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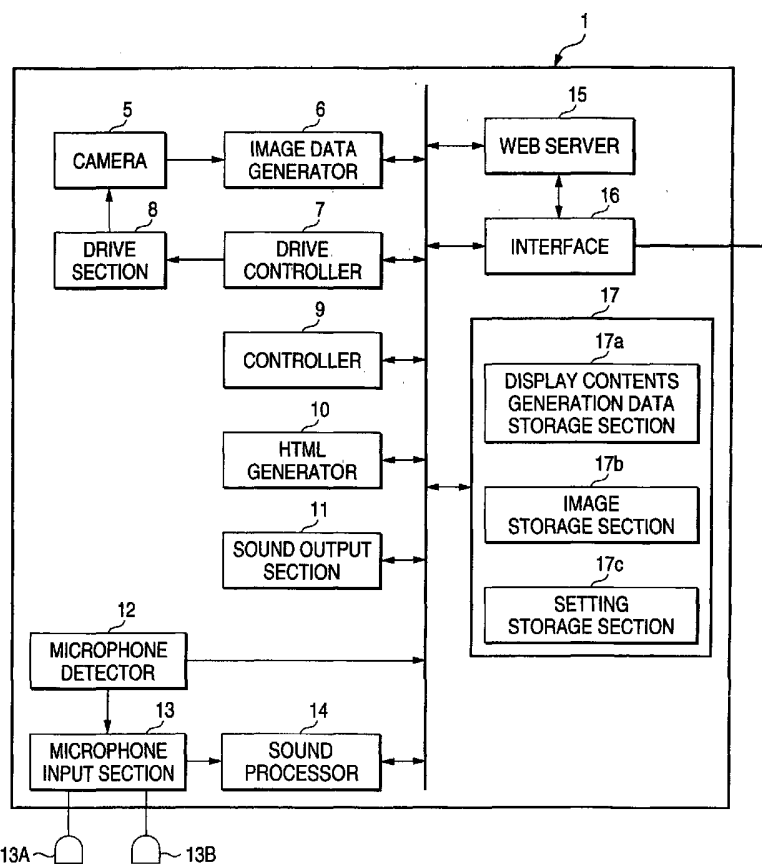
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[Continued on next page]

(54) Title: SERVER APPARATUS AND A DATA COMMUNICATIONS SYSTEM



(57) Abstract: The invention aims at providing server apparatus capable of outputting image data and sound data thereby deactivating sound transmission at a low cost and with ease. That is, a sound input device (microphone) for converting sound to a sound signal is made detachable. A connection detector for detecting whether this sound input device (microphone) is connected is provided. In case the sound input device is connected to a sound input section, the sound transmission function is automatically controlled into the operating state. In case the sound input device is not connected, the sound transmission function is automatically controlled into the non-operating state. Thus, only a simple procedure of removing the sound input device from the sound input section is needed to deactivate sound transmission. This allows switching between activation and deactivation of sound transmission at a low cost. Useless sound data (null data) is not transmitted when the sound input device is not connected. This allows efficient use of communications lines.



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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

International Application No.

PCT/JP2004/006894

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER
 IPC 7 H04L29/06 H04N7/14

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 H04N H04L

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, COMPENDEX, IBM-TDB, INSPEC

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	WO 02/32054 A (MANTEGNA JOHN ; WU SHUWU (US); AMERICA ONLINE INC (US)) 18 April 2002 (2002-04-18)	1,2,6-9, 15,16
Y	page 1, line 21 - line 28	3-5,10, 11
	page 2, line 12 - line 18 page 3, line 20 - line 27 page 4, line 12 - line 27 page 10, line 1 - page 12, line 17	
Y	US 5 872 922 A (HOGAN MICHAEL J ET AL) 16 February 1999 (1999-02-16) abstract page 3, line 15 - page 4, line 11 page 6, line 19 - line 55	3-5,10, 11
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☒ 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

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"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.

"&" document member of the same patent family

Date of the actual completion of the international search

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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International Application No.

PCT/JP2004/006894

C.(Continuation) DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category °	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
A	LANGI A Z R ED - INSTITUTE OF ELECTRICAL AND ELECTRONICS ENGINEERS: "A multimedia communication terminal for telephone channels based on H.324" IEEE CANADIAN CONFERENCE ON ELECTRICAL AND COMPUTER ENGINEERING. CCECE 2002. WINNIPEG, MANITOBA, CANADA, MAY 12 - 15, 2002, CANADIAN CONFERENCE ON ELECTRICAL AND COMPUTER ENGINEERING, NEW YORK, NY : IEEE, US, vol. VOL. 1 OF 3, 12 May 2002 (2002-05-12), pages 1064-1067, XP010707803 ISBN: 0-7803-7514-9 the whole document	1
A	----- INTEL: "Revised AC '97 Enables New Sensing for Analog Peripherals" INTEL DEVELOPER UPDATE MAGAZINE, [Online] May 2002 (2002-05), pages 1-5, XP002299721 Retrieved from the Internet: URL:http://www.intel.com/update/departments/initech/it05021.pdf> [retrieved on 2004-10-06] Extended Codec Registers page 3	1
A	& INTEL: "Audio Codec '97, Revision 2.3" INTEL SPECIFICATION, [Online] April 2002 (2002-04), pages 1-108, XP002299725 Retrieved from the Internet: URL:ftp://download.intel.com/labs/media/audio/download/ac97_r23.pdf> [retrieved on 2004-10-06] page 9, paragraph 1.1 page 65 - page 66, paragraph 5.9.2.2 page 67 - page 69, paragraph 5.9.2.3 -----	1

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International Application No.
PCT/JP2004/006894

Box II Observations where certain claims were found unsearchable (Continuation of item 2 of first sheet)

This International Search Report has not been established in respect of certain claims under Article 17(2)(a) for the following reasons:

1. ☐ Claims Nos.:
because they relate to subject matter not required to be searched by this Authority, namely:
2. ☐ Claims Nos.:
because they relate to parts of the International Application that do not comply with the prescribed requirements to such an extent that no meaningful International Search can be carried out, specifically:
3. ☐ Claims Nos.:
because they are dependent claims and are not drafted in accordance with the second and third sentences of Rule 6.4(a).

Box III Observations where unity of invention is lacking (Continuation of item 3 of first sheet)

This International Searching Authority found multiple inventions in this international application, as follows:

see additional sheet

1. ☐ As all required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this International Search Report covers all searchable claims.
2. ☐ As all searchable claims could be searched without effort justifying an additional fee, this Authority did not invite payment of any additional fee.
3. ☐ As only some of the required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this International Search Report covers only those claims for which fees were paid, specifically claims Nos.:
4. ☒ No required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant. Consequently, this International Search Report is restricted to the invention first mentioned in the claims; it is covered by claims Nos.:

1-11, 15, 16

Remark on Protest

- ☐ The additional search fees were accompanied by the applicant's protest.
- ☐ No protest accompanied the payment of additional search fees.

FURTHER INFORMATION CONTINUED FROM PCT/ISA/ 210

This International Searching Authority found multiple (groups of) inventions in this international application, as follows:

1. claims: 1-11,15 (dependent on claims 1-8 and 12-13),16

A server apparatus comprising a connection detector and a controller, and a corresponding method and data communications system.

2. claims: 12,13,15 (dependent on claims 1-8 and 12-13),17

A program to display at a client terminal the information that sound output is unavailable, and a corresponding method and data communications system.

3. claims: 14,15 (dependent on claims 1-8 and 14)

A program causing a computer so server as sound buffer control means, and a corresponding data communications system.

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Information on patent family members

International Application No.

PCT/JP2004/006894

Patent document cited in search report		Publication date	Patent family member(s)	Publication date
WO 0232054	A	18-04-2002	US 2002046288 A1	18-04-2002
			US 2002044665 A1	18-04-2002
			US 2002097822 A1	25-07-2002
			AU 1320802 A	22-04-2002
			EP 1346543 A2	24-09-2003
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