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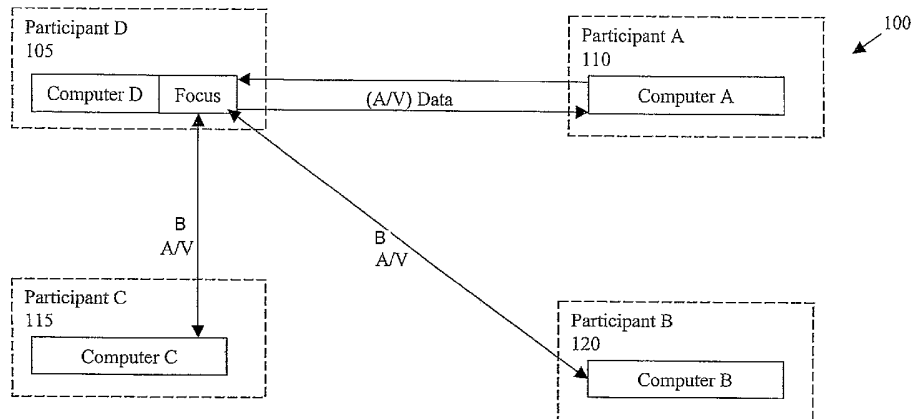
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[Continued on next page]

(54) Title: MULTI-PARTICIPANT CONFERENCING



(57) Abstract: Some embodiments provide an architecture (figure 1) for establishing a multi-participant conference. This architecture has one participant's computer in the conference act as a central content distributor (105) for the conference. The central distributor (105) receives data (e.g., video and/or audio streams) from the computer of each other participant (110-120), and distributes the received data to the computers of all participants (110-120). In some embodiments, the central distributor (105) receives A/V data from the computers of the other participants (110-120). From such received data, the central distributor (105) of some embodiments generates composite data (e.g., composite image data and/or composite audio data) that the central distributor (105) distributes back to the participants (110-120). The central distributor (105) in some embodiments can implement a heterogeneous audio/video conference. In such a conference, different participants can participate in the conference differently. For instance, different participants might use different audio or video codecs. Moreover, in some embodiments, one participant might participate in only the audio aspect of the conference, while another participant might participate in both audio and video aspects of the conference.

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**B. FIELDS SEARCHED**

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 EAST, NPL

**C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT**

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	US 5,933,417 (ROTOO) 03 August 1999 (03.08.1999) figures 1-6, col. 9, line 60-col. 10, line 14.	1-4
A	US 4,847,829 (TOMPKINS et al) 11 July 1989, see figures 1-2, 4 and 6-7, col. 5, line 28 - col. 11, line 13.	1-8, 18-27
A	US 6,167,432 (JIANG) 26 December 2000 (26.12.2000) see entire document.	18, 18-27
A	US 2004/0028199 A1 (CARLSON) 12 February 2004 (12.02.2004) see entire document	1-8, 18-27
A, P	US 2005/0286443 A1 (McMILLEN et al) 29 December 2005 (29.12.2005) see entire document	1-8 and 18-27

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* Special categories of cited documents:	"T"
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"O" document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means	"&" document member of the same patent family
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