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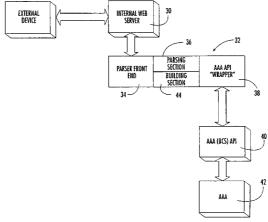
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### (54) Title: GATEWAY DEVICE HAVING AN XML INTERFACE AND ASSOCIATED METHOD



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(57) Abstract: A gateway device and associated method are provided that facilitate communications with external devices by utilizing a uniform communications format. The gateway device includes a subscriber interface for adapting to a subscriber computer that is connected to the gateway device. The subscriber interface facilitates communications between the subscriber computer and at least one network or on-line service without requiring the subscriber computer to be reconfigured and without requiring the subscriber computer to support XML commands and responses. The gateway device also includes an XML interface for communicating with an external device via a series of XML commands and responses. The XML commands and responses can relate to a variety of matters, including various subscriber management matters. Typically, the XML interface includes a parser front end, a parser section and a building section for appropriately handling XML commands that are received by the gateway device and for sending appropriate responses. The gateway device can also include an internal web server for communicating with both the XML interface and the internet to thereby facilitate XML-based communications between the gateway device and external devices connected to the internet. The subscriber computer can therefor enjoy the advantages of XML without having to be reconfigured to support XML.

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According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

#### **B. FIELDS SEARCHED**

 $\label{localization} \begin{array}{ll} \mbox{Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)} \\ \mbox{IPC 7} & \mbox{G06F} \end{array}$ 

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used)

EPO-Internal, WPI Data, PAJ

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT					
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X Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C.	Patent family members are listed in annex.
Special categories of cited documents:      A' document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance      E' earlier document but published on or after the international filing date      L' document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified)      O' document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means      document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed	<ul> <li>"T" later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention</li> <li>"X* document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone</li> <li>"Y* document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art.</li> <li>"&amp;" document member of the same patent family</li> </ul>
Date of the actual completion of the international search	Date of mailing of the international search report
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