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MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, MY, MZ, NA, NG, NI, NO, NZ, OM, PA, PE, PG, PH, PL, PT, QA, RO, RS, RU, RW, SA, SC, SD, SE, SG, SK, SL, SM, ST, SV, SY, TH, TJ, TM, TN, TR, TT, TZ, UA, UG, US, UZ, VC, VN, ZA, ZM, ZW.

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- as to the applicant's entitlement to claim the priority of the earlier application (Rule 4.17(iii))

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(54) **Title:** SYSTEM AND METHOD FOR AUTOMATICALLY DOWNLOADING DATA SUCH AS SLEEP STUDY DATA

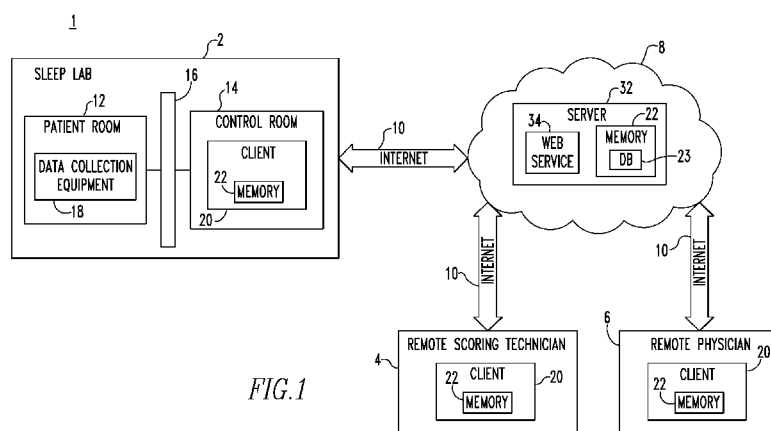


FIG. 1

(57) **Abstract:** A method of automatically downloading data, the method including periodically querying a server (32) for sets of data meeting predetermined criteria, receiving information on any sets of data meeting the predetermined criteria, for each set of data meeting the predetermined criteria, determining if the set of data exists or is up to date locally, and upon determining that a selected set of data does not exist or is not up to date locally, downloading at least a portion of the selected set of data.

SYSTEM AND METHOD FOR AUTOMATICALLY DOWNLOADING DATA SUCH AS SLEEP STUDY DATA

CROSS-REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS

- [01] This application claims priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) from U.S. provisional patent application no. 61/829,306, entitled “METHOD AND SYSTEM FOR RELIABLY TRANSFERRING FILES TO AND FROM A REMOTE SERVER” and filed on May 31, 2013, the contents of which are incorporated herein by reference.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

1. Field of the Invention

- [02] The present invention pertains to downloading data, and, in particular, to a system and method for automatically downloading sleep study data.

2. Description of the Related Art

- [03] Obstructive sleep apnea (OSA) is a condition that affects millions of people from around the world. OSA is characterized by disturbances or cessation in breathing during sleep. OSA episodes result from partial or complete blockage of airflow during sleep that lasts at least 10 seconds and often as long as 1 to 2 minutes. In a given night, people with moderate to severe apnea may experience complete or partial breathing disruptions as high as 200-500 per night. Because their sleep is constantly disrupted, they are deprived of the restorative sleep necessary for efficient functioning of body and mind. This sleep disorder has also been linked with hypertension, depression, stroke, cardiac arrhythmias, myocardial infarction and other cardiovascular disorders. OSA also causes excessive tiredness.

- [04] Various methods have been used to assess whether a patient suffers from OSA. The most comprehensive method is a clinical polysomnogram (PSG), which can diagnose many significant sleep pathologies. A PSG generally involves a sleep study of a patient where audio and other parameters of the patient is recorded while the patient

sleeps. A technician then “scores” the recorded data. Scoring the recorded data involves analyzing the data to identify events that occurred during the PSG that may be useful in diagnosing sleep pathologies. Data collected during a PSG is generally stored in several different files such as multiple audio files, other data files, and a scoring file.

[05] The PSG data (also referred to as sleep study data) is generated or used in several different locations, such as a sleep lab, a scoring technician’s office, and a physician’s office. It is preferable to store the PSG at a central location, such as a server, where it is accessible to multiple locations through a network, such as the internet.

[06] The PSG data is generated and updated at several locations, which necessitates transferring and updating files between the remote locations and the central location to ensure that the PSG data being accessed by a user is up to date. A file transfer protocol (FTP) server on a server at the central location has been used to download PSG data from the central location to the remote locations. Other file sharing systems have also been used to manage file transfers between the central location and the remote locations. However, these file transfer mechanisms are initiated in an on-demand fashion. That is, when a user wants to access PSG data, the user manually initiates a download of the PSG data from the server and once the download is complete, the user accesses the PSG data at the remote location.

[07] The amount of PSG data can become quite large and in many cases can exceed one gigabyte. Thus, a user could end up waiting a substantially amount of time for the PSG data to download before he is able to access it.

[08] Accordingly, a need exists for improvement in downloading PSG data files from a central location to a remote location.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

[09] In one embodiment, a method of automatically downloading data includes periodically querying a server for sets of data meeting predetermined criteria, receiving information on any sets of data meeting the predetermined criteria, for each set of data meeting the predetermined criteria, determining if the set of data exists or is up to date

locally, and upon determining that a selected set of data does not exist or is not up to date locally, downloading at least a portion of the selected set of data.

[10] In another embodiment, a non-transitory computer readable medium storing one or more programs, including instructions, which when executed by a computer, causes the computer to perform a method of automatically downloading data, the method including periodically querying a server for sets of data meeting predetermined criteria, receiving information on any sets of data meeting the predetermined criteria, for each set of data meeting the predetermined criteria, determining if the set of data exists or is up to date locally, and upon determining that a selected set of data does not exist or is not up to date locally, downloading at least a portion of the selected set of data.

[11] In another embodiment, a system to automatically download data includes a client device structured to periodically query a server for sets of data meeting predetermined criteria, to receive information on any sets of data meeting the predetermined criteria, and, for each set of data meeting the predetermined criteria, to determine if the set of data exists or is up to date locally for each set of data meeting the predetermined criteria, determining if the set of data exists or is up to date locally, wherein the client device is structured to download at least a portion of a selected set of data upon determining that the selected set of data does not exist or is not up to date locally.

[12] These and other objects, features, and characteristics of the present invention, as well as the methods of operation and functions of the related elements of structure and the combination of parts and economies of manufacture, will become more apparent upon consideration of the following description and the appended claims with reference to the accompanying drawings, all of which form a part of this specification, wherein like reference numerals designate corresponding parts in the various figures. It is to be expressly understood, however, that the drawings are for the purpose of illustration and description only and are not intended as a definition of the limits of the invention.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

- [13] FIG. 1 is a schematic view of a system adapted to collect and store sleep study data in a centralized location according to one exemplary embodiment of the disclosed concept;
- [14] FIG. 2 is a flowchart of a method of automatically downloading sleep study files according to one exemplary embodiment of the disclosed concept; and
- [15] FIG. 3 is a view of a user interface for setting criteria for automatically downloading sleep study files according to one exemplary embodiment of the disclosed concept.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF EXEMPLARY EMBODIMENTS

- [16] As used herein, the singular form of “a”, “an”, and “the” include plural references unless the context clearly dictates otherwise. As used herein, the statement that two or more parts or components are “coupled” shall mean that the parts are joined or operate together either directly or indirectly, i.e., through one or more intermediate parts or components, so long as a link occurs. As used herein, “directly coupled” means that two elements are directly in contact with each other. As used herein, “fixedly coupled” or “fixed” means that two components are coupled so as to move as one while maintaining a constant orientation relative to each other.
- [17] As used herein, the word “unitary” means a component is created as a single piece or unit. That is, a component that includes pieces that are created separately and then coupled together as a unit is not a “unitary” component or body. As employed herein, the statement that two or more parts or components “engage” one another shall mean that the parts exert a force against one another either directly or through one or more intermediate parts or components. As employed herein, the term “number” shall mean one or an integer greater than one (i.e., a plurality).
- [18] Directional phrases used herein, such as, for example and without limitation, top, bottom, left, right, upper, lower, front, back, and derivatives thereof, relate to the orientation of the elements shown in the drawings and are not limiting upon the claims unless expressly recited therein.

[19] A system 1 adapted to collect and store sleep study data is generally shown in FIG. 1. System 1 is distributed over several locations including a sleep lab 2, a remote scoring technician site 4, a remote physician site 6, and a central server site 8. Central server site 8 includes a server 32 and each of sleep lab 2, remote scoring technician site 4, and remote physician site 6 include a client 20. Clients 20 are each communicatively connected to server 32 by suitable network connections such as internet connections 10.

[20] Clients 20 are any suitable processing device such as, without limitation, a general-purpose computer, a wireless device, a personal computer, or a mobile phone. Clients 20 and server 32 each include an associated memory 22. Memory 22 can be any one or more of a variety of types of internal and/or external storage media such as, without limitation, RAM, ROM, EPROM(s), EEPROM(s), FLASH, and the like that provide a storage register, i.e., a machine readable medium, for data storage such as in the fashion of an internal storage area of a computer, and can be volatile memory or nonvolatile memory. Memory 22 may also be located outside of clients 20 or server 32 and communicatively connected with its associated client 20 or server 32. Memory 22 may also be a removable device that is able to be removed from its associated client 20 or server 32.

[21] Sleep lab 2 includes a patient room 12 and a control room 14. Patient room 12 and control room 14 are communicatively connected by a suitable network connection such as a local area network connection 16. Patient room 12 includes data collection equipment 18. Data collection equipment 18 is used to collect raw sleep study data such, without limitation, audio and video data, electroencephalogram (EEG) data, electrocardiogram (ECG) data, electroculogram (EOG) data, electromyogram (EMG) data, measurements of nasal airflow, measurements of blood oxygen levels and/or other physiological parameters. Control room 14 includes client 20 and memory 22. The raw sleep study data is transferred from data collection equipment 18 to client 20 via local area network connection 16 and is stored in memory 22. The raw sleep study data is stored in memory 22 as a set of files.

- [22] Remote scoring technician site 4 includes its associated client 20 and memory 22. A scoring technician at remote scoring technician site 4 “scores” raw sleep study data and stores the scoring data in memory 22 as a file. The scoring data includes data such as, without limitation, sleep staging data, apnea event data, and high heart rate event data.
- [23] Remote physician site 6 includes its associated client 20 and memory 22. A physician at remote physician site 6 reviews the raw sleep study data and scoring data in order to diagnose a patient.
- [24] Central server site 8 includes server 32 which is communicatively connected with clients 20 in order to send or receive data. Server 32 includes memory 22 including a database 23 which stores the data. Server 32 also includes web service 34. Web service 34 coordinates communication between server 32 and clients 20 such as responding to requests from clients 20 for data uploads or downloads. Server 32 is structured to centrally store sleep study data where it can be downloaded or updated by any of clients 20.
- [25] Although sleep lab 2, remote scoring technician site 4 and remote physician site 6 are shown in FIG. 1, it will be appreciated that any suitable remote sites may be adapted to access sleep study data at central server site 8 without departing from the scope of the disclosed concept.
- [26] A flowchart of a method of automatically downloading sleep study files from server 32 to client 20 in accordance with an exemplary embodiment of the disclosed concept is shown in FIG. 2. Generally, the method of FIG. 2 is executed by client 20 to automatically initiate downloads of sleep studies meeting predetermined criteria. In more detail, at 40 client waits a predetermined time. The predetermined time may be, without limitation, one minute. However, it will be appreciated that the predetermined time may be any suitable amount of time.
- [27] After the predetermined amount of time has passed, client 20 queries server 32 at 42. The query to the server 32 includes predetermined criteria. Server 32 checks database 23 for any sleep studies stored at the server 32 meeting the predetermined

criteria provided by client 20. The predetermined criteria may include, for example and without limitation, a user the sleep study is assigned to and a state of the sleep study. The state of the sleep study indicates the position the sleep study is in in the process flow from being recorded to completed. Some examples of states include, without limitation, 'scoring', indicating that the sleep needs to be scored by the scoring technician, 'scored', indicating that the sleep study has been scored by the scoring technician, and 'reviewing', indicating that the scored sleep study data needs to be reviewed by a physician.

[28] In an example of a process flow, sleep study data is first collected at sleep lab 2 and the raw sleep study data is uploaded to server 32. A lab manager then assigns the sleep study to a scoring technician which changes the state of the sleep study to 'scoring'. Once the scoring technician scores the sleep study, the sleep study state is changed to 'scored'. The lab manager then assigns the sleep study to a physician to review which changes the state of the sleep study to 'reviewing'. Once the physician completes the review of the sleep study, the state of the sleep study is changed to 'completed'.

[29] When client 20 queries server 32, the query may only require one criteria to be met or multiple criteria to be met. For example, client 20 may query server for all sleep studies assigned to a specified user or all sleep studies assigned to a specified user and having a specified state.

[30] Once server 32 has been queried, any sleep studies meeting the predetermined criteria are indicated to client 20. At 44, client 20 determines if server 32 has indicated any sleep studies that meet the predetermined criteria. If not, client 20 proceeds to 40 and waits the predetermined time before querying the server 32 again. If client 20 determines that server 32 has indicated sleep studies meeting the predetermined criteria, client proceeds to 46.

[31] At 46 client 20 checks if the sleep study files exist locally at 46 (e.g., client 20 checks whether the sleep study files are stored in the memory 22 corresponding to client 20). If the sleep study files do not exist locally, client 20 downloads all files

corresponding to the sleep study at 48. Client 20 then returns to 40 and waits the predetermined time before querying the server 32 again.

[32] If the sleep study files do exist locally, client 20 checks if any of the remotely stored sleep study files on server 32 are new or updated at 50. That is, client 20 checks if the local version of the sleep study files is the same as the version of the sleep study files stored on server 32. If client 20 determines that none of the remotely stored sleep study files are new or updated, client 20 returns to 40 and waits the predetermined time before querying the server 32 again. If client 20 determines that the remotely stored files on the server 32 includes new or updated files, client 20 proceeds to 52.

[33] At 52, client 20 downloads any new or updated sleep study files from server 32. By only downloading new and updated files, downloading the entire sleep study can be avoided when only some of the sleep study files are new or updated. After downloading any new or updated sleep study files from server 32, client 20 returns to 40 and waits the predetermined time before querying the server 32 again.

[34] The method of FIG. 2 may run on client 20 in any suitable manner such as, without limitation, as part of a software package or as a background process. The method of FIG. 2 may also run on client 20 as a background process that continues running even when a user is logged out of client 20. By periodically querying server 32 and automatically downloading sleep study data, sleep study data is automatically downloaded to client 20 without user interaction. Additionally, the criteria can indicate that a user will need to access the sleep study data in the near future. For example, when the sleep study is assigned to the scoring technician and has the 'scoring' state, the scoring technician will need to access the sleep study data in the near future. Rather than have the scoring technician manually initiate the download of the sleep study data and have to wait for the download to complete, client 20 can initiate the download of the sleep study data while the scoring technician is working on other matters or is out of the office. Thus, the sleep study data can be pre-downloaded to the client 20 and ready for the scoring technician when he is ready to access the sleep study data.

- [35] FIG. 3 is a view of a user interface for setting automatic sleep study download criteria in accordance with an embodiment of the disclosed concept. User interface includes an automatic download activation box 60. Automatic download activation box 60, when activated, enables client 20 to execute the method of FIG. 2. A predetermined time entry box 62 allows a user to enter the predetermined time client 20 waits before querying server 32. Selection buttons 64 allow a user to select whether one criteria or a plurality of criteria are used in the query to server 32.
- [36] To set values for criteria, user interface includes criteria value entry boxes 66. For example and without limitation, a user can enter the user the sleep study is assigned to and the state of the sleep study in the criteria value entry boxes 66. User interface also includes criteria activation boxes 68 which allow a user to select which criteria will be used in the query to server 32.
- [37] Although a few criteria have been shown and described herein, it will be appreciated by those having ordinary skill in the art that any suitable criteria may be used in the query to server 32 without departing from the scope of the disclosed concept.
- [38] Although the disclosed concept has been described in the context of transferring sleep study data, it is contemplated that the disclosed concept may also be adapted for use in transferring any type of data between remote locations and a central storage location. It will be appreciated that the disclosed concept is particularly suitable for use in transferring groups of files.
- [39] Furthermore, although the disclosed concept has been described in the context of automatically downloading files in a manner that would reduce wait time for a user, it is also contemplated that the disclosed concept may be advantageously applied to filter files that are downloaded to client 20. For example and without limitation, criteria can be used to determine which files are downloaded to client 20 and which are not. It is contemplated that the disclosed concept can be advantageously applied for use with, without limitation, music libraries, where the disclosed concept can be used to, for example, automatically download tracks from selected artists and/or albums. It is also contemplated that the disclosed concept can be advantageously used with, without

limitation, document management systems, where the disclosed concept can be used, for example, to automatically download documents by a selected author.

[40] The disclosed concept can also be embodied as computer readable codes on a tangible, non-transitory computer readable recording medium. The computer readable recording medium is any data storage device that can store data which can be thereafter read by a computer system. Non-limiting examples of the computer readable recording medium include read-only memory (ROM), non-volatile random-access memory (RAM), CD-ROMs, magnetic tapes, floppy disks, disk storage devices, and optical data storage devices.

[41] In the claims, any reference signs placed between parentheses shall not be construed as limiting the claim. The word “comprising” or “including” does not exclude the presence of elements or steps other than those listed in a claim. In a device claim enumerating several means, several of these means may be embodied by one and the same item of hardware. The word “a” or “an” preceding an element does not exclude the presence of a plurality of such elements. In any device claim enumerating several means, several of these means may be embodied by one and the same item of hardware. The mere fact that certain elements are recited in mutually different dependent claims does not indicate that these elements cannot be used in combination.

[42] Although the invention has been described in detail for the purpose of illustration based on what is currently considered to be the most practical and preferred embodiments, it is to be understood that such detail is solely for that purpose and that the invention is not limited to the disclosed embodiments, but, on the contrary, is intended to cover modifications and equivalent arrangements that are within the spirit and scope of the appended claims. For example, it is to be understood that the present invention contemplates that, to the extent possible, one or more features of any embodiment can be combined with one or more features of any other embodiment.

What is Claimed is:

1. A method of automatically downloading data, the method comprising:
 - periodically querying a server (32) for sets of data meeting predetermined criteria;
 - receiving information on any sets of data meeting the predetermined criteria;
 - for each set of data meeting the predetermined criteria, determining if the set of data exists or is up to date locally; and
 - upon determining that a selected set of data does not exist or is not up to date locally, downloading at least a portion of the selected set of data.
2. The method of claim 1, wherein periodically querying the server comprises:
 - waiting a predetermined time; and
 - querying the server after waiting the predetermined time.
3. The method of claim 1, wherein upon determining that the selected set of data does not exist locally, downloading the entire selected set of data.
4. The method of claim 1, wherein upon determining that the selected set of data is not up to date locally, downloading any new or updated files in the selected set of data.
5. The method of claim 1, wherein the set of data includes sleep study data.
6. The method of claim 5, wherein the criteria includes a user the sleep study is assigned to.
7. The method of claim 5, wherein the criteria includes a state of the sleep study.
8. The method of claim 5, wherein the criteria includes a user the sleep study is assigned to and the state of the sleep study.

9. A non-transitory computer readable medium storing one or more programs, including instructions, which when executed by a computer, causes the computer to perform a method of automatically downloading data, the method comprising:
- periodically querying a server (32) for sets of data meeting predetermined criteria;
 - receiving information on any sets of data meeting the predetermined criteria;
 - for each set of data meeting the predetermined criteria, determining if the set of data exists or is up to date locally; and
 - upon determining that a selected set of data does not exist or is not up to date locally, downloading at least a portion of the selected set of data.
10. The non-transitory computer readable medium of claim 9, wherein periodically querying the server comprises:
- waiting a predetermined time; and
 - querying the server after waiting the predetermined time.
11. The non-transitory computer readable medium of claim 9, wherein upon determining that the selected set of data does not exist locally, downloading the entire selected set of data.
12. The non-transitory computer readable medium of claim 9, wherein upon determining that the selected set of data is not up to date locally, downloading any new or updated files in the selected set of data.
13. The non-transitory computer readable medium of claim 9, wherein the set of data includes sleep study data.
14. The non-transitory computer readable medium of claim 13, wherein the criteria includes a user the sleep study is assigned to.
15. The non-transitory computer readable medium of claim 13, wherein the criteria includes a state of the sleep study.
16. The non-transitory computer readable medium of claim 13, wherein the criteria includes a user the sleep study is assigned to and the state of the sleep study.

17. A system to automatically download data, the system comprising:
a client device (20) structured to periodically query a server (32) for sets of data meeting predetermined criteria, to receive information on any sets of data meeting the predetermined criteria, and, for each set of data meeting the predetermined criteria, to determine if the set of data exists or is up to date locally for each set of data meeting the predetermined criteria, determining if the set of data exists or is up to date locally,

wherein the client device is structured to download at least a portion of a selected set of data upon determining that the selected set of data does not exist or is not up to date locally.

18. The system of claim 17, wherein the client device is structured to wait a predetermined time and to query the server after waiting the predetermined time.

19. The system of claim 17, wherein the client device is structured to download the entire selected set of data upon determining that the selected set of data does not exist locally.

20. The system of claim 17, wherein the client device is structured to download any new or updated files in the selected set of data upon determining that the selected set of data is not up to date locally.

21. The system of claim 17, wherein the set of data includes sleep study data.

22. The system of claim 21, wherein the criteria includes a user the sleep study is assigned to.

23. The system of claim 21, wherein the criteria includes a state of the sleep study.

24. The system of claim 21, wherein the criteria includes a user the sleep study is assigned to and the state of the sleep study.

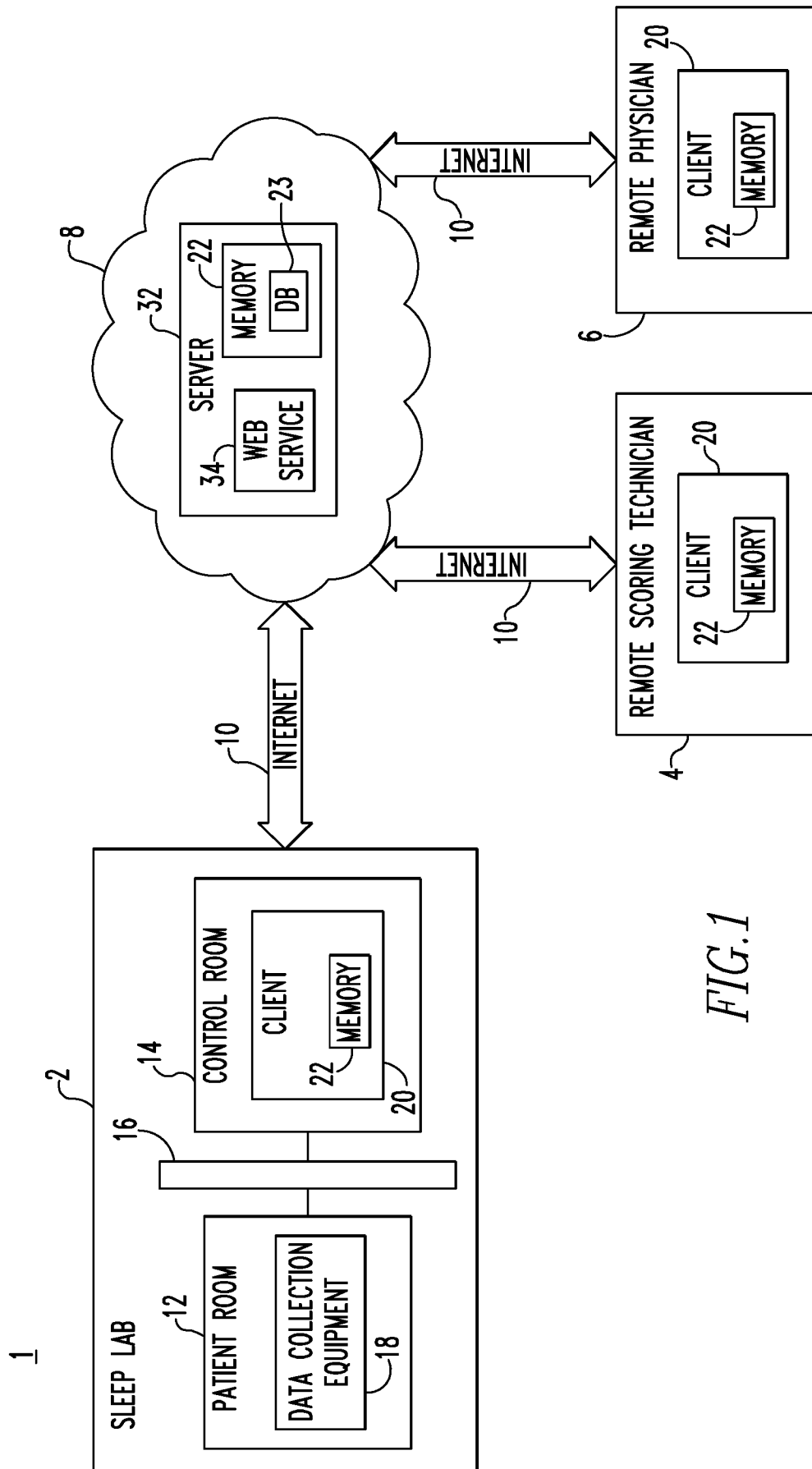


FIG. 1

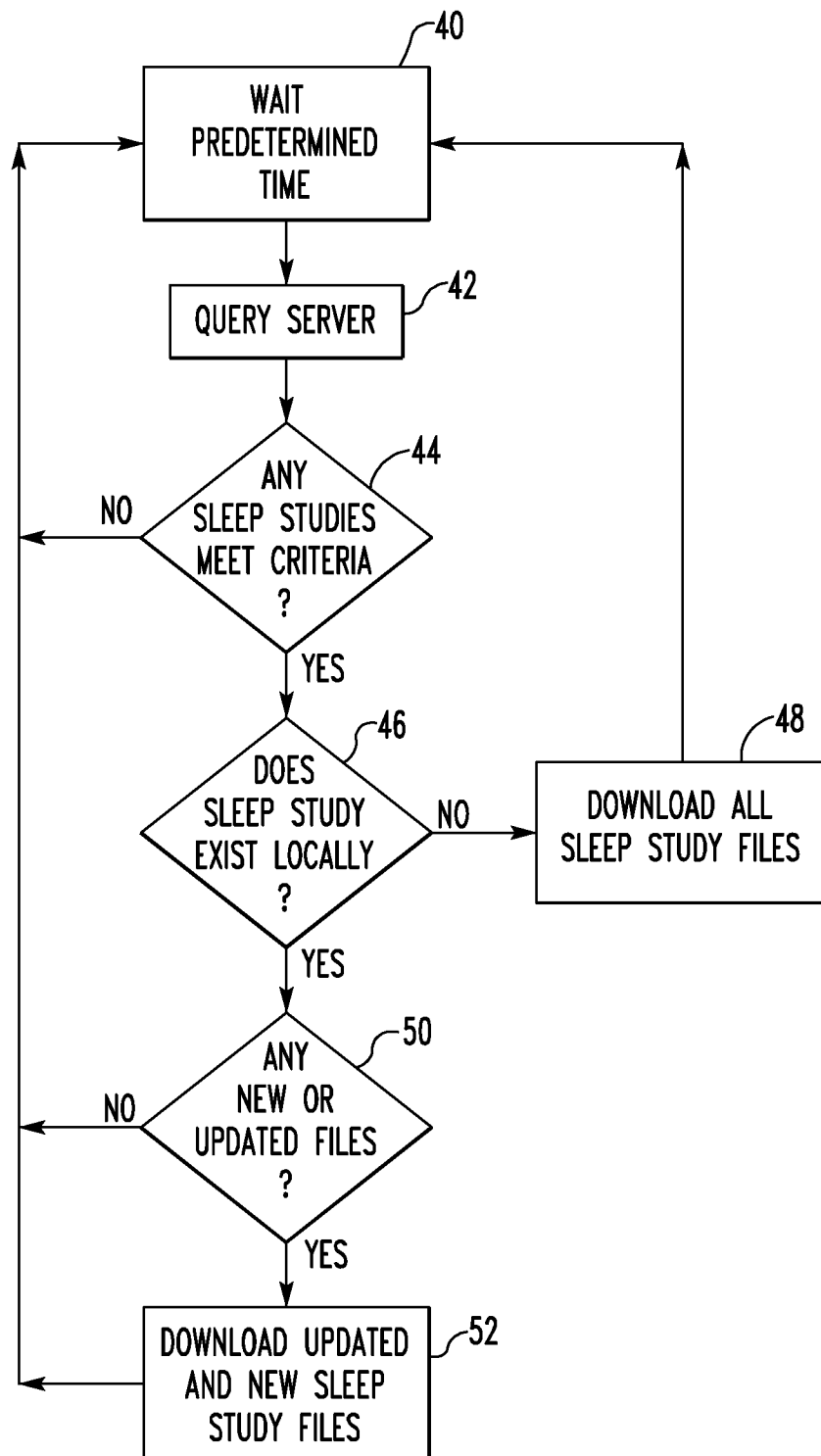
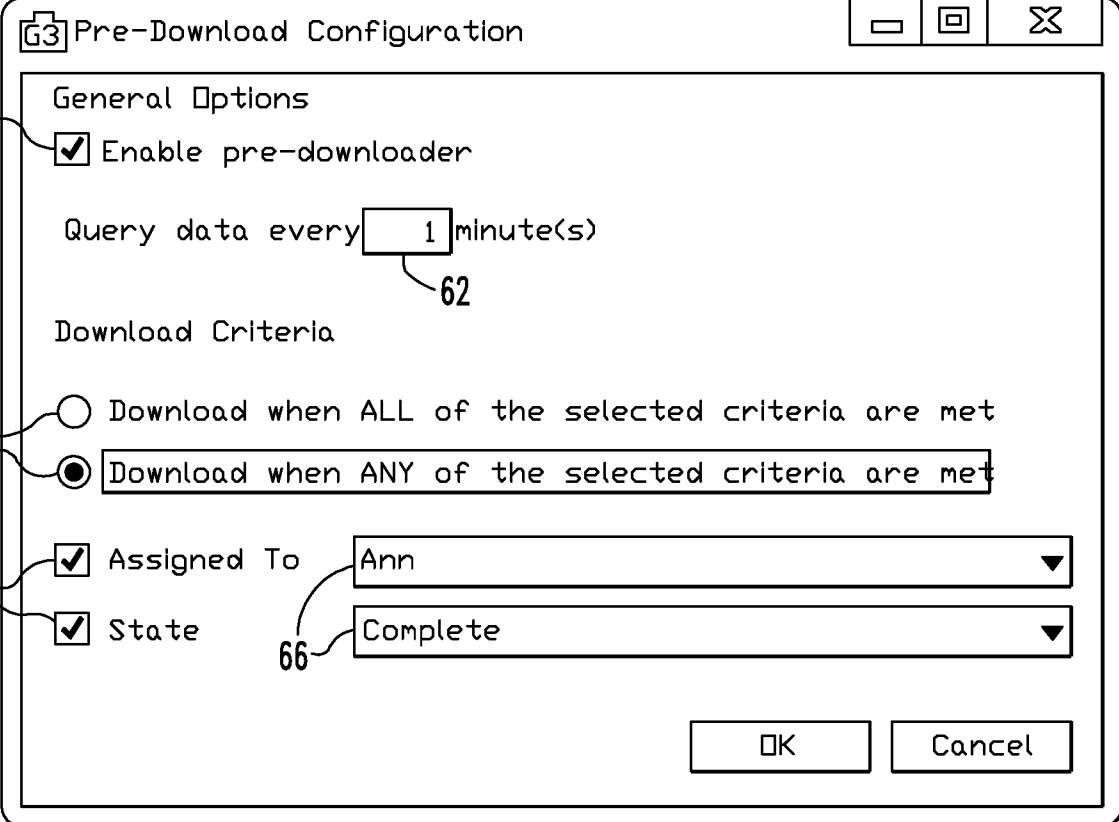


FIG.2



The figure shows a 'Pre-Download Configuration' dialog box with a title bar containing a maximize icon, a minimize icon, and a close icon. The dialog is divided into a 'General Options' section and a 'Download Criteria' section. In the 'General Options' section, there is a checked checkbox labeled 'Enable pre-downloader' (pointed to by 60), followed by a text label 'Query data every' and a text input field containing the number '1' (pointed to by 62), with the unit 'minute(s)' to the right. The 'Download Criteria' section contains two radio button options: 'Download when ALL of the selected criteria are met' (pointed to by 64) and 'Download when ANY of the selected criteria are met' (selected, pointed to by 64). Below these are two checked checkboxes: 'Assigned To' (pointed to by 68) and 'State' (pointed to by 68). The 'Assigned To' checkbox is followed by a dropdown menu showing 'Ann' (pointed to by 66). The 'State' checkbox is followed by a dropdown menu showing 'Complete' (pointed to by 66). At the bottom right are 'OK' and 'Cancel' buttons.

Pre-Download Configuration

General Options

☒ Enable pre-downloader

Query data every minute(s)

Download Criteria

☐ Download when ALL of the selected criteria are met

☒ Download when ANY of the selected criteria are met

☒ Assigned To

☒ State

OK Cancel

FIG. 3

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No
PCT/IB2014/061769

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER
INV. G06F19/00
ADD.

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)
G06F

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 practicable, search terms used)

EP0-Internal

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	US 6 195 678 B1 (KOMURO TOSHINAO [JP]) 27 February 2001 (2001-02-27) column 4, line 1 - column 6, line 41 figure 1 -----	1-24

☐

Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C.

☒

See patent family 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 application or patent 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

"P" document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed

"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

"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

"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 combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art

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Date of the actual completion of the international search

26 September 2014

Date of mailing of the international search report

07/10/2014

Name and mailing address of the ISA/

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Authorized officer

Rinelli, Pietro

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Information on patent family members

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PCT/IB2014/061769

Patent document cited in search report	Publication date	Patent family member(s)	Publication date
US 6195678	B1	27-02-2001	NONE
