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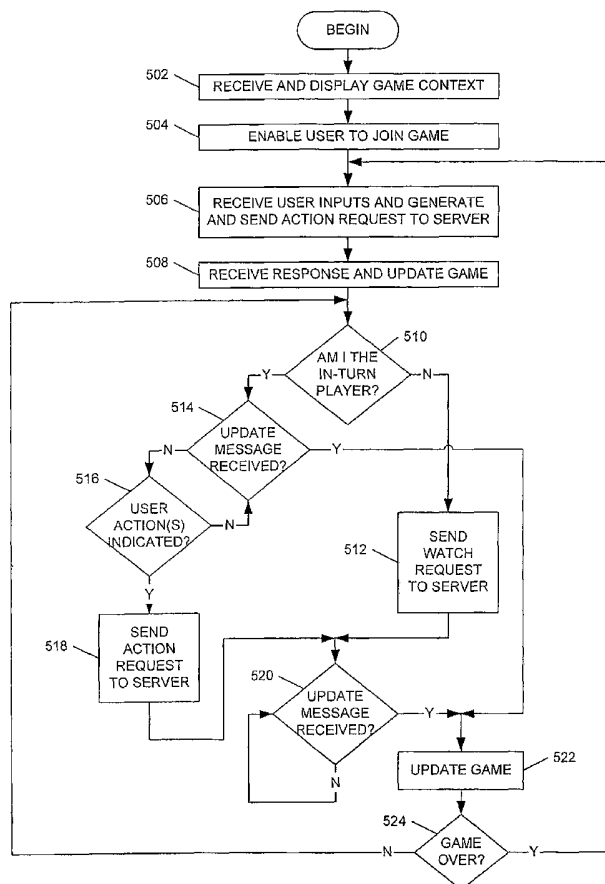
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(54) Title: FACILITATING NETWORK-BASED MULTIPLAYER GAMES



(57) Abstract: In an embodiment, a server enables one or more users to join a network-based, multiplayer game from one or more client devices. During game play, the server may receive one or more requests from the client devices, and hold the one or more requests in a virtual waiting area. The server may release the one or more requests upon an occurrence of a release condition.

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For two-letter codes and other abbreviations, refer to the "Guidance Notes on Codes and Abbreviations" appearing at the beginning of each regular issue of the PCT Gazette.

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

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A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

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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 G07F

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, PAJ

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	US 2004/005925 A1 (YAMAGISHI JUNICHI) 8 January 2004 (2004-01-08) claim 1; figure 1	1-27
X	EP 1 343 125 A (WMS GAMING INC) 10 September 2003 (2003-09-10) paragraph '0018! - paragraph '0021! claims 1,31,52; figure 1	1-27
X	EP 1 013 321 A (INTER VISION CORPORATION) 28 June 2000 (2000-06-28) figures 1,3,5	1-27
X	WO 98/30297 A (SILICON GAMING, INC; ALCORN, ALLAN, E; HALE, RICHARD, L) 16 July 1998 (1998-07-16) claim 1; figure 1	11-14
A		1-10, 15-27
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Patent family members are listed in annex.

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C.(Continuation) DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT		
Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
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