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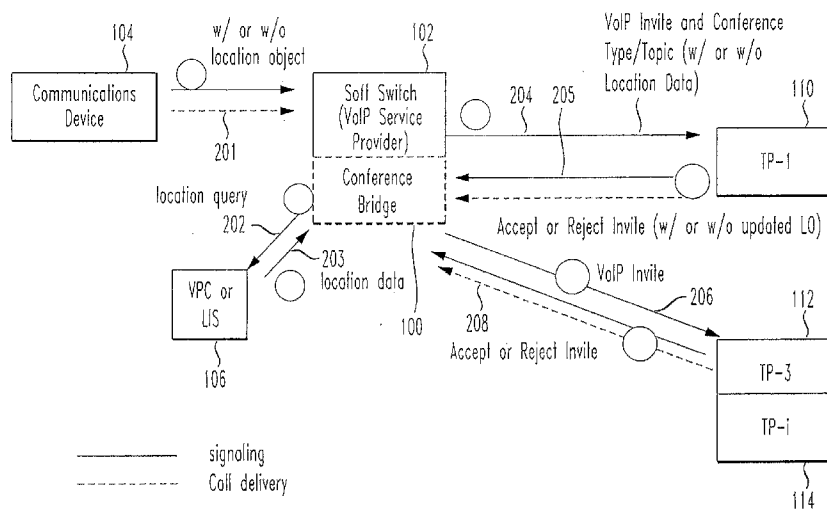
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(54) Title: VOICE OVER INTERNET PROTOCOL (VOIP) LOCATION BASED CONFERENCING



(57) Abstract: A Voice over Internet Protocol (VoIP) device (104) uses its location to narrow down known and unknown potential VoIP third parties (110, 112, 114) meeting the user's criteria, based on their physical proximity to the initial caller and other pre-determined characteristics, to join in a phone conference. A VoIP soft switch (102) includes conference bridges (100) that eliminate the conventional requirement that they dial digits for a direct link with another specific VoIP communications device (112). Instead, location information (203) relating to the initial VoIP user (104) is passed to the VoIP conference bridge (100), either from the user's VoIP communication device (104) or from their respective location server (106). The location information is then compared by the VoIP soft switch (102) against other VoIP devices to find potential VoIP users within a defined geographic region surrounding the initial VoIP user. Those VoIP users matching the criteria are sent an Invite message (204, 206) to join the conference, which they may or may not accept (205, 208).

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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

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A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER
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USPC: 370/352
 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)
 U.S. : 370/352,351,260-269

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)

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	US PGPuB 20040047461 (WEISMAN) 11 March 2004 (11.03.2004), page 7 paragraph 111, page 6 paragraph 88, pages 6-7 paragraph 101	1
X	US PG PuB 20040032485 (STEPHENS) 19 February 2004 (19.02.2004), Figures 5, 2, 1, page 5 paragraphs 40, 42, 43, page 2 paragraph 17,	2, 5, 8, 11
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Y		3-4, 6-7, 9-10, 12-13
Y	US 6882850 (MCCONNELL) 19 April 2005 (19.04.2005), col 7-8 lines 60-2	3 and 9
Y	US 6539232 (HENDREY) 25 March 2003 (25.03.2003), column 9 lines 1-15	4 and 10
Y	US PG PuB 20040047342 (GAVISH) 11 March 2004 (11.03.2004), Fig. 2, paragraphs 26 page 2, paragraphs 34 page 3	6 and 12
Y	US PG PuB 20050190746 (XIONG) 01 September 2005 (01.09.2005), paragraph 10 page 1	7 and 13

Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C. See patent family annex.

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