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(54) **SYSTEM AND METHOD FOR MICRO TAP INSTRUCTIONS IN PACKETS IN A TELECOMMUNICATIONS NETWORK TO DIAGNOSE NETWORK ISSUES**

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(57) **ABSTRACT**

A method and system for routing packets in a telecommunications network includes inserting, onto a network packet at a first router, tap instructions for sending a copy of the network packet to a packet analysis resource to form a packet with tap information. A copy of the packet with tap information is received at a transit router. The transit router reads the tap instructions and causes a copy of the network packet to be sent to the packet analysis resource. The network packet is then sent to a destination within a telecommunications network.

