INVENTION DISCLOSURE

1.   **Invention Title.**
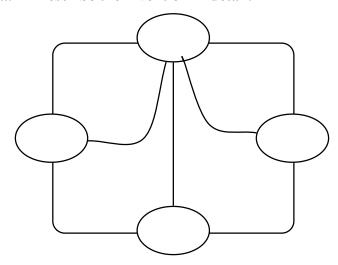
   Multitouch Router

2.   **Invention Summary.**
   Our idea is for a consumer-grade router where the relationship between ports is not fixed, but is controlled using multi-touch gestures.

3.   **Invention Description**.

   a.   **Describe the invention in detail.**

   Many customers do not know how to configure their own routers; consequently, vendors ship them built with one "WAN" interface and one or more "LAN" interfaces. In our invention, a generic home router can be configured by a user touching the surface of the router. As depicted above, one simple instantiation of this device is that the vendor ships a router with four interfaces. After plugging in devices to the interfaces, the user "draws" on the surface of the router with his or her finger to connect the ports.

   b.   **Why was the invention developed? What problem(s) does the invention solve? How is it better?**
   We were asked for a home router where the ports were not pre-configured that could accommodate arbitrary user connections. At an internal brainstorming session, we identified this as a simple approach within the capabilities of the average user.

   c.   **Briefly outline the potential commercial value and customers of the invention.**
   If adopted, this is likely to be a feature of high-end home routers. As customers upgrade their home networks in preparation for IPv6, this approach could result in lower support costs for operators and higher satisfaction for subscribers.

 4.   **HOW is this invention different from existing products, processes, systems?**

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Typical home routers come preconfigured with one WAN interface and one or more LAN interfaces. Higher end devices are more configurable, but they rely on software or web-based configuration. This invention uses a customer's touch to configure the device.