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(72) Inventors; and
(71) Applicants : **GOUD, Hari Krishna** [IN/IN]; H.NO. 8-7-27/14 & 15, FLAT NO 309, Gayathri, Residency, R.R.Nagar Colony, Old Bowenpally, Secunderabad, Telangana - 500011, Hyderabad (IN). **POGUL, Abhinetri** [IN/IN]; 1-4-881, flat no 303, Orlean Chambers, Gandhi Nagar, Hyderabad, Telangana Hyderabad (IN).

(74) Agent: **ANUMULA, Naveen Kumar**; 16-8-746, New Malakpet, Hyderabad, Telangana, I, Hyderabad (IN).

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— *as to the identity of the inventor (Rule 4.17(i))*

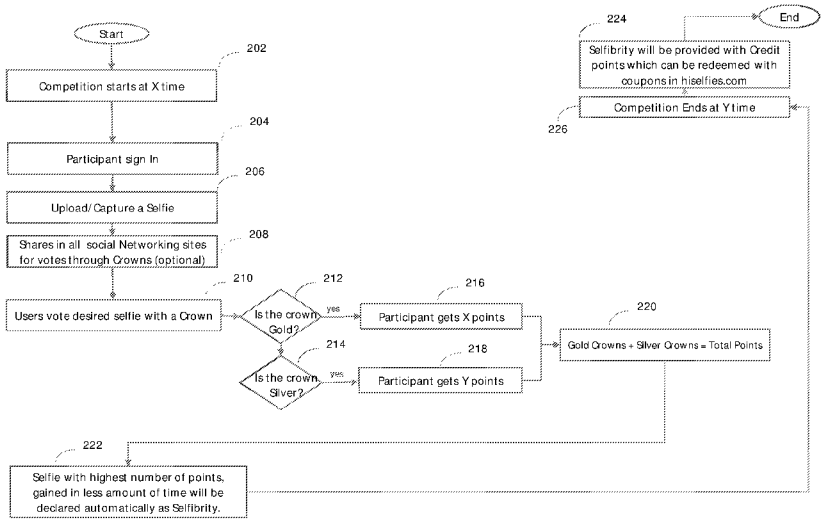
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(54) Title: A COMPUTER IMPLEMENTED METHOD TO PARTICIPATE IN A CONTEST USING A PHOTOGRAPH AND AN AUTOMATIC PROFILE PICTURE REPLACEMENT



(57) Abstract: A system and method to facilitate users to upload instant content onto a social networking service and enable the users to share the uploaded content with the other users onto the network and participate in a periodic contest arranged for a predetermined period by the social network service provider is provided. Also, a method for dynamic real-time profile picture replacement in various other social networking platforms is disclosed.

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A computer implemented method to participate in a contest using a photograph and an automatic profile picture replacement

Field of the Invention

The present invention relates generally to social networking services and more particularly to facilitate user's to upload that one has taken of oneself, typically one taken with a smartphone or handheld device or a webcam onto the network and participate in a contest and the like for a predetermined period.

Background of the Invention

Social networking services users may form connections, associations, or other relationships with other users based on real-life interactions, online interactions, or a mixture of both. Users may be from the same or different geographic location and may have friends of that (any) particular location or may have similar friends of same college or university. Any information or Posts/Content posted by a user may be made available to the user's connections based on the privacy settings.

Social networking systems often facilitate the users to express their feelings on the posts/content posted by other users within their group. However, there is no recognition of the posts posted and also the posts are available to the users within the group, the posts/content posted on the social networking platform is limited. Consequently, users are less likely to take advantage of groups of connections, and the user experience of the social networking service is diminished. Alternatively there is a need for users to post content on a network and enable the user to share to the entire group and facilitate the user to take part in a contest or the like.

Also the existing social networking systems have profile pictures wherein, the user is required to login and then change user profile picture. This manual process of changing the profile picture is time consuming and the user's interest to change their profile picture ceases. Hence, there is a need for an automatic profile picture replacement system which replaces the profile picture at a predetermined period. Also, there is a need for a single platform to replace all the profile pictures of users having accounts in various social networking sites.

Also there is a need for a system to get rewarded for posts being posted in the social networking sites and the following invention provide a computer implemented system to facilitate reward system or discount coupons for the posts posted in the social networking sites.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

The following presents a simplified summary of the disclosure in order to provide a basic understanding to the reader. This summary is not an extensive overview of the disclosure and it does not identify key/critical elements of the invention or delineate the scope of the invention. Its sole purpose is to present some concepts disclosed herein in a simplified form as a prelude to the more detailed description that is presented later.

The post/content hereafter may include but not limited to a self-taken photograph, self-taken group photograph, a natural photograph or any other user taken photograph, news, articles, videos or the like. For ease of understanding the following definitions are defined:

1) Selfibrity: Individual Selfie contest winner.
2) Selfiegenic: Individual Selfie contest runner-up.
3) Groupfibrity: Group Selfie Contest Winner.
4) Groupfigenic: Group Selfie Contest Runner-up.

It is an object of the present invention to enhance the user experience of a social networking service. In accordance with one embodiment of the present invention, a user is provided with a facility to update instant post/content using a hand held device, webcam andthe like onto the social networking platform and allowing the user to share the instant post/content to the other users based upon the user's choice. The other users are provided with options of rating the post/content posted by the user and enable the user posted post/content to take part in a contest held by the social network service provider for a predetermined period. The predetermined period may be periodic or non-periodic. After the completion of the predetermined period, the top rated posted posts/contents are notified and awarded accordingly. The user is provided with a tracking option to view the aggregated points and the ranking position of his posted post/content instantly in real time.

In accordance with another embodiment of the present invention, , a user is provided with a facility to update instant post/content using a hand held device, webcam andthe like onto the social networking platform and allowing the user to share the instant post/content to the other users based upon the users choice. The other users are provided with options of different types of

rating to the post/content posted by the user and enable the user posted post/content to take part in a contest held by the social network service provider for a predetermined period. The predetermined period may be periodic or non-periodic. Each type of rating carries different points and the determination of ranking of the users posted post/content is based on the cumulative points aggregated to each posted post/content. After the completion of the predetermined period, the top rated posted posts/contents are notified and awarded accordingly. The user is provided with a tracking option to view the aggregated points and the ranking position of his posted post/content instantly in real time.

In accordance with another exemplary embodiment of the present invention,a user is provided with a facility to update instant post/content using a hand held device, webcam andthe like onto the social networking platform and allowing the user to share the instant post/content to the other users based upon the user's choice. The other users are provided with options of re-editable different types of rating to the post/content posted by the user and enable the user posted post/content to take part in a contest held by the social network service provider for a predetermined period. The predetermined period may be periodic or non-periodic. Each type of rating carries different points and the determination of ranking of the users posted post/content is based on the cumulative points aggregated to each posted post/content. Before the predetermined period, the other users may edit their rating depending upon the other posted posts/contents. After the completion of the predetermined period, the top rated posted posts/contents are notified and awarded accordingly. The user is provided with a tracking option to view the aggregated points and the ranking position of his posted post/content instantly in real time.

In accordance with yet another exemplary embodiment of the preset invention, a user using the social networking platform of the present invention, is provided with a facility to store selective photographs of users choice in a priority folder or the like in the social networking platform, wherein upon activation of automatic profile feature in the social networking platform of the present invention, the profile pictures of the users are automatically replaced and updated by the photographs stored in the priority folder or the like by the user at a predetermined period thereby enabling the user to make his public profile more attractive with the automatic, dynamic, real-time profile picture updating.

In accordance with yet another exemplary embodiment of the preset invention, a user using the social networking platform of the present invention, is provided with a facility to store selective photographs of users choice in a priority folder or the like in the social networking platform, wherein upon activation of automatic profile feature in the social networking platform of the present invention, the profile pictures of the users of various other social networking platforms are automatically replaced and updated by the photographs stored in the priority folder or the like by the user at a predetermined period thereby enabling the user to make his public profile of more than one social network to synchronize with the same profile picture and make their profiles including profiles in various other social network more attractive with the automatic, dynamic, real-time profile picture updating. Hence a single social networking platform replaces all the profile pictures of users having accounts in various social networking sites.

In accordance with another exemplary embodiment of the present invention, a user may take part in the contest with a single post/content or plurality of post/content. The social network service provider may facilitate contests based on plurality ofposts/contents posted by multiple users or for single posted contents/posts. In the case of single posted content/posts contest, the latest posted post/content by the user will be considered for valuation in the contest within the predetermined period of the contest.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

Other objects and advantages of the present invention will become apparent to those skilled in the art upon reading the following detailed description of the preferred embodiments, in conjunction with the accompanying drawings, wherein like reference numerals have been used to designate like elements, and wherein:

Fig 1 is a flowchart depicting the automatic updating of profile picture of the present invention.

Fig 2 is a flowchart depicting the Selfiebritywinner selection method of the present invention.

Fig 3 is a flowchart depicting the Selfiegenicwinner selection method of the present invention.

Fig 4 is a flowchart depicting the Groupfibrity winner selection method of the present invention.

Fig 5 is a flowchart depicting the Groupfigenic winner selection method of the present invention.

Fig 6 is a flowchart depicting the Events organization of the present invention.

DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION

It is to be understood that the present disclosure is not limited in its application to the details of construction and the arrangement of components set forth in the following description. The present disclosure is capable of other embodiments and of being practiced or of being carried out in various ways. Also, it is to be understood that the phraseology and terminology used herein is for the purpose of description and should not be regarded as limiting.

The use of "including", "comprising" or "having" and variations thereof herein is meant to encompass the items listed thereafter and equivalents thereof as well as additional items. The terms "a" and "an" herein do not denote a limitation of quantity, but rather denote the presence of at least one of the referenced item. Further, the use of terms "first", "second", and "third", and the like, herein do not denote any order, quantity, or importance, but rather are used to distinguish one element from another.

It is an object of the present invention to enhance the user experience of a social networking service. In accordance with one embodiment of the present invention, a user is provided with a facility to update instant post/content using a hand held device, webcam and the like onto the social networking platform and allowing the user to share the instant post/content to the other users based upon the users choice. The other users are provided with options of rating the post/content posted by the user and enable the user posted post/content to take part in a contest held by the social network service provider for a predetermined period. The predetermined period may be periodic or non-periodic. After the completion of the predetermined period, the top rated posted posts/contents are notified and awarded accordingly. The user is provided with a tracking option to view the aggregated points and the ranking position of his posted post/content instantly in real time.

In accordance with another embodiment of the present invention, , a user is provided with a facility to update instant post/content using a hand held device, webcam and the like onto the social networking platform and allowing the user to share the instant post/content to the other users based upon the users choice. The other users are provided with options of different types of rating to the post/content posted by the user and enable the user posted post/content to take part in a contest held by the social network service provider for a predetermined period. The predetermined period may be periodic or non-periodic. Each type of rating carries different points and the determination of ranking of the users posted post/content is based on the cumulative points aggregated to each posted post/content. After the completion of the predetermined period, the top rated posted posts/contents are notified and awarded accordingly. The user is provided with a tracking option to view the aggregated points and the ranking position of his posted post/content instantly in real time.

In accordance with another exemplary embodiment of the present invention, a user is provided with a facility to update instant post/content using a hand held device, webcam and the like onto the social networking platform and allowing the user to share the instant post/content to the other users based upon the users choice. The other users are provided with options of re-editable different types of rating to the post/content posted by the user and enable the user posted post/content to take part in a contest held by the social network service provider for a predetermined period. The predetermined period may be periodic or non-periodic. Each type of rating carries different points and the determination of ranking of the users posted post/content is based on the cumulative points aggregated to each posted post/content. Before the predetermined period, the other users may edit their rating depending upon the other posted posts/contents. After the completion of the predetermined period, the top rated posted posts/contents are notified and awarded accordingly. The user is provided with a tracking option to view the aggregated points and the ranking position of his posted post/content instantly in real time.

In accordance with yet another exemplary embodiment of the preset invention, a user using the social networking platform of the present invention, is provided with a facility to store selective photographs of users choice in a priority folder or the like in the social networking platform,

wherein upon activation of automatic profile feature in the social networking platform of the present invention, the profile pictures of the users are automatically replaced and updated by the photographs stored in the priority folder or the like by the user at a predetermined period thereby enabling the user to make his public profile more attractive with the automatic, dynamic, real-time profile picture updating.

In accordance with yet another exemplary embodiment of the preset invention, a user using the social networking platform of the present invention, is provided with a facility to store selective photographs of users choice in a priority folder or the like in the social networking platform, wherein upon activation of automatic profile feature in the social networking platform of the present invention, the profile pictures of the users of various other social networking platforms are automatically replaced and updated by the photographs stored in the priority folder or the like by the user at a predetermined period thereby enabling the user to make his public profile of more than one social network to synchronize with the same profile picture and make their profiles including profiles in various other social network more attractive with the automatic, dynamic, real-time profile picture updating.

In accordance with another exemplary embodiment of the present invention, a user may take part in the contest with a single post/content or plurality of post/content. The social network service provider may facilitate contests based on plurality of posts/contents posted by multiple users or for single posted contents/posts. In the case of single posted content/posts contest, the latest posted post/content by the user will be considered for valuation in the contest within the predetermined period of the contest.

Referring to Fig.1 is a flowchart depicting profile picture updating of the present invention.The user after registering into the computer implemented system of the present invention selects the profile picture in manual mode or automatic mode wherein, in automatic mode the options of profile updating on daily basis or weekly basis or monthly basis is provided and the profile picture is selected from the profile picture folder and replaces the old profile picture with new profile picture automatically as shown in step 112, 116 and 120 respectively.

Referring to Fig.2 is a flowchart depicting the method of selecting the selfibrity winner using the computer implemented system of the present invention. The Contest starts at an prescheduled time and enables the participant to log in to the computer implemented system of the present invention and upload/capture a selfie. The computer implemented system of the present invention shares the uploaded or captured Selfie onto the other social networking sites for obtaining votes for the uploaded or capturedSelfie. The voting feature as disclosed in step 210 comprises of crowns such as gold crown and a silver crown for which a participant would be allotted points as disclosed in step 216 and step 218. The total number of points accumulated at every instance is calculated periodically and highest number of points accumulated to the Latest uploaded or captured selfie is displayed as selfibrity. In the event of tie, the latter uploaded or captured selfie is considered as the Selfibrity and the end of the predetermined period, the Selfibrity at that instance will be considered as winner and awarded with credit points or coupons which can be redeemed accordingly.

Referring to Fig.3 is a flowchart depicting the method of selecting the Selfigenic Runner up using the computer implemented system of the present invention. The Contest starts at an prescheduled time and enables the participant to log in to the computer implemented system of the present invention and upload/capture a selfie. The computer implemented system of the present invention shares the uploaded or captured Selfie onto the other social networking sites for obtaining votes for the uploaded or captured Selfie. The voting feature as disclosed in step 310 comprises of crowns such as gold crown and a silver crown for which a participant would be allotted points as disclosed in step 316 and step 318. The total number of points accumulated at every instance is calculated periodically and second highest number of points accumulated to the Latestuploaded or captured Selfie is displayed as Selfigenic. In the event of tie, the latter uploaded or captured Selfie is considered as the Selfigenic. Aand the end of the predetermined period, the Selfigenic at that instance will be considered as Runner up and awarded with credit points or coupons which can be redeemed accordingly.

Referring to Fig.4 is a flowchart depicting the method of selecting the Groupfibrity winner using the computer implemented system of the present invention. The Contest starts at an prescheduled time and enables the participant to log in to the computer implemented system of the present

invention and upload/capture a selfieof atleast 2 members. The computer implemented system of the present invention shares the uploaded or captured Selfie onto the other social networking sites for obtaining votes for the uploaded or captured Selfie. The voting feature as disclosed in step 410 comprises of crowns such as gold crown and a silver crown for which a participant would be allotted points as disclosed in step 416 and step 418. The total number of points accumulated at every instance is calculated periodically and highest number of points accumulated to the uploaded or captured selfie is displayed as Groupfibrity. In the event of tie, the latter uploaded or captured selfie is considered as the Groupfibrity and the end of the predetermined period, the Groupfibrity at that instance will be considered as winner and awarded with credit points or coupons which can be redeemed accordingly.

Referring to Fig.5 is a flowchart depicting the method of selecting the Groupfigenic Runner up using the computer implemented system of the present invention. The Contest starts at an prescheduled time and enables the participant to log in to the computer implemented system of the present invention and upload/capture a selfie of at least 2 members. The computer implemented system of the present invention shares the uploaded or captured Selfie onto the other social networking sites for obtaining votes for the uploaded or captured Selfie. The voting feature as disclosed in step 210 comprises of crowns such as gold crown and a silver crown for which a participant would be allotted points as disclosed in step 216 and step 218. The total number of points accumulated at every instance is calculated periodically and second highest number of points accumulated to the uploaded or captured Selfie is displayed as Groupfigenic. In the event of tie, the latter uploaded or captured Selfie is considered as the Groupfigenic and at the end of the predetermined period, the Groupfigenic at that instance will be considered as Runner up and awarded with credit points or coupons which can be redeemed accordingly.

Referring to Fig.6 is a flowchart depicting the method of sponsor conducting a Selfie/ Groupfibrity Contest using the computer implemented system of the present invention. The Contest starts at an prescheduled time and enables the participant to log in to the computer implemented system of the present invention and upload/capture a Selfie of either one or more members. The computer implemented system of the present invention enables the participant to shares the uploaded or captured Selfie/Groupfie onto the other social networking sites for

obtaining votes for the uploaded or captured Selfie. The voting feature as disclosed in step 610 comprises of crowns such as gold crown and a silver crown for which a participant would be allotted points as disclosed in step 616 and step 618. The total number of points accumulated at every instance is calculated periodically and highest number of points accumulated to the uploaded or captured Selfie is displayed as Selfibrity/Groupfibrity. In the event of tie, the latter uploaded or captured Selfie is considered as the Selfibrity/Groupfibrity and at the end of the predetermined period, the Selfibrity/Groupfibrity at that instance will be considered as winner and awarded with credit points or coupons which can be redeemed accordingly. The sponsor may decide any number of winners based on the number of participants and votes obtained in the contest/event.

While specific embodiments of the invention have been shown and described in detail to illustrate the inventive principles, it will be understood that the invention may be embodied otherwise without departing from such principles.

I/We Claim:

1) A computer-implemented method, comprising:

step of enabling a user to logging into the computer implemented system;

step of enabling the user to upload a picture and facilitate the user to share the uploaded picture with other connected user and other social networking sites;

enabling the connected users to provide ratings to the user uploaded picture; and

converting the ratings to points and calculates the total number of points accumulated against each uploaded picture periodically and displays uploaded picture with maximum number of points in less time period is achieved as the winner.

2) The computer-implemented method as claimed in claim 1, the picture may comprise of pre-captured image, Selfie, Groupfie and the like.

3) The computer-implemented method as claimed in claim 1, ratings comprises of gold crown and silver crown;

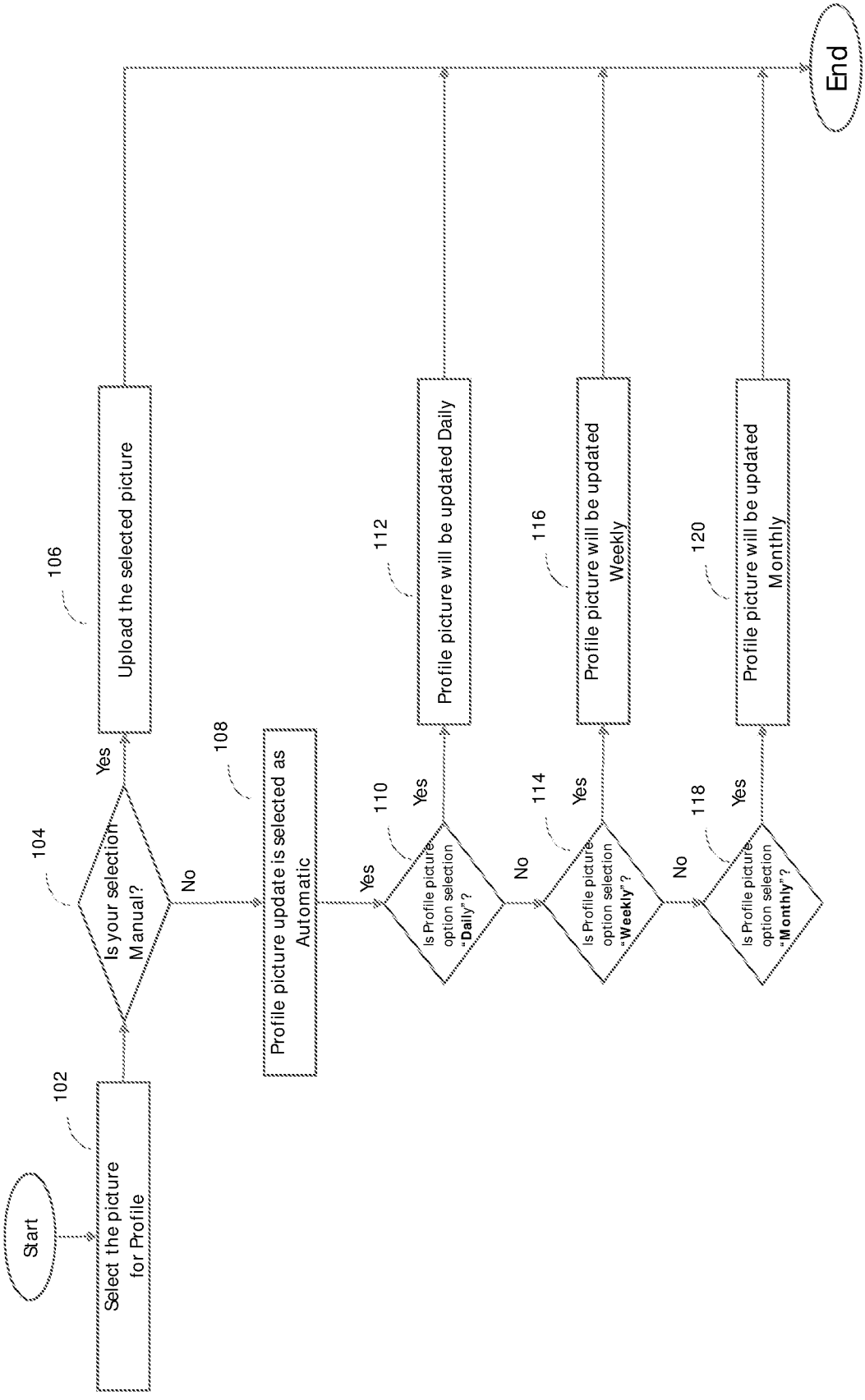
4) The computer-implemented method as claimed in claim 1, the ratings for an uploaded picture shall be for a specific time period such as 24 hrs or 48 hrs or weekly or monthly.

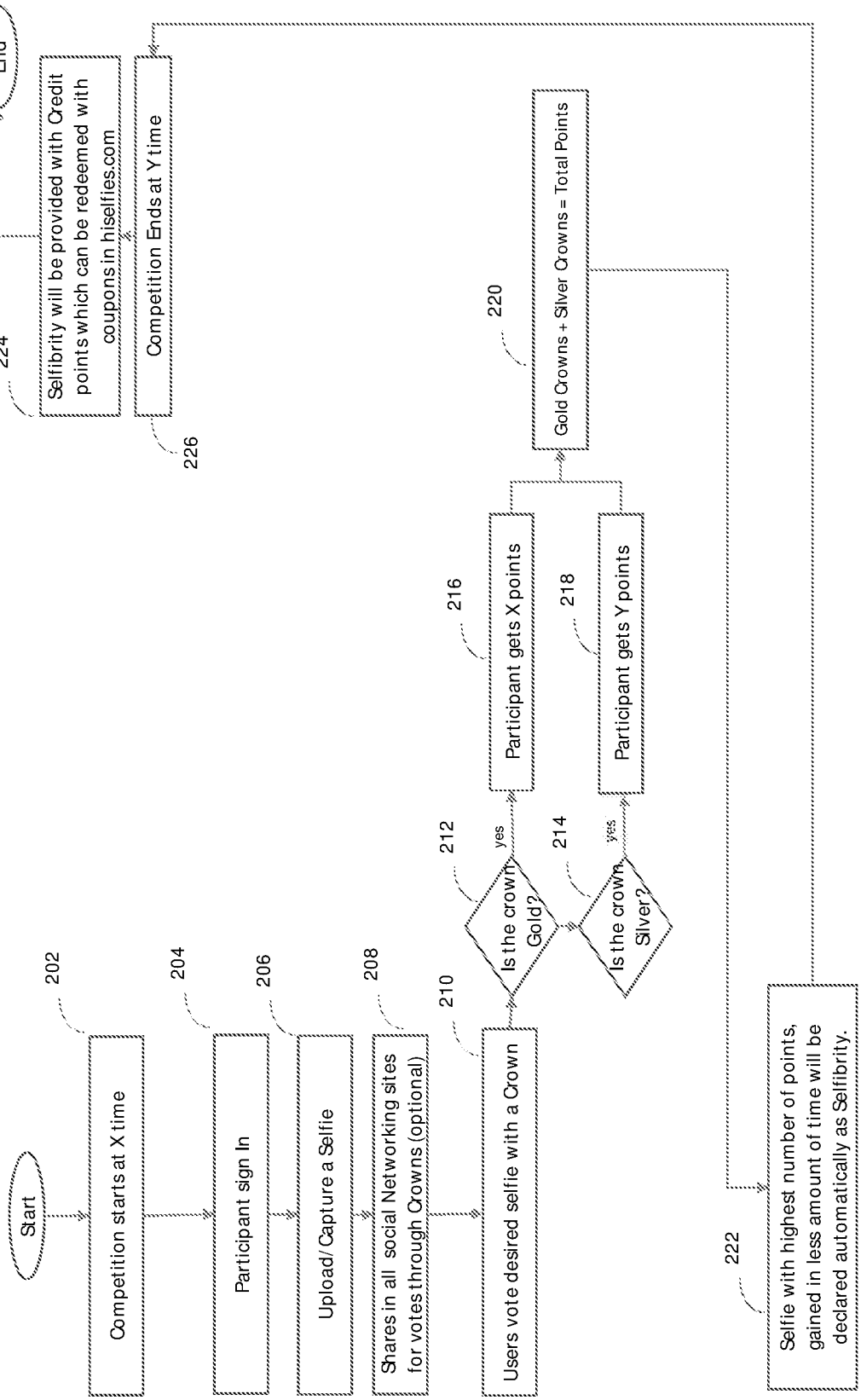
5) A computer-implemented method, for profile picture updating comprising:

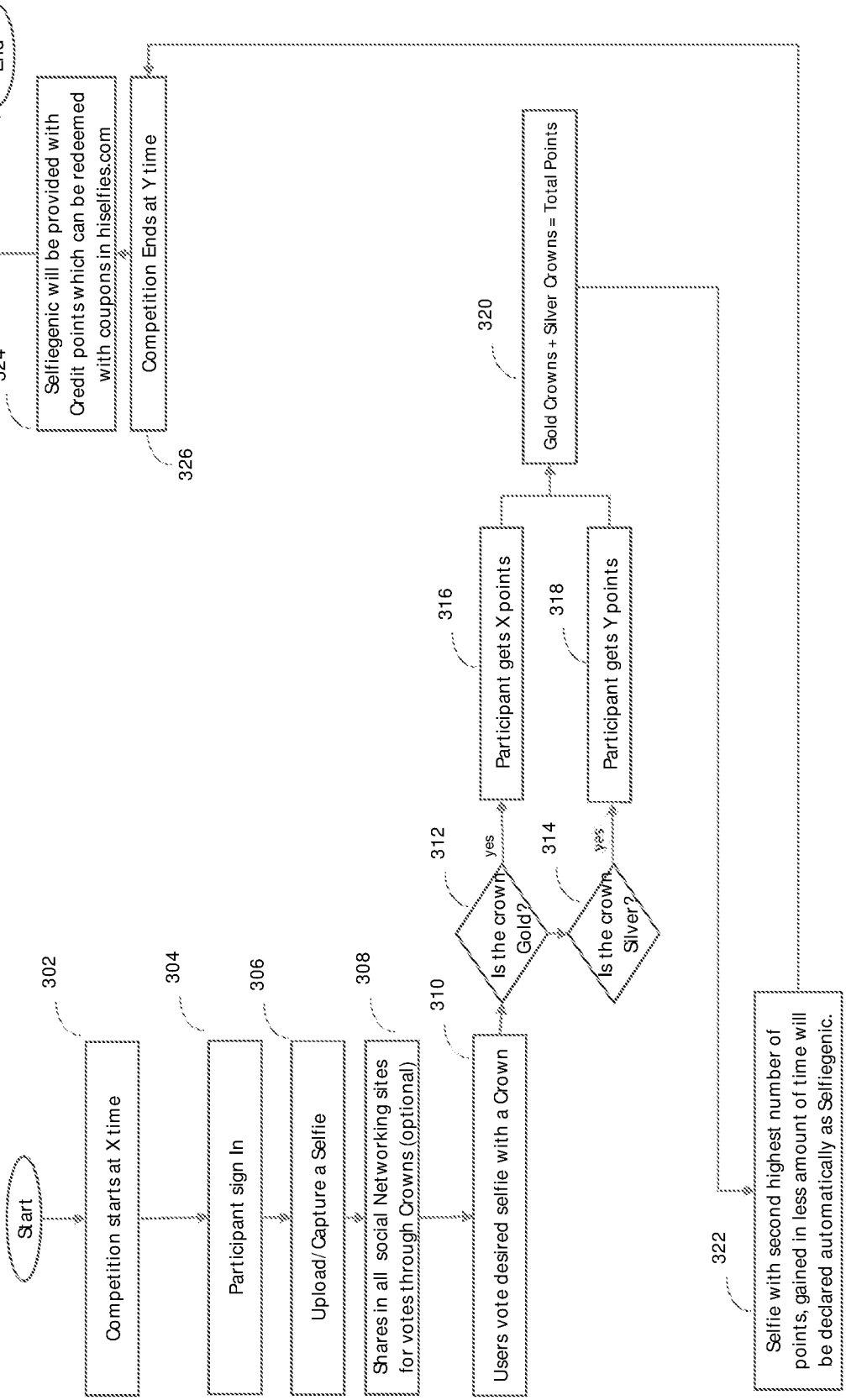
a step of enabling a user to logging into the computer implemented system;

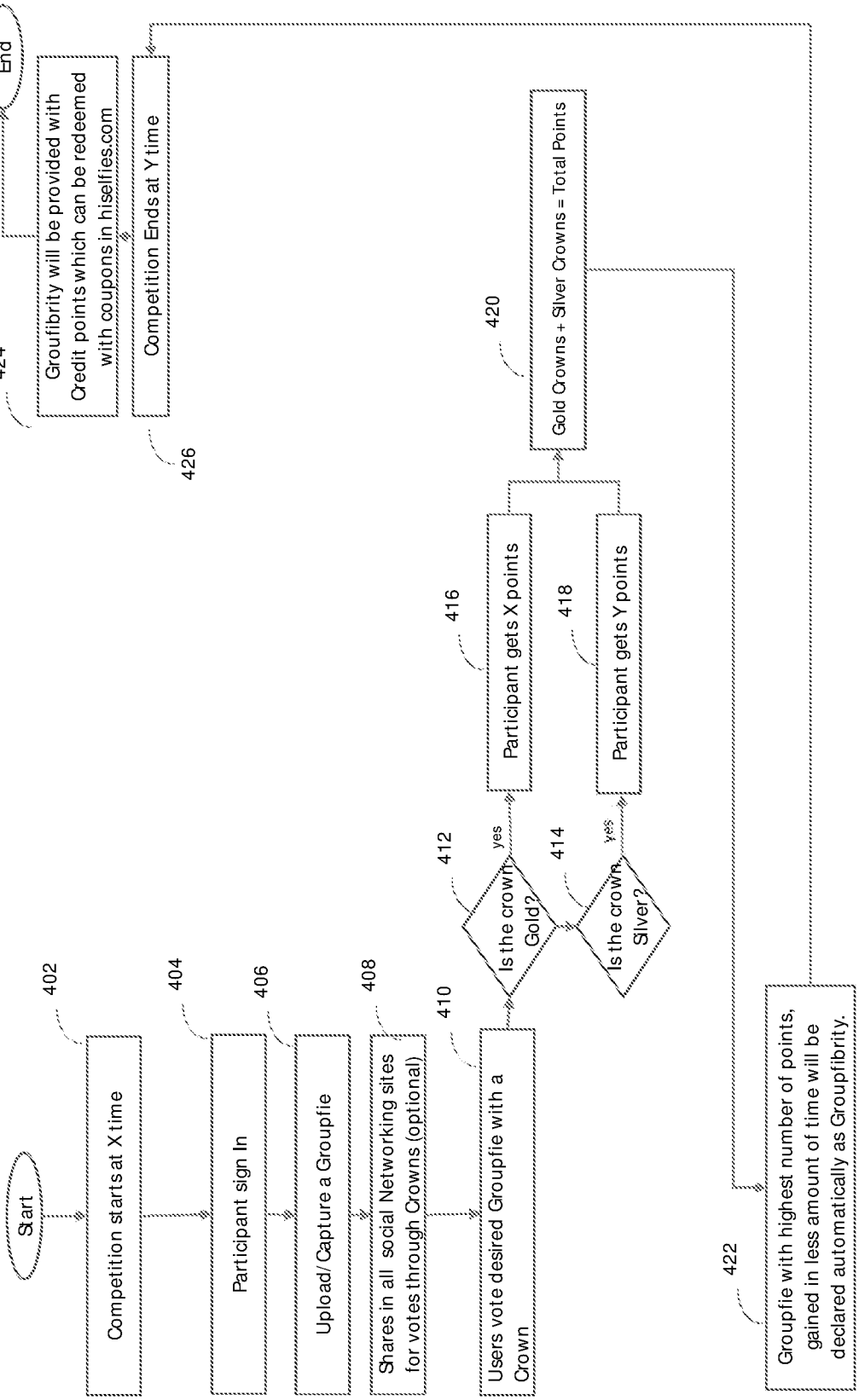
a step of enabling the user to upload a picture and facilitate the user to share the uploaded picture with other connected user and other social networking sites; and

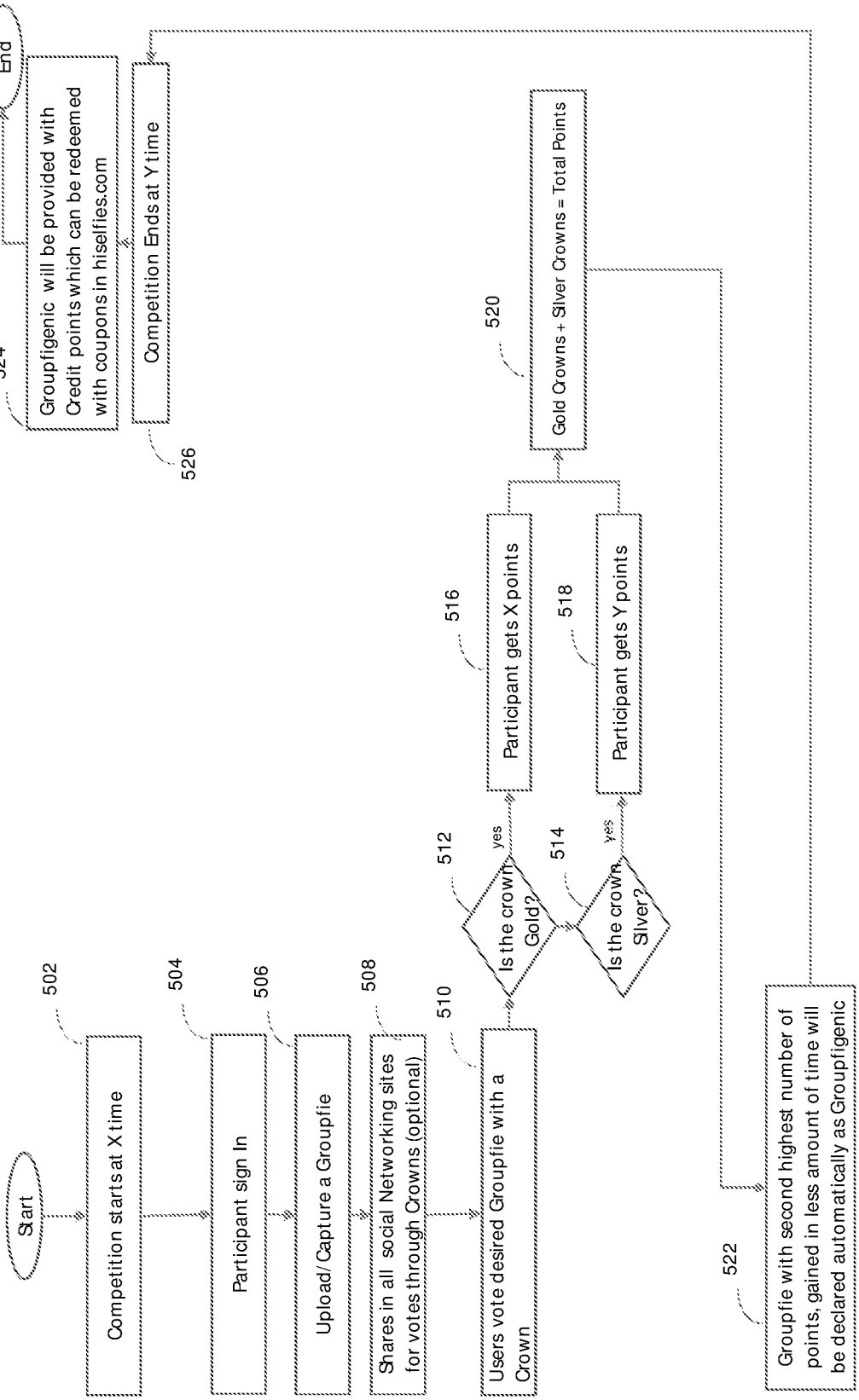
enabling the user to select option of automated profile picture update, wherein upon selection, the profile picture in the computer implemented system or in other social networking sites changes periodically at predetermined period from a priority folder comprising of selected pictures stored by the user.

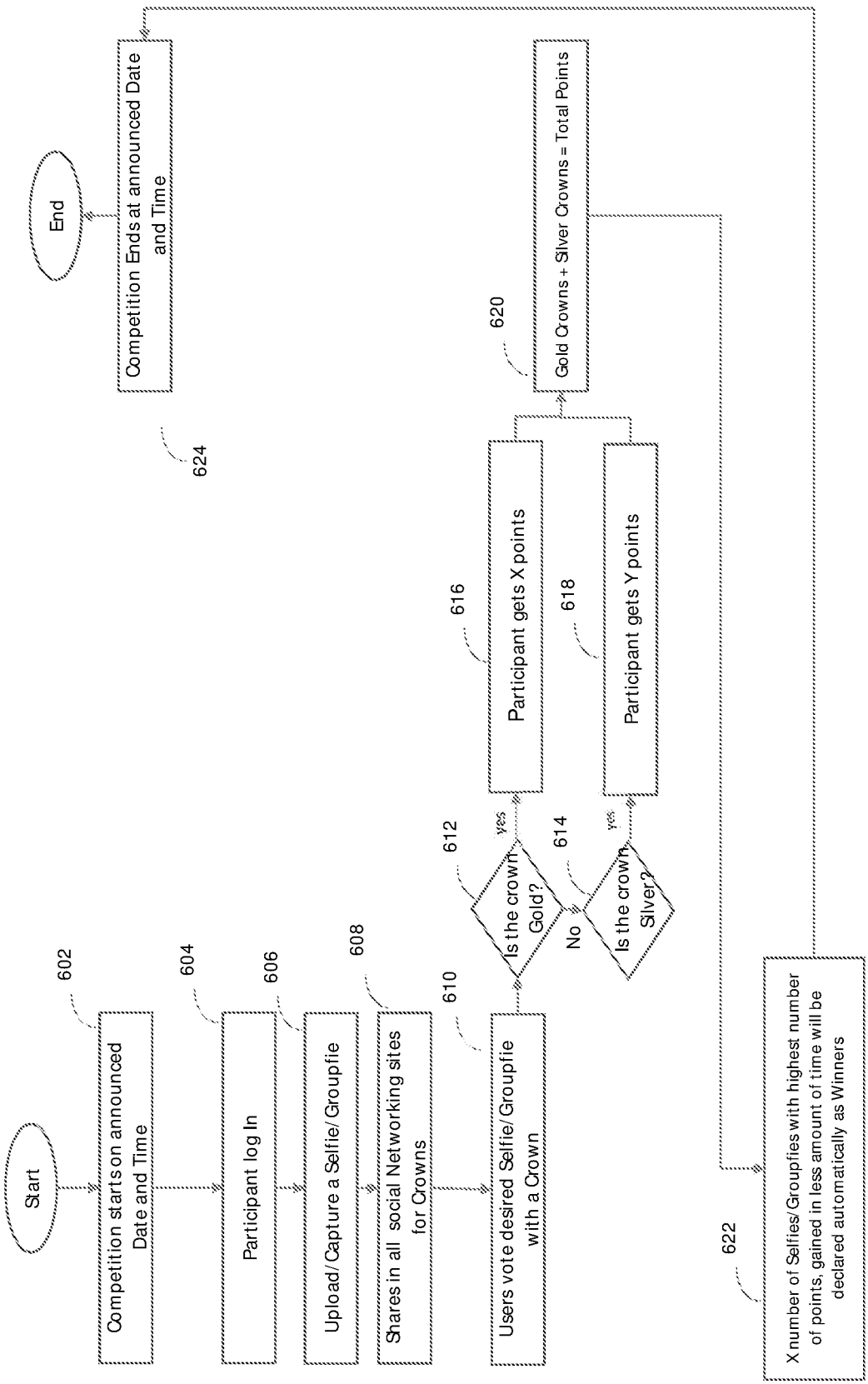

Start
Select the picture for Profile
102
Is your selection Manual?
104
Yes
No
Upload the selected picture
106
Profile picture update is selected as Automatic
108
Yes
Is Profile picture option selection "Daily"?
110
Yes
No
Profile picture will be updated Daily
112
Is Profile picture option selection "Weekly"?
114
Yes
No
Profile picture will be updated Weekly
116
Is Profile picture option selection "Monthly"?
118
Yes
Profile picture will be updated Monthly
120
End


Start
Competition starts at X time
Participant sign In
Upload/Capture a Selfie
Shares in all social Networking sites for votes through Crowns (optional)
Users vote desired selfie with a Crown
Is the crown Gold?
yes
Participant gets X points
Is the crown Silver?
yes
Participant gets Y points
Gold Crowns + Silver Crowns = Total Points
Selfie with highest number of points, gained in less amount of time will be declared automatically as Selfibrity.
Competition Ends at Y time
Selfibrity will be provided with Credit points which can be redeemed with coupons in hiselfies.com
End
202
204
206
208
210
212
214
216
218
220
222
224
226


Start
Competition starts at X time
Participant sign In
Upload/ Capture a Selfie
Shares in all social Networking sites for votes through Crowns (optional)
Users vote desired selfie with a Crown
Is the crown Gold?
yes
Participant gets X points
Gold Crowns + Silver Crowns = Total Points
Is the crown Silver?
yes
Participant gets Y points
Selfie with second highest number of points, gained in less amount of time will be declared automatically as Selfiegenic.
Competition Ends at Y time
Selfiegenic will be provided with Credit points which can be redeemed with coupons in hiselfies.com
End
302
304
306
308
310
312
314
316
318
320
322
324
326


Start
Competition starts at X time
Participant sign In
Upload/ Capture a Groupfie
Shares in all social Networking sites for votes through Crowns (optional)
Users vote desired Groupfie with a Crown
Is the crown Gold?
yes
Is the crown Silver?
yes
Participant gets X points
Participant gets Y points
Gold Crowns + Silver Crowns = Total Points
Competition Ends at Y time
Groupfie with highest number of points, gained in less amount of time will be declared automatically as Groupfibrity.
Groufibrity will be provided with Credit points which can be redeemed with coupons in hiselfies.com
End
402
404
406
408
410
412
414
416
418
420
422
424
426


Start
Competition starts at X time
Participant sign In
Upload/ Capture a Groupfie
Shares in all social Networking sites for votes through Crowns (optional)
Users vote desired Groupfie with a Crown
Is the crown Gold?
yes
Participant gets X points
Is the crown Silver?
yes
Participant gets Y points
Gold Crowns + Silver Crowns = Total Points
Groupfie with second highest number of points, gained in less amount of time will be declared automatically as Groupfigenic
Competition Ends at Y time
Groupfigenic will be provided with Credit points which can be redeemed with coupons in hiselfies.com
End
502
504
506
508
510
512
514
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518
520
522
524
526


Start
Competition starts on announced Date and Time
602
Participant log In
604
Upload/Capture a Selfie/Groupfie
606
Shares in all social Networking sites for Crowns
608
Users vote desired Selfie/Groupfie with a Crown
610
Is the crown Gold?
612
yes
No
Is the crown Silver?
614
yes
Participant gets X points
616
Participant gets Y points
618
Gold Crowns + Silver Crowns = Total Points
620
Competition Ends at announced Date and Time
624
End
X number of Selfies/Groupfies with highest number of points, gained in less amount of time will be declared automatically as Winners
622

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.
PCT/IB2015/057053

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER
G06Q30/00,G06Q50/00,H04N21/00,G06K9/20 Version=2016.01

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)

G06Q, H04N, G06K

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)

Databases: Patseer, IPO internal
Search terms: upload, image, rating, contest

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	US 7,827,054 B2 (OURSTAGE INC.) 2 November 2010 (02-11-2010) Whole document	1-4
Y	Whole document	5
Y	US 8,867,849 B1 (GOOGLE INC.) 21 October 2014 (21-10-2014) Whole document	5

☐ 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
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"&" document member of the same patent family

Date of the actual completion of the international search	Date of mailing of the international search report
19-01-2016	19-01-2016

Name and mailing address of the ISA/	Authorized officer
Indian Patent Office Plot No.32, Sector 14,Dwarka,New Delhi-110075 Facsimile No.	Rakesh Kr Kushwaha Telephone No. +91-1125300200

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT
Information on patent family members

International application No.
PCT/IB2015/057053

Citation	Pub.Date	Family	Pub.Date
US 7,827,054 B2	02-11-2010	EP 2076891 A2	08-07-2009
		WO 2008042666 A2	10-04-2008