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Singh et al.(10) **Pub. No.: US 2023/0232322 A1**(43) **Pub. Date: Jul. 20, 2023**(54) **METHODS, SYSTEMS, AND COMPUTER
READABLE MEDIA FOR PRIORITIZING
AMONG ALTERNATE NETWORK
FUNCTION (NF) INSTANCES**(52) **U.S. Cl.**CPC *H04W 48/18* (2013.01); *H04W 48/16*
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ABSTRACT(72) Inventors: **Virendra Singh,** Bangalore (IN); **Ankit
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A method for prioritizing among alternate network function (NF) instances includes registering a first NF profile of a first NF instance with a first NF repository function (NRF), and defining, as part of the first NF profile, alternate NF instance information identifying a plurality of individual alternate NF instances to function as backups in response to unavailability of the first NF instance and specifying, for each alternate NF instance, a priority attribute value indicating a relative priority of the alternate NF instance with respect to the other alternate NF instances. The method further includes, at a first consumer NF or SCP, discovering, from the first NRF, the first NF profile of the first NF instance, detecting unavailability of the first NF instance, and, using the alternate NF instance information in the first NF profile to select and contact one of the alternate NF instances identified by the alternate NF instance information.

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