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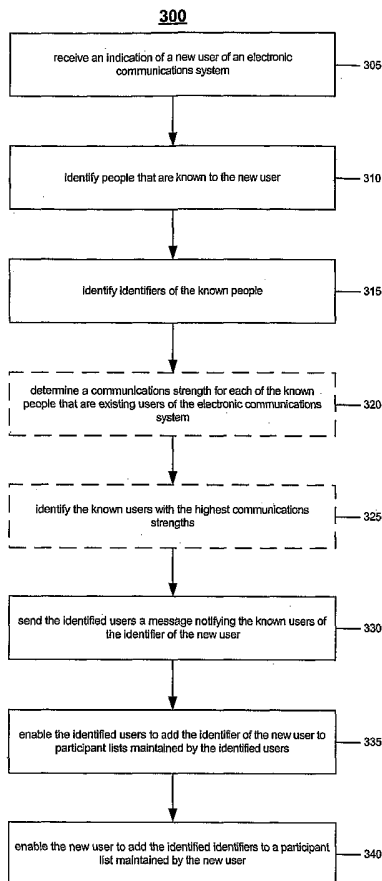
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[Continued on next page]

(54) Title: PASSIVELY POPULATING A PARTICIPANT LIST WITH KNOWN CONTACTS



(57) Abstract: Organizing a participant list includes maintaining a participant list of users of an electronic communications system to be used by a first user of the electronic communications system. Communications strengths between the first user and each of the users included in the participant list are determined (320) (325). The users included in the participant list are organized based on the corresponding communications strengths. Communications strengths may be determined for users included in a group within the participant list, and the users within the group may be organized within the group based on communications strength. An additional group in the participant list in which some or all of the users included in the participant list are organized based on communications strength may be provided. Additional users may be added to the participant list, based on the communications strengths between the first user and the additional users (330). New users may be added to the participant list in response to notifications of the new users that are sent to the first user (335). Identifiers included in the participant list may be categorized into groups within the participant list based on attributes associated with the identifiers (340).

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PH, PL, PT, RO, RU, SC, SD, SE, SG, SK, SL, SM, SY, TJ, TM, TN, TR, TT, TZ, UA, UG, US (patent), UZ, VC, VN, YU, ZA, ZM, ZW.

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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.

PCT/US05/07204

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

IPC(7) : G06F 15/16
 US CL : 709/206

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. : 709/204,207; 707/1, 3; 705/1

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)
 Please See Continuation Sheet

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
Y, P	US 2005/0050143 A1 (GUSTER et al.) (03 March 2005 (03.03.2005)), Abstract, Figures 3-6, page 1, paragraph [0009].	1-119
Y, P	US 2004/0215721 A1 (SZETO et al.) (28 October 2004 (28.10.2004)), Figure 4, page 3, paragraph [0034].	37-40, 48-89, 116-119
Y, P	US 2004/0122810 A1 (MAYER) (24 June 2004 (24.06.2004)), Abstract, paragraph [0091].	1-142
Y, P	US 2004/0117443 A1 (BARSNESS) (17 June 2004 (17.06.2004)), Abstract, page 5, paragraphs [0046]-[0047].	48-83, 120-142

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

* Special categories of cited documents:	
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"O" document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means	"&" document member of the same patent family
"P" document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed	

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Continuation of B. FIELDS SEARCHED Item 3:

EAST Search:

Search terms: maintaining, categorizing, sorting, organizing, attendee, attendants, participants, buddy lists, friends, users, instant messaging or IM.