal 700B can be, for example, representative of a call originated from the communication device 204a being forwarded to the multi-party call entity 110. In an alternative non-limiting embodiment of the present invention, the signal 700B can be representative of the communication session handling entity 112 establishing the aforementioned connection leg of the communication session. In yet another embodiment of the present invention, the signal 700B can be representative of a command transmitted between the communication session handling entity 112 and the multi-party call entity 110, the command being indicative of the multi-party call identifier. In yet another embodiment of the present invention, the signal 700B can be representative of a termination identifier associated with the communication device 204a, the signal 700B for enabling the multi-party call entity 110 to establish a call with the communication device 204a. Other alternatives that have been presented herein above are also possible.