



Figure 7.28 ♦ The call setup process

network dimensioning (Section 7.5.1) provide “good enough” best-effort network service for multimedia applications. In addition, the added complexity and cost of deploying and managing a network that provides per-connection quality of service guarantees may be judged by ISPs to be simply too high given predicted customer revenues for that service.

7.6 Summary

Multimedia networking is one of the most exciting developments in the Internet today. People throughout the world are spending less time in front of their radios and televisions, and are instead turning to the Internet to receive audio and video transmissions, both live and prerecorded. This trend will certainly continue as high-speed wireless Internet access becomes more and more prevalent. Moreover, with sites like YouTube, users have become producers as well as consumers of multimedia Internet content. In addition to video distribution, the Internet is also being used to transport phone calls. In fact, over the next 10 years, the Internet, along with wireless Internet access, may make the traditional circuit-switched telephone system a thing of the past. VoIP not only provides phone service inexpensively, but also provides numerous value-added services, such as video conferencing, online directory services, voice messaging, and integration into social networks such as Facebook and Google+.