



(51) International Patent Classification:
G06Q 10/10 (2012.01)

(21) International Application Number:
PCT/IB2015/059660

(22) International Filing Date:
16 December 2015 (16.12.2015)

(25) Filing Language: English

(26) Publication Language: English

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(81) Designated States (unless otherwise indicated, for every kind of national protection available): AE, AG, AL, AM, AO, AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BH, BN, BR, BW, BY, BZ, CA, CH, CL, CN, CO, CR, CU, CZ, DE, DK, DM, DO, DZ, EC, EE, EG, ES, FI, GB, GD, GE, GH, GM, GT, HN, HR, HU, ID, IL, IN, IR, IS, JP, KE, KG, KN, KP, KR, KZ, LA, LC, LK, LR, LS, LU, LY, MA, MD, ME, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, MY, MZ, NA, NG, NI, NO, NZ, OM, PA, PE, PG, PH, PL, PT, QA, RO, RS, RU, RW, SA, SC, SD, SE, SG, SK, SL, SM, ST, SV, SY, TH, TJ, TM, TN, TR, TT, TZ, UA, UG, US, UZ, VC, VN, ZA, ZM, ZW.

(84) Designated States (unless otherwise indicated, for every kind of regional protection available): ARIPO (BW, GH, GM, KE, LR, LS, MW, MZ, NA, RW, SD, SL, ST, SZ, TZ, UG, ZM, ZW), Eurasian (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, RU, TJ, TM), European (AL, AT, BE, BG, CH, CY, CZ, DE, DK, EE, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, HR, HU, IE, IS, IT, LT, LU, LV, MC, MK, MT, NL, NO, PL, PT, RO, RS, SE, SI, SK, SM, TR), OAPI (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, GQ, GW, KM, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG).

Published:

— with international search report (Art. 21(3))

(54) Title: METHOD FOR ARRANGING A MEETING AND A NON-TRANSITORY COMPUTER-READABLE RECORDING MEDIUM

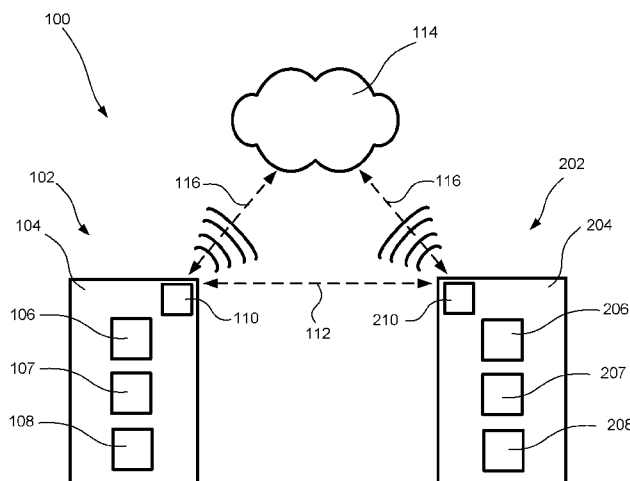


FIG. 1

(57) Abstract: The disclosure relates to a method for arranging a meeting, the method comprising: associating a first system with a first user, and associating a second system with a second user, the systems each comprising a mobile communications device comprising a positioning system for determining the position of the mobile communications device, and calendar software having stored calendar data or having access to calendar data stored elsewhere, defining in the first system, by the first user, a request for a meeting with the second user, sending the request to the second system, tracking the positions of the mobile communications devices of the first and the second systems, determining if a meeting is suitable by determining if the mobile communications devices are within a predetermined distance from each other, and by determining, based on the calendar data of the first system and the calendar data of the second system, if the first and second users are accessible for the meeting, notifying at least one of the first and second user that it has been determined that a meeting is suitable.

METHOD FOR ARRANGING A MEETING AND A NON-TRANSITORY
COMPUTER-READABLE RECORDING MEDIUM

Field of invention

The invention relates to a method for arranging a meeting.

The invention also relates to a non-transitory computer-readable
5 recording medium having recorded thereon a program adapted to be
executed on an electronic device having processing capabilities.

Technical Background

There are different calendar systems and software solutions available
10 on the market. The calendar systems typically allow a first user to send a
request concerning a meeting to a second user. The request for a meeting
typically includes a start time and an end time and optionally also includes
resources and/or location. The second user typically has different options in
15 responding to the request, such as accepting or declining or suggesting
another time. The calendar system typically provides the possibility to handle
the request and responses on a computer and/or on a mobile
communications device. Also the calendar system typically provides the
possibility to display the calendar and to get reminders or notifications on both
a computer and/or on a mobile communications device.

20 However, there is still room for improvements.

Summary of invention

It is an object of the invention to provide a method for arranging a
meeting.

25 This object has been achieved by a method for arranging a meeting,
the method comprising:

associating a first system with a first user, the first system comprising
a mobile communications device comprising
a positioning system for determining the position of the
30 mobile communications device, and

calendar software having stored calendar data or having
access to calendar data stored elsewhere,

associating a second system with a second user, the second system comprising

a mobile communications device comprising

a positioning system for determining the position of the mobile communications device, and

calendar software having stored calendar data or having access to calendar data stored elsewhere,

defining in the first system, by the first user, a request for a meeting with the second user,

sending, by the first system, the request to the second system,

tracking the positions of the mobile communications devices of the first and the second systems,

determining if a meeting is suitable

by determining if the mobile communications devices of the first and the second systems are within a predetermined distance from each other, and

by determining, based on the calendar data of the first system and the calendar data of the second system, if the first and second users are accessible for the meeting,

notifying at least one of the first and second user, via the system associated with respective user, that it has been determined that a meeting is suitable.

This method is especially suitable to arrange so-called ad-hoc meetings. The first user defines and sends a request to the second user that there is a need or desire for a meeting. The request is typically not specified with an exact time. The request is typically sent as a request for a meeting to be held when such a meeting is suitable.

By tracking the positions of the mobile communications devices of the first and the second systems it is possible to determine if the mobile communications devices of the first and the second systems are within a predetermined distance from each other and thereby, by assuming that the first and the second users actually carry their respective mobile communications device, determine that it is likely that the first and second users are within a predetermined distance from each other. By also checking the calendar data of the first and second systems to determine if the users are accessible, it is possible to determine that a meeting is suitable.

It may be noted that accessible does not necessarily mean that there is a completely open time slot in both users' calendars. Accessible or not may e.g. be associated with different prioritisations in one or both of the users' calendars.

- 5 By notifying at least one of the users that a meetings is determined as suitable, that user (or both users if both are notified) may decide to take the initiative to actually look up the other user to have the meeting.

10 It may be noted that the calendar software on respective mobile communications device may have calendar data actually stored on a memory of the mobile communications device. As an alternative to or as a complement thereto, the calendar data may be stored elsewhere, such as on a remote server. Typically the mobile communications device have calendar data stored in its memory covering a certain time span and communicates with the server according to an updating scheme to update the stored
15 calendar data.

The second user may be uniquely identified in the request for a meeting. Alternatively, the request for a meeting may be sent to a group of users including said second user.

20 The request for a meeting may include information concerning an end time or end date for arranging the meeting.

The request for a meeting may include information concerning expected duration of meeting.

The request for a meeting may include information concerning requested or suggested prioritisation of the meeting.

25 The request for a meeting may include information concerning the predetermined distance. It may e.g. be useful to use different predetermined distances for different kinds of requests to different kinds of users or different resources.

30 The method may include updating the prioritisation based on time available before end date or end time.

In one embodiment, the tracking commences as soon as the request for a meeting has been sent by the first user.

35 The request for a meeting may relate to a meeting with additional users or attendees apart from the first and second user. In such a request the different users may be associated with different priorities, such as be being required or optional attendee.

The method may further comprise: **sending**, by the second system, from the second user, an acceptance of the request for a meeting, and in response to the sending of the acceptance commence said tracking the positions of the mobile communications devices of the first and the second systems. With this set-up, the tracking will commence only after the second user has accepted the request for a meeting.

If the request relates to a meeting with additional users or attendees apart from the first and second user it may in one embodiment be sufficient that one of the users accepts the request. If the different users are, in the request, associated with different priorities, such as being required or optional attendee, it may e.g. be sufficient that the required attendee(s) have accepted the request for tracking to commence.

In one embodiment the first system only comprises the mobile communications device, and wherein the second system only comprises the mobile communications device.

In one embodiment the first system comprises a plurality of electronic communication devices with calendar software having stored calendar data or having access to calendar data stored elsewhere, wherein said plurality of electronic communication devices includes the mobile communications device, and wherein the second system comprises a plurality of electronic communication devices with calendar software having stored calendar data or having access to calendar data stored elsewhere, wherein said plurality of electronic communication devices includes the mobile communications device. In this embodiment, the respective system may e.g. comprise a computer and a mobile communications device. The first user may define and send the request on either one of the computer and the mobile communications device.

It may be noted that computer is an example of such an electronic communications device. It may be replaced with or complemented with other kinds of electronic communication devices, such as tablets, personal digital assistants (PDAs), smart watches, smart bracelets, wearable electronic communication devices.

The notifying may include **notifying** the first user, via the first system, that it has been determined that a meeting is suitable, and **notifying** the second user, via the second system, that it has been determined that a meeting is suitable.

With this set-up, both users may take the initiative to actually meet. As an alternative, only the user(s) that have accepted the request is provided with a notification. This may also be combined with the above discussed request where a plurality of users is invited with different priorities
5 (required/optional). For instance, the required attendees are notified and are also informed that the optional attendee(s) are nearby, but the optional attendees are not notified. This may also be combined with other kinds of prioritisations concerning the perceived importance of the meeting. For instance, for highly prioritised meetings all attendees are notified but for less
10 prioritised meetings only the required attendees are notified.

The mobile communications devices may be cell phones.

It may be noted that the request for a meeting may also include a request to or for a resource. This resource may be a uniquely specified resource, such as a specific conference room or may be specified from a
15 group of resources. The group of resources may e.g. be based on a property, such as being a conference room or being a projector.

It is e.g. conceivable that the request for a meeting includes a request to a second user as a required attendee, a request for a third user as an optional attendee and a request for a suitable conference room (within a
20 predetermined distance from the positions of the first and second mobile communication devices) once it has been determined that a meeting is suitable.

It is also an object of the invention to provide a program for implement in the above method.

25 This has been achieved by a non-transitory computer-readable recording medium having recorded thereon a program which, when executed on a mobile communications device having

processing capabilities,
a positioning system for determining the position of the mobile
30 communications device, and
calendar software having stored calendar data or having access to calendar data stored elsewhere,

is arranged for implementing:

defining, by a first user, a request for a meeting with a second user,
35 **sending** the request to a second system being associated with the second user,
tracking the position of mobile communications device,

communicating directly or indirectly with a second mobile communications device, which is included in the second system and which position is tracked, **determining** if a meeting is suitable

- 5 by determining if the mobile communications device is within a predetermined distance from the second mobile communications device, and
- by determining, based on calendar data of or accessible by the mobile communications device and the calendar data of the second system, if the first and second users are accessible for the meeting,
- 10 **notifying** the first user, via the mobile communications device, that it has been determined that a meeting is suitable.

Brief description of the drawings

- The invention will by way of example be described in more detail with
- 15 reference to the appended schematic drawings, which shows a presently preferred embodiment of the invention.

Figure 1 is a schematic drawing of a first and a second system.

Figure 2 is a schematic drawing of a first and a second system

- Figure 3 is a schematic drawing showing a plurality of users in an office
- 20 space.

Figure 4 is a flow chart illustrating a method for arranging a meeting.

Detailed description of preferred embodiments

- A method for arranging a meeting will in the following be discussed
- 25 with reference to figures 1 and 4. Figure 1 illustrates a first system 102 and a second system 202 used by a first and a second user, respectively, in the arrangement 100 of a meeting between the first and the second user. The method 400 for arranging the meeting is correspondingly illustrated in figure 4.

- 30 In figure 1, the first system 102 has been associated 401 with the first user and the second system 202 has been associated 402 with the second user. The first system 102 comprises a mobile communications device 104 and the second system 202 comprises a mobile communications device 204.

- The mobile communications device 104 comprises a positioning
- 35 system 106, a memory 108, and a communication unit 110. The mobile communications device 204 also comprises a positioning system 206, a memory 208, and a communication unit 210.

The positioning systems 106 and 206 are arranged to determine the respective positions of the mobile communications devices 104 and 204.

The memories 108 and 208 are arranged to store a calendar software having stored calendar data or having access to calendar data stored
5 elsewhere, as will be described further below.

The mobile communications device and/or the electronic communication devices comprise a processor 107, 207 which may include any type of processor or microprocessor that interprets and executes instructions, especially any instructions in the calendar software.

10 The memory 108, 208 may be a non-transitory memory for storing software and/or storing calendar data. It may include a random access memory (RAM) or another dynamic storage device that stores information and instructions for execution by a processor. The memory 108, 208 may also be used to store temporary variables or other intermediate information during
15 execution of instructions by a processor.

The calendar data may be in the form of calendar software. The calendaring software comprises software that provide a user with an electronic version of a calendar. The calendar software may also comprise an appointment book, address book, and/or contact list. The calendar software
20 may be a local software package designed for individual use, e.g., Microsoft Outlook without Exchange Server, or Windows Calendar) or may be a networked software package that allows for the sharing of information between users (e.g. Windows Live Calendar, Google Calendar, or Microsoft Outlook with Exchange Server). Hence, the calendar software may be used to
25 manage the time schedule of a user. The calendar software of a device, such as the mobile communication device, may be synchronised with one or several online accounts that include calendars, for example, Google™ or Xperia™, Facebook.

The communication units 110 and 210 are adapted to establish at least
30 a communications link between the mobile communications devices 104 and 202. The communications link may be directly from device to device as indicated by line 112 in figure 1 or via a cloud service 114 as indicated by lines 116 in figure 1. When using a cloud service 114, information may also be retrieved from a further unit (not shown) also in communication with the
35 cloud service via another communications link (not shown).

Next a call for and a recommended circumstance for the meeting will be described. The user of the first mobile communications device 104 may in

order to arrange the meeting define 404, in the first system 102, a request for the meeting with the second user. The request is then sent 406, by the first system 102 to the second system 202 via the communications link.

5 The communication unit 110, 210 includes a transceiver that enables communication with other devices and/or systems. For example, the communication units 110 and 210 may include hardware and mechanisms for communicating via a network, such as a wireless network. The communication units 110, 210 may include a radio frequency (RF) transmitter and receiver and one or more antennas for transmitting and receiving RF
10 data.

The communication unit 110, 210 may provide wireless communication for exchanging data over short distances such as Bluetooth, and Near field communication (NFC).

The positions of the mobile communications devices of the first 102
15 and the second 202 systems are tracked 408 utilizing the respective positioning systems 106 and 206 of the mobile communications devices 104 and 204. To determine 410 if a meeting is suitable, it is determined 412 *if* the mobile communications devices 104, 204 of the first 102 and the second 202 systems are within a predetermined distance from each other, and
20 determined 414, based on the calendar data of the first system 102 and the calendar data of the second system 202, *if* the first and second users are accessible for the meeting. If the meeting is determined 410 as suitable at least one of the first and second user is notified 416, via the system 102, 202 associated with respective user, that it has been determined 410 that a
25 meeting is suitable. More specifically, the notifying 416 may include notifying 416a the first user, via the first system 102, that it has been determined 410 that a meeting is suitable, and notifying 416b the second user, via the second system 202, that it has been determined 410 that a meeting is suitable.

The method 400 may further comprise sending 407, by the second
30 system 202, from the second user, an acceptance of the request for a meeting, and in response to the sending of the acceptance commence the tracking 408 the positions of the mobile communications devices 104, 204 of the first 102 and the second 202 systems.

The arrangement 100 and method 400 has been described such that
35 the first system 102 only comprises the mobile communications device 104, and the second system 202 only comprises the mobile communications

device 202. The person skilled in the art realizes that the systems 102 and 202 may comprise additional electronic devices.

Figure 2 illustrates such an embodiment, wherein the first system 102 comprises a plurality of electronic communication devices 103, including the
5 mobile communications device 104. To this end, the second system 202 comprises a plurality of electronic communication devices 203 including the mobile communications device 204.

In this embodiment, the first user may use another of the electronic communications devices to send the request. This another device may e.g.
10 be a computer 105. This computer 105 may communicate over a cloud service 114 with the second system 202. In this second system 202, there may also be computer 205. The second user may use the computer 205 or the mobile communications device 204 to accept the request for a meeting.

The plurality of electronic communication devices 203 electronic
15 communication devices 203 have calendar software having stored calendar data or having access to calendar data stored elsewhere. Hence, the computers 105 and 205 may have calendar software having stored calendar data or having access to calendar data stored elsewhere.

In the disclosed embodiments, the mobile communications devices
20 104, 204 disclosed are cell phones.

The positioning system 106, 206 may, for example, utilize a satellite communication, such as a global positioning system (GPS), for determining the respective positions of the mobile communications devices 104 and 204.

The positioning system 106, 206 may, alternatively or as a complement
25 thereto utilize indoor positioning systems (IPSs), WiFi-location, visual light communication (VLC), smartphone sensors such as Bluetooth, Radio-frequency identification (RFID) or Near-field communication for determining the respective positions of the mobile communications devices 104 and 204.

The applicability in real life may be illustrated as shown in figure 3. The
30 first user has previously sent a request for a meeting and the second user has accepted the request. Therefore tracking of the positions of the first mobile communications device 104 and the second mobile communications device 204 has commenced. For instance, when the first user enters into an office space 500, the distance between first mobile communications device 104 and
35 the second mobile communications device 204 is determined to be within a distance d_1 from each other. If this is determined to be within a predetermined distance from each other the software of respective system 102, 202 also

checks the calendar data whether respective user is accessible. If this is true, both users are notified on their respective mobile communications device 104, 204. Both users may then take the initiative to actually meet with the other.

In the example of figure 3, the first user has also indicated in the
5 request that there is a need for a conference room. The distance d_2 to a conference room 501 is determined and the calendar data associated with the conference room 501 is checked to see if the conference room 501 is accessible for the complete expected time of duration or for a predetermined sufficient part of the expected time of duration. The selection of conference
10 room may e.g. be related to the proportion of time available versus the relative distance between the closest conference room 501 and to the second closest conference room being available for a longer time (or the complete expected duration). The user(s) are notified about the presence of a suitable conference room 501.

15 Similarly, the distance d_3 to other kinds of resources 502, such as a computer, a projector, etc, may be determined and if determined to be within a predetermined distance the presence of the resource is notified to the user(s).

In the example shown in figure 3 it is also contemplated that the first
20 user has invited the second user as a required attendee and a third user has been invited as an optional attendee. When it has been established that it is suitable with a meeting between the first and second users, the third user may be notified via its mobile communications device 304. This notification may be dependent upon if the distance d_4 between the first and the third
25 mobile communications device 304 is determined to be within a predetermined distance. If the third user is too far away it may be decided that there is no need to send a notification.

It may in this context be noted that the predetermined distances may be different between e.g. the first and second user compared to the
30 predetermined distance between the first user and the third user and or the predetermined distance between the first user and any of the resources or conference rooms.

It is contemplated that there are numerous modifications of the embodiments described herein, which are still within the scope of the
35 invention as defined by the appended claims.

It may e.g. be possible to set up rules concerning working hours and non-working hours, and wherein the requests may be associated to working hours and/or non-working hours.

- 5 It may e.g. also be possible to set up rules concerning lunch time where there is no tracking active. At a large company with a central canteen it may e.g. be undesirable that all requests results in a notification during lunch time. This may also be combined with the above discussed prioritisation, such that highly prioritised requests are notified also during lunch time.

CLAIMS

1. Method for arranging a meeting, the method comprising:

associating a first system with a first user, the first system comprising

5

a mobile communications device comprising

a positioning system for determining the position of the
mobile communications device, and

calendar software having stored calendar data or having
access to calendar data stored elsewhere,

10

associating a second system with a second user, the second system
comprising

a mobile communications device comprising

a positioning system for determining the position of the
mobile communications device, and

15

calendar software having stored calendar data or having
access to calendar data stored elsewhere,

defining in the first system, by the first user, a request for a meeting
with the second user,

sending, by the first system, the request to the second system,

20

tracking the positions of the mobile communications devices of the
first and the second systems,

determining if a meeting is suitable

by determining if the mobile communications devices of the first
and the second systems are within a predetermined distance
from each other, and

25

by determining, based on the calendar data of the first system
and the calendar data of the second system, if the first and
second users are accessible for the meeting,

notifying at least one of the first and second user, via the system

30

associated with respective user, that it has been determined that a
meeting is suitable.

2. Method according to claim 1, further comprising:

sending, by the second system, from the second user, an acceptance

35

of the request for a meeting, and in response to the sending of the
acceptance commence said tracking the positions of the mobile
communications devices of the first and the second systems.

3. Method according to claim 1 or 2, wherein
the first system only comprises the mobile communications device, and
5 wherein
the second system only comprises the mobile communications device.

4. Method according to claim 1 or 2, wherein
the first system comprises a plurality of electronic communication
10 devices with calendar software having stored calendar data or having access
to calendar data stored elsewhere, wherein said plurality of electronic
communication devices includes the mobile communications device, and
wherein
the second system comprises a plurality of electronic communication
15 devices with calendar software having stored calendar data or having access
to calendar data stored elsewhere, wherein said plurality of electronic
communication devices includes the mobile communications device.

5. Method according to anyone of claims 1-4, wherein said **notifying**
20 includes
notifying the first user, via the first system, that it has been determined
that a meeting is suitable, and
notifying the second user, via the second system, that it has been
determined that a meeting is suitable.

25 6. Method according to anyone of claims 1-5, wherein the mobile
communications devices are cell phones.

7. A non-transitory computer-readable recording medium having
30 recorded thereon a program which, when executed on a mobile
communications device having
processing capabilities,
a positioning system for determining the position of the mobile
communications device, and
35 calendar software having stored calendar data or having access to
calendar data stored elsewhere,
is arranged for implementing:

defining, by a first user, a request for a meeting with a second user,
sending the request to a second system being associated with the
second user,

tracking the position of mobile communications device,

5 **communicating** directly or indirectly with a second mobile
communications device, which is included in the second system and
which position is tracked,

determining if a meeting is suitable

10 by determining if the mobile communications device is within a
predetermined distance from the second mobile
communications device, and

by determining, based on calendar data of or accessible by the
mobile communications device and the calendar data of the
second system, if the first and second users are accessible for
15 the meeting,

notifying the first user, via the mobile communications device, that it
has been determined that a meeting is suitable.

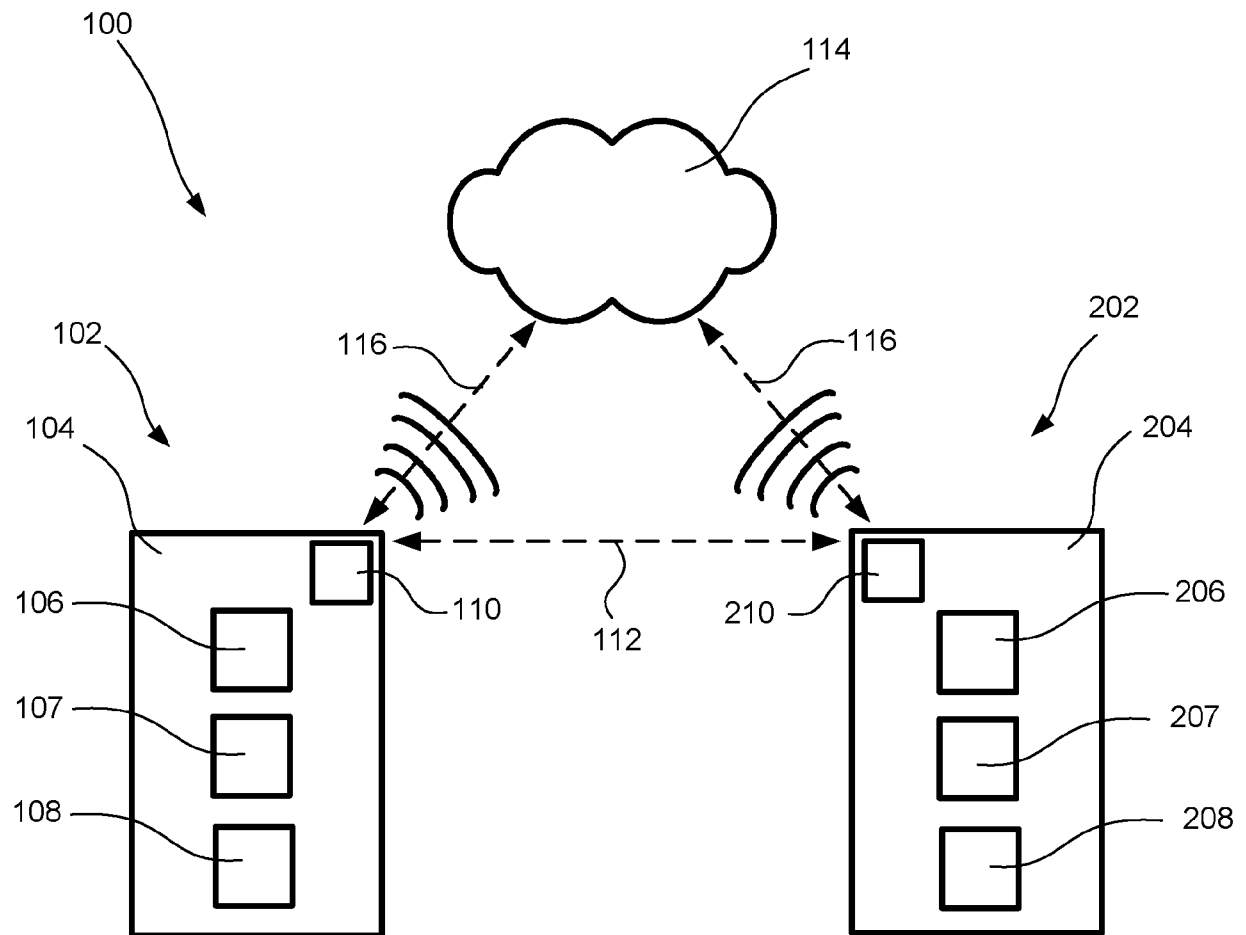


FIG. 1

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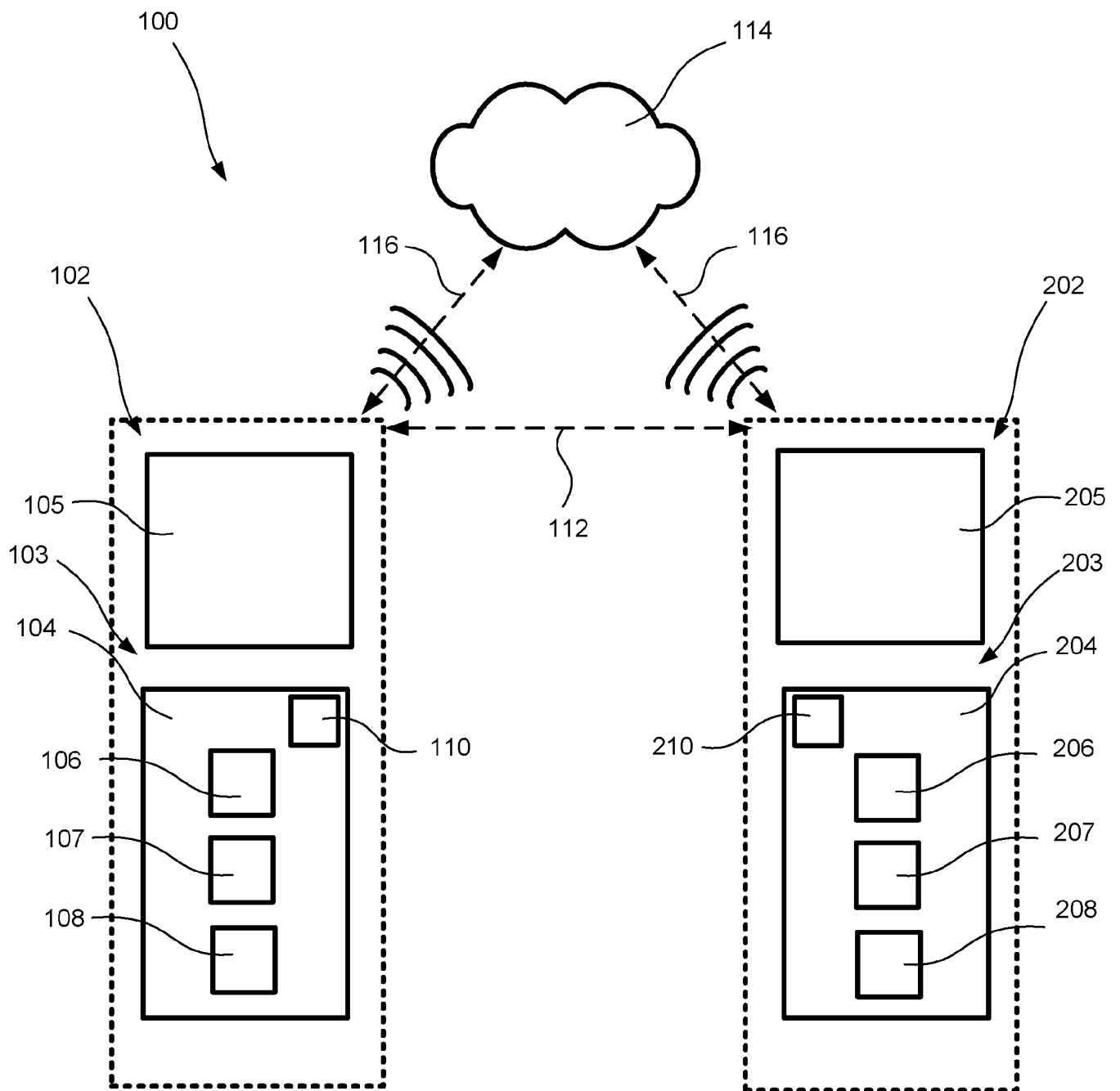
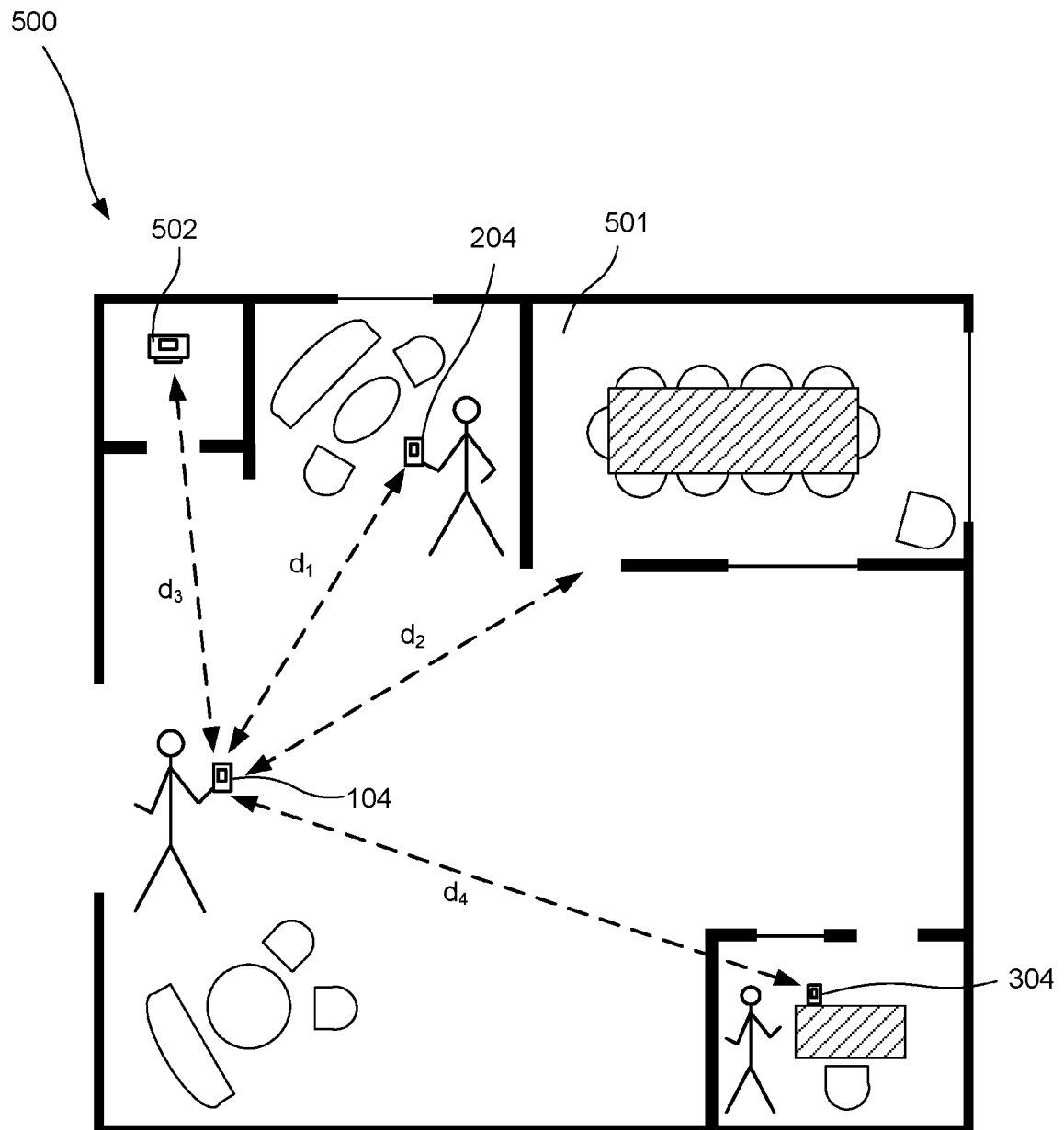
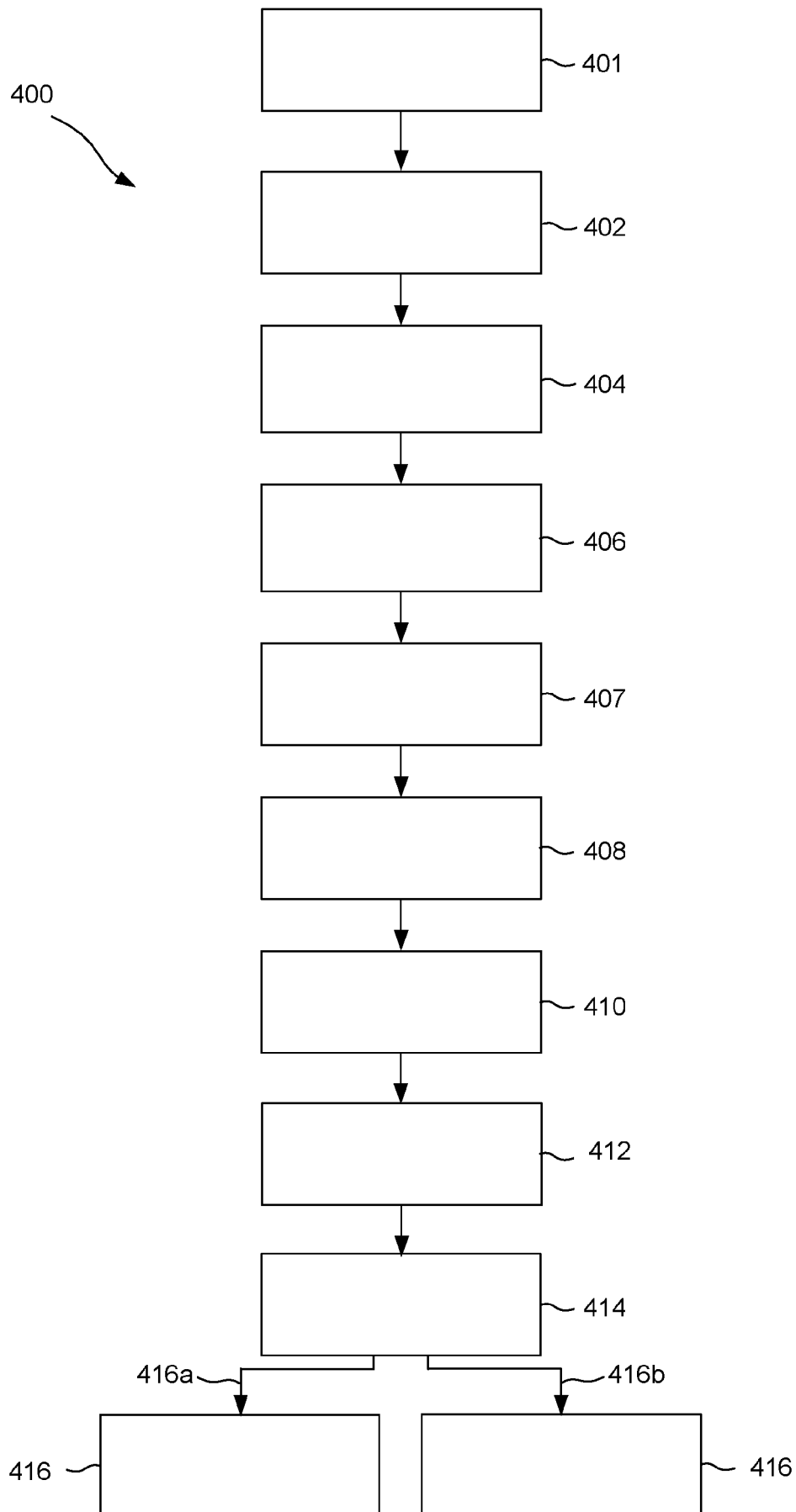


FIG. 2

**FIG. 3**

4/4

**FIG. 4**

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No
PCT/IB2015/059660

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

INV. G06Q10/10
ADD.

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

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)

EPO-Internal, WPI Data

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	US 2013/096813 A1 (GEFFNER STEVEN PAUL [US] ET AL) 18 April 2013 (2013-04-18) paragraph [0018] - paragraph [0030] paragraph [0035] - paragraph [0035] figures 1-3 -----	1-7
X	US 2011/028132 A1 (BOS JEFFREY CHARLES [CA]) 3 February 2011 (2011-02-03) paragraph [0032] - paragraph [0035] paragraph [0040] - paragraph [0041] paragraph [0049] - paragraph [0049] figures 3,5,6 -----	1-7
X	US 2015/304121 A1 (WU YUAN [CN] ET AL) 22 October 2015 (2015-10-22) paragraph [0018] - paragraph [0018] paragraph [0023] - paragraph [0025] figure 1 -----	1-7

☐ Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C.

☒ See patent family annex.

* Special categories of cited documents :

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Date of the actual completion of the international search

22 February 2016

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02/03/2016

Name and mailing address of the ISA/

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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Information on patent family members

International application No

PCT/IB2015/059660

Patent document cited in search report		Publication date	Patent family member(s)	Publication date
US 2013096813	A1	18-04-2013	NONE	
US 2011028132	A1	03-02-2011	NONE	
US 2015304121	A1	22-10-2015	NONE	