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(71)(72) Applicant and Inventor: TEMPLETON, Bradley, S. [CA/US]; 1113 Lochinvar Avenue, Sunnyvale, CA

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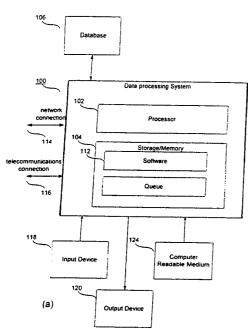
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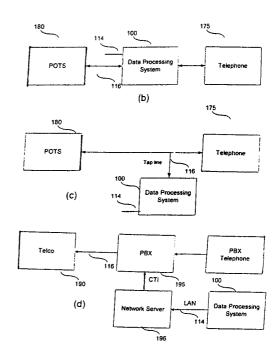
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(74) Agents: MAJERUS, Laura, A. et al.; Fenwick & West LLP, Two Palo Alto Square, Palo Alto, CA 94306 (US).

(54) Title: METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR INTERMEDIATION OF MEETINGS AND CALLS





(57) Abstract

A computer-implemented method and system for assisting in the intermediation of realtime meetings, including telephone calls and face to face meetings. A user informs his system that he wishes to for example, make a telephone call. The system sends a request for a realtime meeting the specified target. Both the target and the requester queue the request. When both the requester and the target are mutually available, the realtime meeting can take place. Some embodiments cause this to happen automatically, some prompt the user to take action, such as dialing the telephone. Some embodiments allow the user to choose from among queued requests.

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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Internati Application No PCT/US 99/24387

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER IPC 7 H04M3/42 H04 H04M3/56 H04M3/48 H04M3/523 According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC **B. FIELDS SEARCHED** Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols) IPC 7 HO4M 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) C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages Relevant to claim No. X EP 0 557 777 A (SIEMENS AG) 1 September 1993 (1993-09-01) 9-15 17-22 24,25 column 6, line 50 -column 8, line 28 X PATENT ABSTRACTS OF JAPAN 1-7, vol. 009, no. 318 (E-366) 9-15 13 December 1985 (1985-12-13) & JP 60 150373 A (NIPPON DENKI KK), 17-22, 24,25 8 August 1985 (1985-08-08) abstract Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C. Patent family members are listed in annex. Special categories of cited documents : 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 "A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance invention "E" earlier document but published on or after the international "X" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention filing date cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone "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) "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 docu-"O" document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or ments, such combination being obvious to a person skilled document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed in the art. "&" document member of the same patent family Date of the actual completion of the international search Date of mailing of the international search report 11 April 2000 18/04/2000 Name and mailing address of the ISA Authorized officer European Patent Office, P.B. 5818 Patentlaan 2 NL - 2280 HV Rijswijk Tel. (+31-70) 340-2040, Tx. 31 651 epo ni, Vandevenne, M Fax: (+31-70) 340-3016

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