



- (51) **International Patent Classification:**
H04L 29/08 (2006.01) *H04M 3/42* (2006.01)
- (21) **International Application Number:**
PCT/US2009/033808
- (22) **International Filing Date:**
11 February 2009 (11.02.2009)
- (25) **Filing Language:** English
- (26) **Publication Language:** English
- (30) **Priority Data:**
12/252,207 15 October 2008 (15.10.2008) US
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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, BR, BW, BY, BZ, CA, CH, 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, IS, JP, KE, KG, KM, KN, KP, KR, KZ, LA, LC, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LY, MA, MD, ME, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, MY, MZ, NA, NG, NI, NO, NZ, OM, PG, PH, PL, PT, RO, RS, RU, SC, SD, SE, SG, SK, SL, SM, ST, SV, SY, 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, LS, MW, MZ, NA, SD, SL, SZ, TZ, UG, ZM, ZW), Eurasian (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM), European (AT, BE, BG, CH, CY, CZ, DE, DK, EE,

[Continued on next page]

(54) **Title:** INTERWORKING FUNCTION WITH A PRESENCE ACCESS LAYER TO PROVIDE ENHANCED PRESENCE ASPECT INDICATIONS

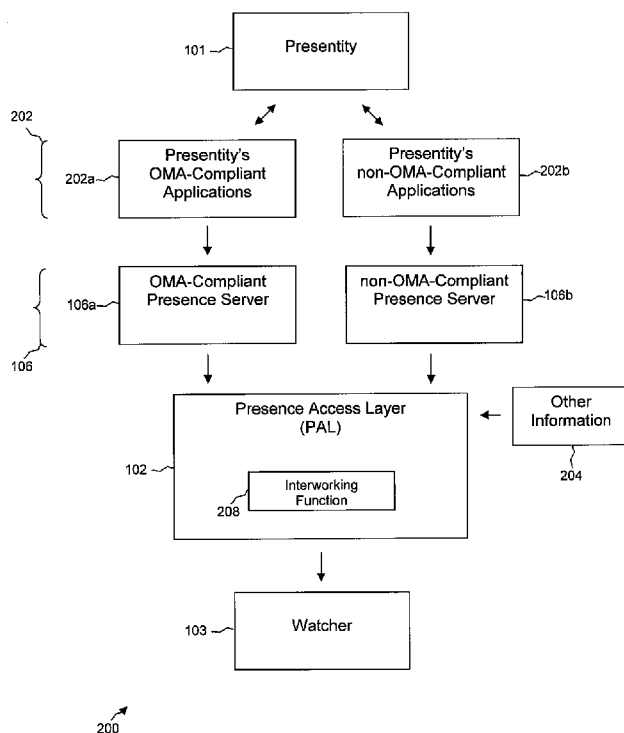


Figure 2

(57) **Abstract:** A method for providing information to a watcher (103) is provided. The method includes a presence access layer (102) receiving presence-related information from a plurality of disparate presence platforms (202), the presence access layer using the presence-related information to derive a single element of presence information, and the presence access layer delivering the single element of presence information to the watcher.



ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, HR, HU, IE, IS, IT, LT, LU, LV,
MC, MK, MT, NL, NO, PL, PT, RO, SE, SI, SK, TR),
OAPI (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, GQ, GW, ML,
MR, NE, SN, TD, TG).

Published:

- *with international search report (Art. 21(3))*
- *before the expiration of the time limit for amending the claims and to be republished in the event of receipt of amendments (Rule 48.2(h))*

Declarations under Rule 4.17:

- *as to applicant's entitlement to apply for and be granted a patent (Rule 4.17(ii))*
- *as to the applicant's entitlement to claim the priority of the earlier application (Rule 4.17(iii))*

INTERWORKING FUNCTION WITH A PRESENCE ACCESS LAYER TO PROVIDE ENHANCED PRESENCE ASPECT INDICATIONS

BACKGROUND

[0001] Some user agents (UAs), such as mobile telecommunications devices, can collect presence information associated with the users of the user agents. The presence information might include the user's location, the user's availability, the user's willingness to communicate, the user's willingness to use a particular service or communication method, the user's state of mind, activities the user is currently engaged in, applications currently executing on the user's UA, and similar data that relates to the current state of the user and/or the UA. An entity that has presence information associated with it, such as a human user of a UA, can be referred to as a presentity. A presentity might also be a non-human entity, such as an application executing on a UA. An entity that provides presence information on behalf of one or more presentities can be referred to as a presence source. For example, a UA that provides presence information associated with its user could be a presence source. When a presence source is associated with only one presentity, the presence source and the presentity could be considered equivalent.

[0002] A presence source that has collected presence information about a presentity might transmit the presence information to an entity that can be referred to as a presence server. The presence server might then provide the presence information to an entity that wishes to consume the presence information. This entity can be referred to as a watcher. As an example, if a presentity "Bob" has consented to allow other users to have access to information about his current location, Bob's UA might transmit his location information to a presence server. If a watcher "Alice" wished to learn Bob's current location, Alice's UA might submit an appropriate request to the presence server, and the presence server might send presence information about Bob to Alice's UA. Alice's UA might then process the presence information to determine Bob's location.

[0003] As used herein, the term "user agent" or "UA" might in some cases refer to a mobile device such as a mobile telephone, a personal digital assistant, a handheld or laptop computer, or a similar device that has telecommunications capabilities. In other cases, the term "UA" might refer to devices that have similar capabilities but that are not transportable, such as fixed line telephones, desktop computers, set-top boxes, or

network nodes. The term "UA" can also refer to any hardware or software component that can terminate a communication session, such as a Session Initiation Protocol (SIP) session. Also, the terms "user agent", "UA", "user equipment", "UE", and "node" might be used synonymously herein.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

[0004] For a more complete understanding of this disclosure, reference is now made to the following brief description, taken in connection with the accompanying drawings and detailed description, wherein like reference numerals represent like parts.

[0005] Figure 1 is a block diagram of a communications system according to an embodiment of the disclosure.

[0006] Figure 2 is a block diagram of a communications system according to an alternative embodiment of the disclosure.

[0007] Figure 3 is a flow chart of a method for providing information to a watcher according to an embodiment of the disclosure.

[0008] Figure 4 is a diagram of a wireless communications system including a user agent operable for some of the various embodiments of the disclosure.

[0009] Figure 5 is a block diagram of a user agent operable for some of the various embodiments of the disclosure.

[0010] Figure 6 is a diagram of a software environment that may be implemented on a user agent operable for some of the various embodiments of the disclosure.

[0011] Figure 7 illustrates a processor and related components suitable for implementing the several embodiments of the present disclosure.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

[0012] It should be understood at the outset that although illustrative implementations of one or more embodiments of the present disclosure are provided below, the disclosed systems and/or methods may be implemented using any number of techniques, whether currently known or in existence. The disclosure should in no way be limited to the illustrative implementations, drawings, and techniques illustrated below, including the exemplary designs and implementations illustrated and described herein, but may be modified within the scope of the appended claims along with their full scope of equivalents.

[0013] The present disclosure discusses a presence access layer that can receive presence-related information from a plurality of services or applications that operate on disparate presence platforms and/or other platforms that would not normally be considered for use as a presence platform. The presence access layer can use the disparate presence information to create new or enhanced presence-related parameters. The presence access layer can then deliver the new or enhanced presence-related parameters to a watcher. The following discussion of presence information in general and the presence access layer in particular may aid in clarifying the subsequent discussion of interworking among disparate presence platforms.

[0014] Figure 1 is a block diagram of an embodiment of a system 100 that includes one or more presentities 101, one or more watchers 103, a presence server 106, and a presence access layer (PAL) 102, as described below. The PAL 102 might reside wholly or partially in the presence server 106, in the presentity 101, in the watcher 103, in one or more services or applications, and/or in one or more other network components. The functionality provided by the PAL 102 may be divided between these and/or other components. Alternatively, the PAL 102 might be a standalone component.

[0015] As mentioned above, the presentity 101 might be a human or non-human entity with which presence information is associated. The presentity 101 might reside wholly or partially on a UA or wholly or partially in a network or on a network component. Although not shown, multiple presence sources that capture presence information on behalf of the presentity 101 might be present. Multiple presentities 101 might also be present, and a single presence source might be associated with multiple presentities 101 and/or a single presentity 101 might be associated with multiple presence sources. Hereinafter, the term "presentity" might refer only to one or more presentities 101 or might refer to one or more presentities 101 and one or more associated presence sources. That is, no distinction will be made between a presentity and a presence source, but it should be understood that in some cases these can be separate entities.

[0016] The watcher 103 might be one or more humans, applications, services, or other entities that monitor or wish to consume presence information associated with the presentity 101. When the watcher 103 is an application or a service, the application or service might be wholly or partially resident on a UA. Alternatively, the application or

service might be wholly or partially resident on a network component. Hereinafter, the term "watcher" might refer to a human, an application, or a service interested in presence information, to a UA or network component on which such an application or service resides, or to any combination of these entities.

[0017] The presentity 101 might be able to define which watchers 103 can receive the presentity's presence information and which presence information the watchers 103 can receive. As an example, the presentity user "Bob" might specify that all of his work supervisors can receive all of his presence information. He might also specify that the watcher "Alice" can receive information about his current willingness to communicate but can receive none of his other presence information, such as his current location. Alternatively, another entity, such as Bob's employer, might designate which elements of Bob's presence information will be made available to which watchers 103.

[0018] A plurality of applications or services, such as instant messaging services or push-to-talk services, might be associated with the presentity 101, and these applications or services might be provided by one or more devices. The presentity 101 might publish presence information from a plurality of these devices. For example, Bob might be using a desktop computer and a handheld telephone simultaneously and may be considered available on either device. If Bob did not use the computer for an extended period of time, the computer might enter a sleep mode, and Bob might become unavailable on that device. However, he might remain available on the handset.

[0019] The presentity 101 can publish its presence information to the presence server 106. Only certain portions of the presence information might be made available to the watchers 103, and only certain watchers 103 might have access to the presence information. The presentity 101 or a third party (for example, a service provider or administrator) might publish rules or policies to the presence server 106 that define the portions of the presence information that will be made available to the watchers 103 and which of the portions will be made available to which of the watchers 103. The rules or policies might be established for groups of presentities 101 and/or groups of watchers 103. The rules or policies might be provided to the presence server 106 in a policy document. Alternatively, the presence information that will be made available to a

particular watcher 103 might be determined at the time that watcher 103 requests presence information.

[0020] As used herein, the term “rule” refers to a sequence of logic that, when executed, can specify actions. The term “policy” refers to logic that can aid in the evaluation of a rule by, for example, providing hints, clarifying indeterminate or inconclusive scenarios during processing, or providing parameters. A distinction might also be made between a rule and a base rule and between a policy and a base policy. A base rule is typically a common interoperable rule or a default rule. That is, a base rule is a rule that is specified when no specific service or platform has overridden or changed it. Therefore, the term “rule” could refer to any rule, base or otherwise. Similarly, the term “policy” could refer to the set of all policies, and the term “base policy” could refer to a common or default policy that is used when a policy has not been overridden, extended, or enhanced.

[0021] The presence server 106 is a network component that receives presence information from the presentity 101 and provides presence information to the watcher 103. The rules or policies that define the presence information that will be made available to the watchers 103 might be stored on and/or processed by the presence server 106. When the watcher 103 wishes to receive presence information associated with the presentity 101, the watcher 103 can send a request to the presence server 106. The presence server 106 can then determine if the watcher 103 is authorized to receive the presentity's presence information. If the watcher 103 is authorized, the presence server 106 sends the presence information to the watcher 103.

[0022] The presence information might be sent to the watcher 103 in a Presence Information Data Format (PIDF). Alternatively, more detailed information might be provided if the rich presence extension to PIDF (RPID) is used. In either case, the presence information might be provided in a presence document that can be encoded in extensible markup language (XML) or another appropriate format. The presence document is typically a large document that contains all of the presence information that the presentity 101 has allowed the watcher 103 to obtain. That is, even when the watcher 103 wants to learn only a single element of presence information, such as the presentity's

current willingness to communicate, the presence document might contain numerous additional elements of presence information.

[0023] Upon receiving the presence document, the watcher 103 parses the XML or other encoding scheme to extract the desired presence information. The entire presence document is typically parsed, regardless of the amount of presence information that is sought. For example, if the watcher 103 wished to learn the presentity's current willingness to communicate, the watcher 103 might need to sift through large amounts of unrelated data, such as the presentity's location, the presentity's willingness to use a particular service, the applications currently executing on the presentity's UA, and other information, to find the single data element that is desired.

[0024] In some cases, the watcher 103 might wish to learn a combination of information about the presentity 101. For example, if the watcher 103 wanted to send an instant message to the presentity 101, the watcher 103 might first attempt to determine the presentity's willingness to communicate and whether an instant messaging application is currently executing on the presentity's UA. In such cases, the watcher 103 might again send a single request for presence information to the presence server 106 and might again receive the entire presence document. The watcher 103 would then parse the entire document to find the plurality of data elements that are desired and perform the appropriate logical operations to correlate the data elements and derive the combination of information that was desired.

[0025] It may be possible that the presentity 101 did not specify whether or not the watcher 103 could have access to a data element that the watcher 103 is trying to obtain. In that case, the presence document may not contain the information that the watcher 103 is seeking. In such a case, the results of the watcher's parsing of the presence document may be indeterminate and it may not be clear what further actions the watcher 103 should take.

[0026] In some cases, the PAL 102 might be present to promote more efficient processing and dissemination of presence information. The PAL 102 can abstract and simplify complex presence information on behalf of the watcher 103. That is, the PAL 102 can act as a proxy for the watcher 103 by receiving a presence information request from the watcher 103, sending the request to the presence server 106, receiving a

presence document from the presence server 106, parsing the information in the presence document, and returning to the watcher 103 a single value, such as "true" or "false", as a response to the presence information request.

[0027] The PAL 102 allows the watcher 103 to submit a request for a single element of presence information, which can be referred to as a presence aspect. For example, the presentity's willingness to communicate might be a presence aspect, the presentity's current location might be another, the presentity's preferred means of communication might be another, and so on. The presence aspects are reusable, interoperable abstractions that can be applicable across a plurality of applications or services. The watcher 103 can send a message to the PAL 102 specifying a single presence aspect for which the watcher 103 is seeking information. The PAL 102 can then respond with information related only to that presence aspect.

[0028] As an example, if the watcher 103 wishes to learn whether the presentity 101 is currently willing to communicate, the watcher 103 can submit a request to the PAL 102 for information specifically about that presence aspect. If the presentity 101 has specified that the watcher 103 can have access to the presentity's willingness information, the PAL 102 can respond with a single value indicating the presentity's willingness or unwillingness to communicate. The watcher 103 then needs to process only this single value. This can be contrasted with the situation where the PAL 102 is not present. In that case, the watcher 103 would ask for presence information in general, receive the entire presence document, and parse the presence document to determine the willingness aspect.

[0029] The PAL 102 can also process more complex requests from the watcher 103. For example, if the watcher 103 wished to determine a combination of information associated with the presentity 101, the watcher 103 might send the PAL 102 a request for each desired presence aspect. The PAL 102 might then return a response for each of the requests. Alternatively, the PAL 102 might correlate multiple presence aspects and return a single value to the watcher 103 that represents the combination of information that the watcher 103 was seeking.

[0030] In addition to greatly simplifying the manner in which the watcher 103 requests, receives, and processes presence information, use of the PAL 102 can allow processing

that might previously have been performed by the watcher 103 to be offloaded to the PAL 102. In the cases where the PAL 102 is a standalone component or resides wholly or partially in the presence server 106 or some other network component, offloading the processing of presence information to the PAL 102 can free some of the processing capabilities of the watcher 103 for other purposes.

[0031] The PAL 102 may also process presence information on behalf of multiple applications or services that might otherwise redundantly perform the same presence information processing. That is, multiple applications or services might reside on or be available to the watcher 103, and each might have the capability to request, receive, and process presence information. Many of the steps that the applications or services take with regard to the presence information might be common to several of the applications or services. For example, there may be common presence-related rules or logic that would apply to both an instant messaging service and a push-to-talk service. If the PAL 102 is not present, each of these services might perform the common steps separately. If the PAL 102 is present, the PAL 102 can perform the common steps on behalf of each of these services and then return the results of the processing to the services. This can allow common procedures to occur only one time, thus increasing the efficiency of the watcher 103 and the applications or services it uses.

[0032] The PAL 102 can also ensure that indeterminate results are not returned to the watcher 103. As mentioned previously, if the watcher 103 seeks information about a presence aspect for which the presentity 101 has not provided information, the watcher's parsing of the presence document to determine that information might be inconclusive. The PAL 102, however, can contain functionality that specifies a definitive response to a presence information request even when information about the requested presence aspect is not available. For example, if the presentity 101 has not specified a willingness or an unwillingness to communicate, and if the watcher 103 submits a request for the presentity's willingness presence aspect, the PAL 102 might provide a default willingness value to the watcher 103. For instance, the PAL 102 might indicate that the presentity 101 is unwilling to communicate for an indefinite period of time. In this way, the watcher 103 can be assured of receiving a usable response to any presence information request.

[0033] While the above discussion has focused on the PAL 102 providing presence information to the watcher 103 in response to the watcher's request for the current status of that information, the PAL 102 might also provide presence information based on a trigger defined by the watcher 103. That is, the watcher 103 might specify that it wishes to be informed when a change occurs in a presence aspect. When the PAL 102 detects that the specified change has occurred, the PAL 102 can notify the watcher 103 of the change. A trigger might apply to a presence aspect alone or to a presence aspect in combination with one or more applications or services. In addition, a trigger might be used to receive presence information from a plurality of presentities 101 and/or to provide presence information to a plurality of watchers 103.

[0034] As an example, the watcher 103 might have previously determined that the presentity's willingness presence aspect has a value that indicates that the presentity 101 is currently unwilling to communicate. The watcher 103 might wish to know if the presentity 101 becomes willing to communicate at a later point in time. The watcher 103 could establish a trigger on the PAL 102 requesting to be notified of a change in the presentity's willingness presence aspect. The PAL 102 would then monitor the presentity's willingness presence aspect and would inform the watcher 103 if that presence aspect changed from "unwilling" to "willing".

[0035] The use of the PAL 102 does not necessarily preclude the presence server 106 sending the presence document to the watcher 103. For example, if the watcher 103 wishes to obtain a large amount of presence information, there may be circumstances in which it is more efficient for the watcher 103 to parse the entire presence document received from the presence server 106 rather than processing multiple individual presence aspect values received from the PAL 102. The PAL 102 provides an upgrade option that might be used to hide complexity from the watcher 103 in some circumstances.

[0036] The above discussion was intended to provide sufficient information to promote an understanding of presence information in general and the presence access layer in particular. With this context in place, the discussion can now turn to the derivation of a presence aspect from presence-related information received from a plurality of services or applications operating on disparate presence platforms.

[0037] Figure 2 illustrates an embodiment of a system 200 that might implement the PAL 102. The presentity 101 and the watcher 103 as described in regard to Figure 1 might be present in the system 200. One or more presence-enabled applications 202 might also be present. The presence-enabled applications 202 might be, for example, instant messaging applications, push-to-talk applications, location-based services, or other applications that can use, collect, and/or generate presence information associated with the presentity 101.

[0038] In an embodiment, portions of the applications 202 operate on different presence platforms from other portions. That is, the presence capabilities of at least some of the applications 202 are mutually incompatible. For example, in the embodiment of Figure 2, a portion 202a of the applications 202 comply with Open Mobile Alliance (OMA) standards for presence services, and a portion 202b of the applications 202 do not comply with the OMA standards. The non-OMA-compliant applications 202b might operate on a presence platform based on, for instance, the Extensible Messaging and Presence Protocol (XMPP). In other embodiments, various other combinations of OMA-compliant applications 202a and non-OMA-compliant applications 202b may be present or absent.

[0039] The presence information that the applications 202 collect or generate is provided to a plurality of presence servers 106, each of which operates on the same presence platform as its associated applications 202. For example, in the embodiment of Figure 2, the OMA-compliant applications 202a provide presence information to an OMA-compliant presence server 106a, and each of the non-OMA-compliant applications 202b provides presence information to an appropriate non-OMA-compliant presence server 106b. In other embodiments, the association between one of the presence servers 106 and one or more of the applications 202 might not be related to compliance with OMA standards.

[0040] In an embodiment, the PAL 102 is capable of receiving and processing presence information from a plurality of presence servers 106 operating under disparate presence platforms, formats, protocols, or syntax. The PAL 102 can use these disparate forms of information to create or derive presence aspects that are more accurate than was previously possible and/or presence aspects that could not have been previously

generated. Rules may be present in the PAL 102 that specify how the disparate forms of information are to be combined, aggregated, weighted, or otherwise consolidated to derive the new or more accurate presence aspects. The PAL 102 can then deliver the derived presence aspects to the watcher 103.

[0041] As an example, the presentity 101 might use the Jabber instant messaging application, the Skype internet telephony application, and an OMA-compliant, presence-enabled email application. Jabber uses the XMPP presence platform, which is non-OMA-compliant, and Skype uses a proprietary non-OMA-compliant presence platform. Presence-related information associated with the presentity 101 might be collected by or otherwise available to each of these applications 202. The applications 202 can provide this information to their respective presence servers 106, which can then provide the information to the PAL 102. Since the three applications 202 use different presence platforms, the sets of presence information they collect might be incompatible with one another. The PAL 102, however, has the capability to recognize and process the different types of information. This may be done by an Interworking Function 208 within the PAL environment that uses the interfaces exposed by these mutually incompatible presence servers 106. The Interworking Function 208 can also convert data from the format used by the non-OMA-compliant presence servers 106b to a format that is aligned with the OMA-compliant presence aspects for interoperability.

[0042] If the watcher 103 requested presence information about the presentity 101, the PAL 102 could use presence-related information from each of these applications 202 to derive a presence aspect that fulfills the watcher's request. For example, the Jabber application, the Skype application, and the OMA-compliant email application might individually collect information in different formats about the presentity's reachability and might provide this information to the PAL 102 via the presence servers 106. If the watcher 103 requested information about the presentity's reachability, the PAL 102 could combine the disparate reachability information from each of the applications 202 to derive a single reachability presence aspect. This combined reachability presence aspect might be more accurate than a reachability aspect derived from presence information from only one of the applications 202. In addition, the watcher 103 is relieved of the responsibility of processing this disparate information on behalf of the consuming applications.

[0043] In an embodiment, when the PAL 102 performs this interworking between disparate presence platforms to derive a presence aspect, the PAL 102 can include other information 204 that is not traditionally considered presence-related information. For example, in deriving a presence aspect, the PAL 102 might consider information such as the status of a telecommunications or computing network or network element, whether the presentity 101 is roaming, whether the presentity's UA is turned on, whether the presentity's UA is currently able to transmit and receive, whether the presentity 101 is out of a coverage area, and similar information.

[0044] As an example, the presence-related information from the applications 202 might indicate that the presentity 101 has a high degree of reachability. However, a portion of the other information 204 might indicate that the presentity 101 is currently out of coverage. If the watcher 103 requested information about the presentity's reachability, the PAL 102 could combine this other information 204 with the traditional presence information and might derive a reachability presence aspect indicating that the presentity 101 is currently unreachable. More information about deriving a presence aspect through the use of information that is not traditionally considered presence-related information can be found in U.S. Patent Application No. 12/252,207, filed on October 15, 2008, by Jeff Rogers, et al, entitled "Incorporating Non-presence Information in the Calculation of Presence Aspects by a Presence Access Layer", which is incorporated herein by reference for all purposes.

[0045] Some of the presence information provided to the PAL 102 by the applications 202 and some of the non-presence information 204 provided by other sources might be considered confidential. In the case of the presence information, the PAL 102 and the applications 202 might be part of a "circle of trust", in which agreements have been reached on keeping confidential presence information private. That is, rules and policies may be in place in the PAL 102 that ensure that confidential presence information from one of the applications 202 is not made available to the other applications 202 and that no confidential presence information from any of the applications 202 is made available to an unauthorized watcher 103.

[0046] For the information 204 that is not traditionally considered presence-related information, no such circle of trust may exist. However, the other information 204 can be

kept private from the watcher 103 through the use of the presence aspects. The watcher 103 typically receives only a "yes/no" or "true/false" type of response from the PAL 102 when requesting information about a presence aspect. A more detailed response containing information that might be confidential is not provided. That is, the information used in the computation of the presence aspect is not discernable to the watcher 103, particularly when both presence-related information and other information 204 are used in the calculation of the presence aspect. Therefore, confidentiality of the other information 204 is achieved inherently as a byproduct of the exposure by the PAL 102 of presence aspects toward the watcher 103.

[0047] As an example, the status of a network server might be an element of other information 204 that the PAL 102 uses in deriving the presentity's reachability. The PAL 102 might include a rule stating that if the status indicates that the server is not functioning properly, the presentity's reachability presence aspect for a service provided by that server should indicate that the presentity 101 is currently unreachable. The entity that operates the server, for instance an internet telephony service operating an internet telephony server, might trust the PAL 102 with information on the status of its servers but might not wish to have server status information made known to the watcher 103. When the server is not functioning and the PAL 102 returns an "unreachable" presence aspect to the watcher 103, the PAL 102 provides only the fact that the presentity 101 is unreachable and not the reason for the unreachability. In this way, the confidentiality of the server status information can be maintained.

[0048] There may be both indirect and direct confidentiality achieved by the PAL 102. Direct confidentiality is where the information is intentionally hidden because the watcher 103 may not be authorized to obtain the information. Indirect confidentiality is where information is hidden as a result of application of applicable rules and/or policies associated with a particular presence aspect. That is, implementing certain presence aspects obscures the underlying and confidential information.

[0049] Figure 3 illustrates an embodiment of a method 300 for providing information to a watcher. At block 310, a presence access layer receives presence-related information from a plurality of disparate presence platforms. At block 320, the presence access layer

uses the presence-related information to derive a presence aspect. At block 330, the presence access layer delivers the presence aspect to the watcher.

[0050] Figure 4 illustrates a wireless communications system including an embodiment of a UA 401 that might be used by the presentity 101 or the watcher 103. The UA 401 is operable for implementing aspects of the disclosure, but the disclosure should not be limited to these implementations. Though illustrated as a mobile phone, the UA 401 may take various forms including a wireless handset, a pager, a personal digital assistant (PDA), a portable computer, a tablet computer, or a laptop computer. Many suitable devices combine some or all of these functions. In some embodiments of the disclosure, the UA 401 is not a general purpose computing device like a portable, laptop or tablet computer, but rather is a special-purpose communications device such as a mobile phone, a wireless handset, a pager, a PDA, or a telecommunications device installed in a vehicle. In another embodiment, the UA 401 may be a portable, laptop or other computing device. The UA 401 may support specialized activities such as gaming, inventory control, job control, and/or task management functions, and so on.

[0051] The UA 401 includes a display 402. The UA 401 also includes a touch-sensitive surface, a keyboard or other input keys generally referred as 404 for input by a user. The keyboard may be a full or reduced alphanumeric keyboard such as QWERTY, Dvorak, AZERTY, and sequential types, or a traditional numeric keypad with alphabet letters associated with a telephone keypad. The input keys may include a trackwheel, an exit or escape key, a trackball, and other navigational or functional keys, which may be inwardly depressed to provide further input function. The UA 401 may present options for the user to select, controls for the user to actuate, and/or cursors or other indicators for the user to direct.

[0052] The UA 401 may further accept data entry from the user, including numbers to dial or various parameter values for configuring the operation of the UA 401. The UA 401 may further execute one or more software or firmware applications in response to user commands. These applications may configure the UA 401 to perform various customized functions in response to user interaction. Additionally, the UA 401 may be programmed and/or configured over-the-air, for example from a wireless base station, a wireless access point, or a peer UA 401.

[0053] Among the various applications executable by the UA 401 are a web browser, which enables the display 402 to show a web page. The web page may be obtained via wireless communications with a wireless network access node, a cell tower, a peer UA 401, or any other wireless communication network or system 400. The network 400 is coupled to a wired network 408, such as the Internet. Via the wireless link and the wired network, the UA 401 has access to information on various servers, such as a server 410. The server 410 may provide content that may be shown on the display 402. Alternately, the UA 401 may access the network 400 through a peer UA 401 acting as an intermediary, in a relay type or hop type of connection.

[0054] Figure 5 shows a block diagram of the UA 401. While a variety of known components of UAs 401 are depicted, in an embodiment a subset of the listed components and/or additional components not listed may be included in the UA 401. The UA 401 includes a memory 504 and a central processing unit (CPU) 1310 that may incorporate a digital signal processor (DSP) 502. As shown, the UA 401 may further include an antenna and front end unit 506, a radio frequency (RF) transceiver 508, an analog baseband processing unit 510, a microphone 512, an earpiece speaker 514, a headset port 516, an input/output interface 518, a removable memory card 520, a universal serial bus (USB) port 522, a short range wireless communication sub-system 524, an alert 526, a keypad 528, a liquid crystal display (LCD), which may include a touch sensitive surface 530, an LCD controller 532, a charge-coupled device (CCD) camera 534, a camera controller 536, and a global positioning system (GPS) sensor 538. In an embodiment, the UA 401 may include another kind of display that does not provide a touch sensitive screen. In an embodiment, the DSP 502 may communicate directly with the memory 504 without passing through the input/output interface 518.

[0055] The DSP 502 or some other form of controller or central processing unit operates to control the various components of the UA 401 in accordance with embedded software or firmware stored in memory 504 or stored in memory contained within the DSP 502 itself. In addition to the embedded software or firmware, the DSP 502 may execute other applications stored in the memory 504 or made available via information carrier media such as portable data storage media like the removable memory card 520 or via wired or wireless network communications. The application software may comprise a

compiled set of machine-readable instructions that configure the DSP 502 to provide the desired functionality, or the application software may be high-level software instructions to be processed by an interpreter or compiler to indirectly configure the DSP 502.

[0056] The antenna and front end unit 506 may be provided to convert between wireless signals and electrical signals, enabling the UA 401 to send and receive information from a cellular network or some other available wireless communications network or from a peer UA 401. In an embodiment, the antenna and front end unit 506 may include multiple antennas to support beam forming and/or multiple input multiple output (MIMO) operations. As is known to those skilled in the art, MIMO operations may provide spatial diversity which can be used to overcome difficult channel conditions and/or increase channel throughput. The antenna and front end unit 506 may include antenna tuning and/or impedance matching components, RF power amplifiers, and/or low noise amplifiers.

[0057] The RF transceiver 508 provides frequency shifting, converting received RF signals to baseband and converting baseband transmit signals to RF. In some descriptions a radio transceiver or RF transceiver may be understood to include other signal processing functionality such as modulation/demodulation, coding/decoding, interleaving/deinterleaving, spreading/despreading, inverse fast Fourier transforming (IFFT)/fast Fourier transforming (FFT), cyclic prefix appending/removal, and other signal processing functions. For the purposes of clarity, the description here separates the description of this signal processing from the RF and/or radio stage and conceptually allocates that signal processing to the analog baseband processing unit 510 and/or the DSP 502 or other central processing unit. In some embodiments, the RF Transceiver 508, portions of the Antenna and Front End 506, and the analog baseband processing unit 510 may be combined in one or more processing units and/or application specific integrated circuits (ASICs).

[0058] The analog baseband processing unit 510 may provide various analog processing of inputs and outputs, for example analog processing of inputs from the microphone 512 and the headset 516 and outputs to the earpiece 514 and the headset 516. To that end, the analog baseband processing unit 510 may have ports for connecting to the built-in microphone 512 and the earpiece speaker 514 that enable the

UA 401 to be used as a cell phone. The analog baseband processing unit 510 may further include a port for connecting to a headset or other hands-free microphone and speaker configuration. The analog baseband processing unit 510 may provide digital-to-analog conversion in one signal direction and analog-to-digital conversion in the opposing signal direction. In some embodiments, at least some of the functionality of the analog baseband processing unit 510 may be provided by digital processing components, for example by the DSP 502 or by other central processing units.

[0059] The DSP 502 may perform modulation/demodulation, coding/decoding, interleaving/deinterleaving, spreading/despreading, inverse fast Fourier transforming (IFFT)/fast Fourier transforming (FFT), cyclic prefix appending/removal, and other signal processing functions associated with wireless communications. In an embodiment, for example in a code division multiple access (CDMA) technology application, for a transmitter function the DSP 502 may perform modulation, coding, interleaving, and spreading, and for a receiver function the DSP 502 may perform despreading, deinterleaving, decoding, and demodulation. In another embodiment, for example in an orthogonal frequency division multiplex access (OFDMA) technology application, for the transmitter function the DSP 502 may perform modulation, coding, interleaving, inverse fast Fourier transforming, and cyclic prefix appending, and for a receiver function the DSP 502 may perform cyclic prefix removal, fast Fourier transforming, deinterleaving, decoding, and demodulation. In other wireless technology applications, yet other signal processing functions and combinations of signal processing functions may be performed by the DSP 502.

[0060] The DSP 502 may communicate with a wireless network via the analog baseband processing unit 510. In some embodiments, the communication may provide Internet connectivity, enabling a user to gain access to content on the Internet and to send and receive e-mail or text messages. The input/output interface 518 interconnects the DSP 502 and various memories and interfaces. The memory 504 and the removable memory card 520 may provide software and data to configure the operation of the DSP 502. Among the interfaces may be the USB interface 522 and the short range wireless communication sub-system 524. The USB interface 522 may be used to charge the UA 401 and may also enable the UA 401 to function as a peripheral device to exchange

information with a personal computer or other computer system. The short range wireless communication sub-system 524 may include an infrared port, a Bluetooth interface, an IEEE 802.11 compliant wireless interface, or any other short range wireless communication sub-system, which may enable the UA 401 to communicate wirelessly with other nearby mobile devices and/or wireless base stations. A long range wireless communication sub-system 550 may also be present and may be compliant with IEEE 802.16.

[0061] The input/output interface 518 may further connect the DSP 502 to the alert 526 that, when triggered, causes the UA 401 to provide a notice to the user, for example, by ringing, playing a melody, or vibrating. The alert 526 may serve as a mechanism for alerting the user to any of various events such as an incoming call, a new text message, and an appointment reminder by silently vibrating, or by playing a specific pre-assigned melody for a particular caller.

[0062] The keypad 528 couples to the DSP 502 via the interface 518 to provide one mechanism for the user to make selections, enter information, and otherwise provide input to the UA 401. The keyboard 528 may be a full or reduced alphanumeric keyboard such as QWERTY, Dvorak, AZERTY and sequential types, or a traditional numeric keypad with alphabet letters associated with a telephone keypad. The input keys may include a trackwheel, an exit or escape key, a trackball, and other navigational or functional keys, which may be inwardly depressed to provide further input function. Another input mechanism may be the LCD 530, which may include touch screen capability and also display text and/or graphics to the user. The LCD controller 532 couples the DSP 502 to the LCD 530.

[0063] The CCD camera 534, if equipped, enables the UA 401 to take digital pictures. The DSP 502 communicates with the CCD camera 534 via the camera controller 536. In another embodiment, a camera operating according to a technology other than Charge Coupled Device cameras may be employed. The GPS sensor 538 is coupled to the DSP 502 to decode global positioning system signals, thereby enabling the UA 401 to determine its position. Various other peripherals may also be included to provide additional functions, e.g., radio and television reception.

[0064] Figure 6 illustrates a software environment 602 that may be implemented by the DSP 502. Alternatively, the software environment 602 can be executed in an execution environment hosted by a central processing unit (CPU) 1310 on the UA 401 or by a logical CPU with a combined DSP function. The DSP 502 executes operating system drivers 604 that provide a platform from which the rest of the software operates. The operating system drivers 604 provide drivers for the node hardware with standardized interfaces that are accessible to application software. The operating system drivers 604 include application management services ("AMS") 606 that transfer control between applications running on the UA 401, monitor applications, preempt applications, and perform other functions of an underlying operating system platform such as controlling, monitoring, and sometimes preempting or terminating logical processes, including execution threads.

[0065] Also shown in Figure 6 are a web browser application 608, a media player application 610, and Java applets 612. The web browser application 608 configures the UA 401 to operate as a web browser, allowing a user to enter information into forms and select links to retrieve and view web pages. The media player application 610 configures the UA 401 to retrieve and play audio or audiovisual media. The Java applets 612 configure the UA 401 to provide games, utilities, and other functionality. The AMS 606 may also host a Java Virtual Machine on which the Java applets 612 can execute. Other execution environments could also be hosted, such as a C runtime environment to support executable programs and applications written in the C programming language. A component 614 might provide functionality related to interworking between disparate presence platforms.

[0066] The UA 401 and other components described above might include a processing component that is capable of executing instructions related to the actions described above. Figure 7 illustrates an example of a system 1300 that includes a processing component 1310 suitable for implementing one or more embodiments disclosed herein. In addition to the processor 1310 (which may be referred to as a central processor unit or CPU), the system 1300 might include network connectivity devices 1320, random access memory (RAM) 1330, read only memory (ROM) 1340, secondary storage 1350, and input/output (I/O) devices 1360. These components might

communicate with one another via a bus 1370. In some cases, some of these components may not be present or may be combined in various combinations with one another or with other components not shown. These components might be located in a single physical entity or in more than one physical entity. Any actions described herein as being taken by the processor 1310 might be taken by the processor 1310 alone or by the processor 1310 in conjunction with one or more components shown or not shown in the drawing, such as the DSP 502 described above. Although the DSP 502 is shown as a separate component, the DSP 502 might be incorporated into the processor 1310.

[0067] The processor 1310 executes instructions, codes, computer programs, or scripts that it might access from the network connectivity devices 1320, RAM 1330, ROM 1340, or secondary storage 1350 (which might include various disk-based systems such as hard disk, floppy disk, or optical disk). While only one CPU 1310 is shown, multiple processors may be present. Thus, while instructions may be discussed as being executed by a processor, the instructions may be executed simultaneously, serially, or otherwise by one or multiple processors. The processor 1310 may be implemented as one or more CPU chips.

[0068] The network connectivity devices 1320 may take the form of modems, modem banks, Ethernet devices, universal serial bus (USB) interface devices, serial interfaces, token ring devices, fiber distributed data interface (FDDI) devices, wireless local area network (WLAN) devices, radio transceiver devices such as code division multiple access (CDMA) devices, global system for mobile communications (GSM) radio transceiver devices, worldwide interoperability for microwave access (WiMAX) devices, and/or other well-known devices for connecting to networks. These network connectivity devices 1320 may enable the processor 1310 to communicate with the Internet or one or more telecommunications networks or other networks from which the processor 1310 might receive information or to which the processor 1310 might output information.

[0069] The network connectivity devices 1320 might also include one or more transceiver components 1325 capable of transmitting and/or receiving data wirelessly in the form of electromagnetic waves, such as radio frequency signals or microwave frequency signals. Alternatively, the data may propagate in or on the surface of electrical conductors, in coaxial cables, in waveguides, in optical media such as optical fiber, or in

other media. The transceiver component 1325 might include separate receiving and transmitting units or a single transceiver. Information transmitted or received by the transceiver 1325 may include data that has been processed by the processor 1310 or instructions that are to be executed by processor 1310. Such information may be received from and outputted to a network in the form, for example, of a computer data baseband signal or signal embodied in a carrier wave. The data may be ordered according to different sequences as may be desirable for either processing or generating the data or transmitting or receiving the data. The baseband signal, the signal embedded in the carrier wave, or other types of signals currently used or hereafter developed may be referred to as the transmission medium and may be generated according to several methods well known to one skilled in the art.

[0070] The RAM 1330 might be used to store volatile data and perhaps to store instructions that are executed by the processor 1310. The ROM 1340 is a non-volatile memory device that typically has a smaller memory capacity than the memory capacity of the secondary storage 1350. ROM 1340 might be used to store instructions and perhaps data that are read during execution of the instructions. Access to both RAM 1330 and ROM 1340 is typically faster than to secondary storage 1350. The secondary storage 1350 is typically comprised of one or more disk drives or tape drives and might be used for non-volatile storage of data or as an over-flow data storage device if RAM 1330 is not large enough to hold all working data. Secondary storage 1350 may be used to store programs that are loaded into RAM 1330 when such programs are selected for execution.

[0071] The I/O devices 1360 may include liquid crystal displays (LCDs), touch screen displays, keyboards, keypads, switches, dials, mice, track balls, voice recognizers, card readers, paper tape readers, printers, video monitors, or other well-known input devices. Also, the transceiver 1325 might be considered to be a component of the I/O devices 1360 instead of or in addition to being a component of the network connectivity devices 1320. Some or all of the I/O devices 1360 may be substantially similar to various components depicted in the previously described drawing of the UA 401, such as the display 402 and the input 404.

[0072] Additional information related to the presence access layer and other topics discussed herein can be found in the following documents, which are incorporated herein

by reference as if reproduced in their entirety: U.S. Provisional Patent Application No. 61/013,813, filed 12/14/2007, by Brian McColgan, et al, entitled "Method and System for a Context Aware Mechanism for Use in Presence and Location"; U.S. Provisional Patent Application No. 61/013,827, filed 12/14/2007, by Brian McColgan, et al, entitled "Method and System for a Context Aware Mechanism in an Integrated or Distributed Configuration"; and U.S. Provisional Patent Application No. 61/013,834, filed 12/14/2007, by Brian McColgan, et al, entitled "Method and System for Specifying, Applying and Executing Application Related Aspects through Policies, Rules and/or Triggers".

[0073] In an embodiment, a method for providing information to a watcher is provided. The method includes a presence access layer receiving presence-related information from a plurality of disparate presence platforms, the presence access layer using the presence-related information to derive a single element of presence information, and the presence access layer delivering the single element of presence information to the watcher.

[0074] In an alternative embodiment, a system is provided. The system includes a presence access layer configured to receive presence-related information from a plurality of disparate presence platforms, use the presence-related information to derive a single element of presence information, and deliver the single element of presence information to a watcher.

[0075] While several embodiments have been provided in the present disclosure, it should be understood that the disclosed systems and methods may be embodied in many other specific forms without departing from the spirit or scope of the present disclosure. The present examples are to be considered as illustrative and not restrictive, and the intention is not to be limited to the details given herein. For example, the various elements or components may be combined or integrated in another system or certain features may be omitted, or not implemented.

[0076] Also, techniques, systems, subsystems and methods described and illustrated in the various embodiments as discrete or separate may be combined or integrated with other systems, modules, techniques, or methods without departing from the scope of the present disclosure. Other items shown or discussed as coupled or directly coupled or communicating with each other may be indirectly coupled or communicating through

some interface, device, or intermediate component, whether electrically, mechanically, or otherwise. Other examples of changes, substitutions, and alterations are ascertainable by one skilled in the art and could be made without departing from the spirit and scope disclosed herein.

CLAIMS

1. A method for providing information to a watcher, comprising:
 - a presence access layer receiving presence-related information from a plurality of disparate presence platforms;
 - the presence access layer using the presence-related information to derive a single element of presence information; and
 - the presence access layer delivering the single element of presence information to the watcher.
2. The method of claim 1 wherein the plurality of disparate presence platforms include at least one presence platform compliant with a standard of the Open Mobile Alliance and at least one presence platform not compliant with a standard of the Open Mobile Alliance.
3. The method of claim 1 wherein the single element of presence information is one of:
 - a location of a presentity;
 - an availability of the presentity;
 - a reachability of the presentity;
 - a willingness of the presentity to communicate;
 - a willingness of the presentity to use a service;
 - a willingness of the presentity to use a communication method;
 - a state of mind of the presentity;
 - an activity the presentity is currently engaged in; and
 - an application currently executing on a user agent used by the presentity.
4. The method of claim 1 wherein an interworking function within the presence access layer converts presence-related information from a format used by at least one of the plurality of disparate presence platforms to a format used within the presence access layer.

5. The method of claim 1 wherein the derivation of the single element of presence information further includes consideration of at least one of:
- a status of a network;
 - a status of a network element;
 - a roaming status of a presentity;
 - a power status of a user agent used by the presentity;
 - a transmission and reception status of the user agent used by the presentity; and
 - a coverage status of the presentity.
6. A system comprising:
- a presence access layer configured to receive presence-related information from a plurality of disparate presence platforms, use the presence-related information to derive a single element of presence information, and deliver the single element of presence information to a watcher.
7. The system of claim 6 wherein the plurality of disparate presence platforms include at least one presence platform compliant with a standard of the Open Mobile Alliance and at least one presence platform not compliant with a standard of the Open Mobile Alliance.
8. The system of claim 6 wherein the single element of presence information is one of:
- a location of a presentity;
 - an availability of the presentity;
 - a reachability of the presentity;
 - a willingness of the presentity to communicate;
 - a willingness of the presentity to use a service;
 - a willingness of the presentity to use a communication method;
 - a state of mind of the presentity;
 - an activity the presentity is currently engaged in; and
 - an application currently executing on a user agent used by the presentity.

9. The system of claim 6, further comprising an interworking component within the presence access layer configured to convert presence-related information from a format used by at least one of the plurality of disparate presence platforms to a format used within the presence access layer.
10. The system of claim 6 wherein the derivation of the single element of presence information further includes consideration of at least one of:
- a status of a network;
 - a status of a network element;
 - a roaming status of a presentity;
 - a power status of a user agent used by the presentity;
 - a transmission and reception status of the user agent used by the presentity; and
 - a coverage status of the presentity.

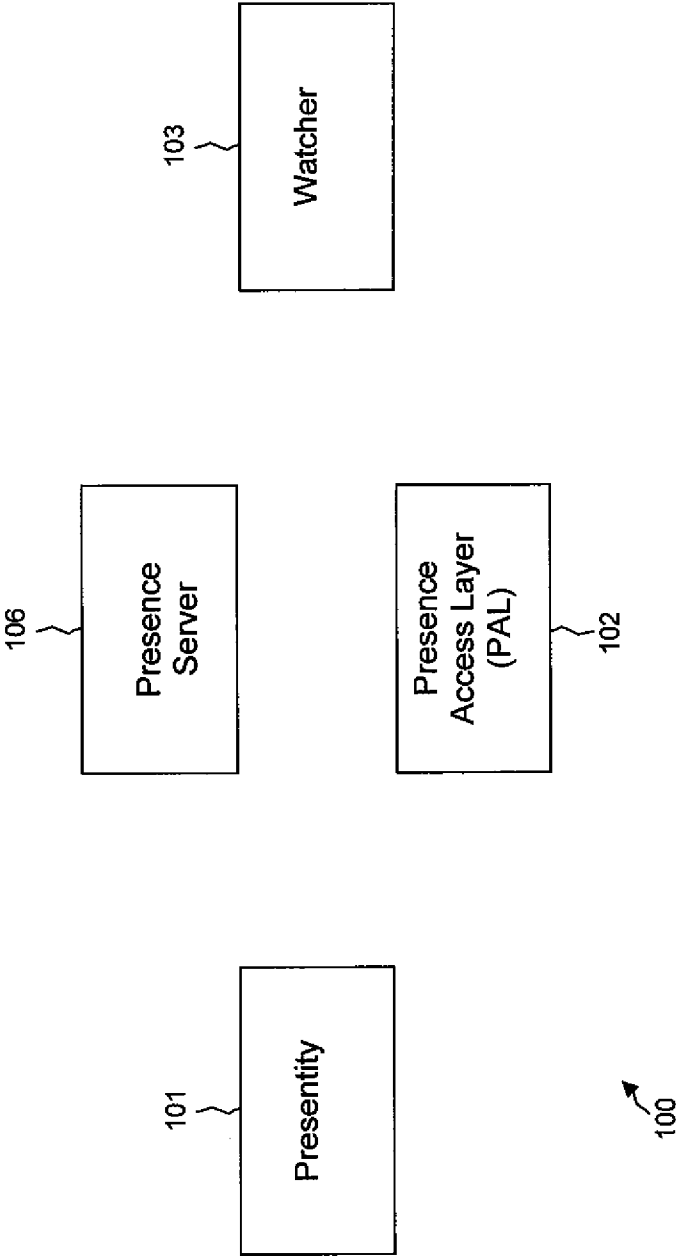


Figure 1

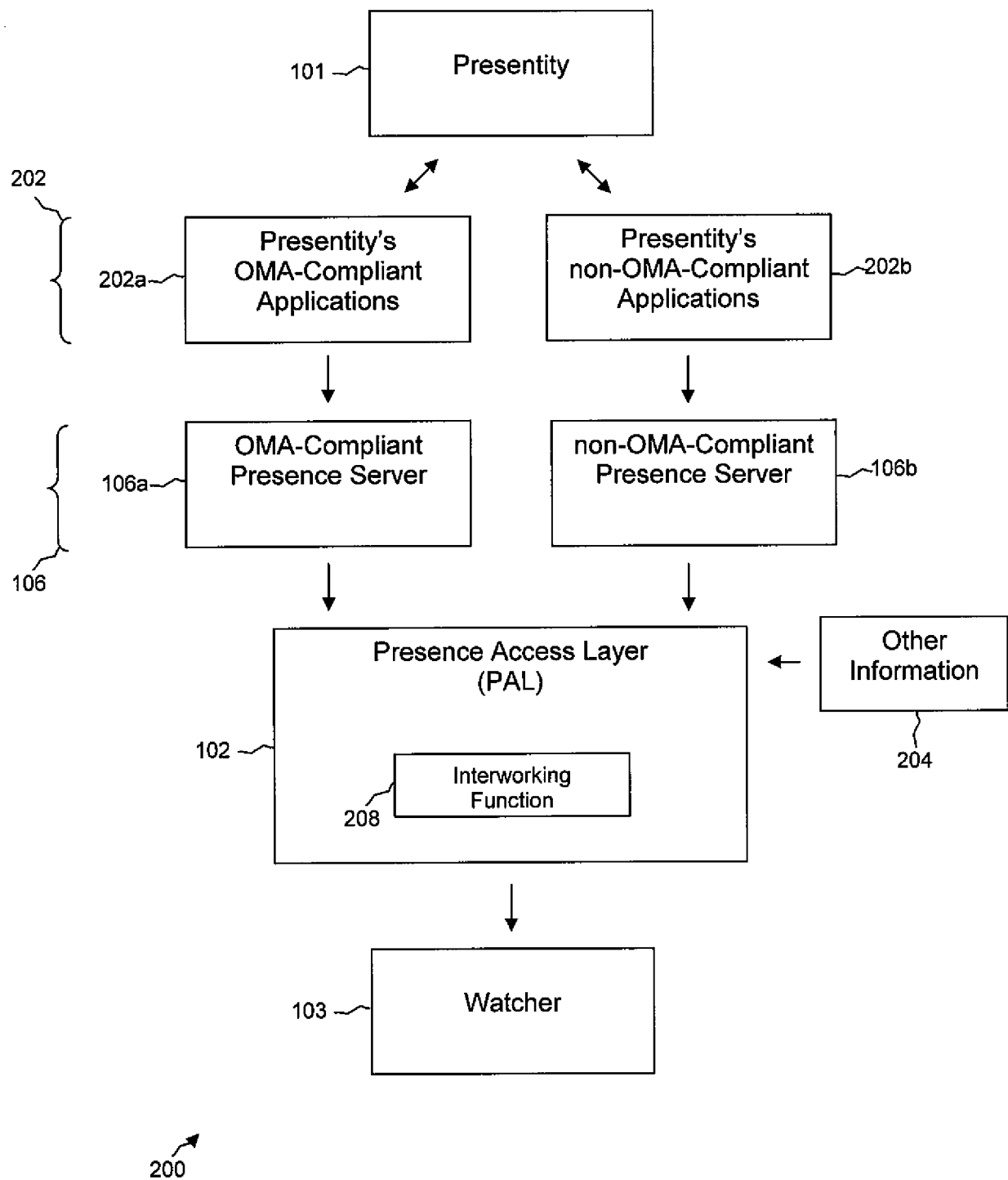
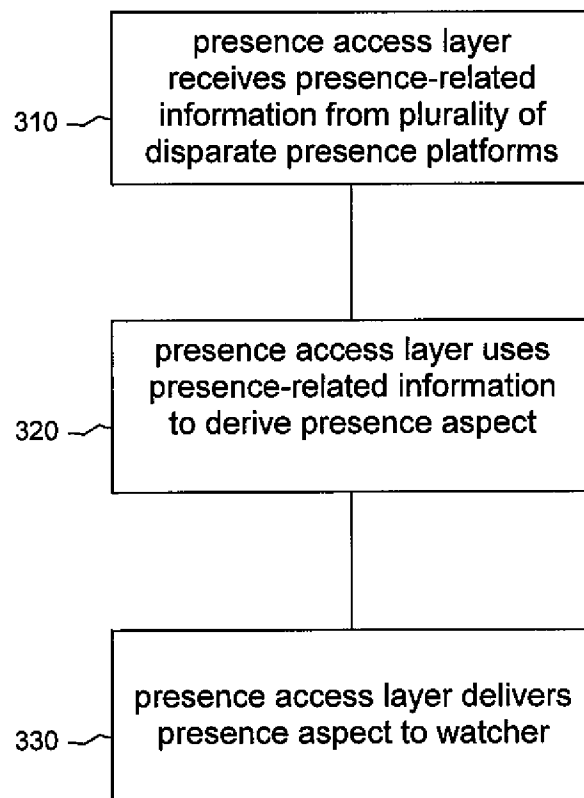


Figure 2



300

Figure 3

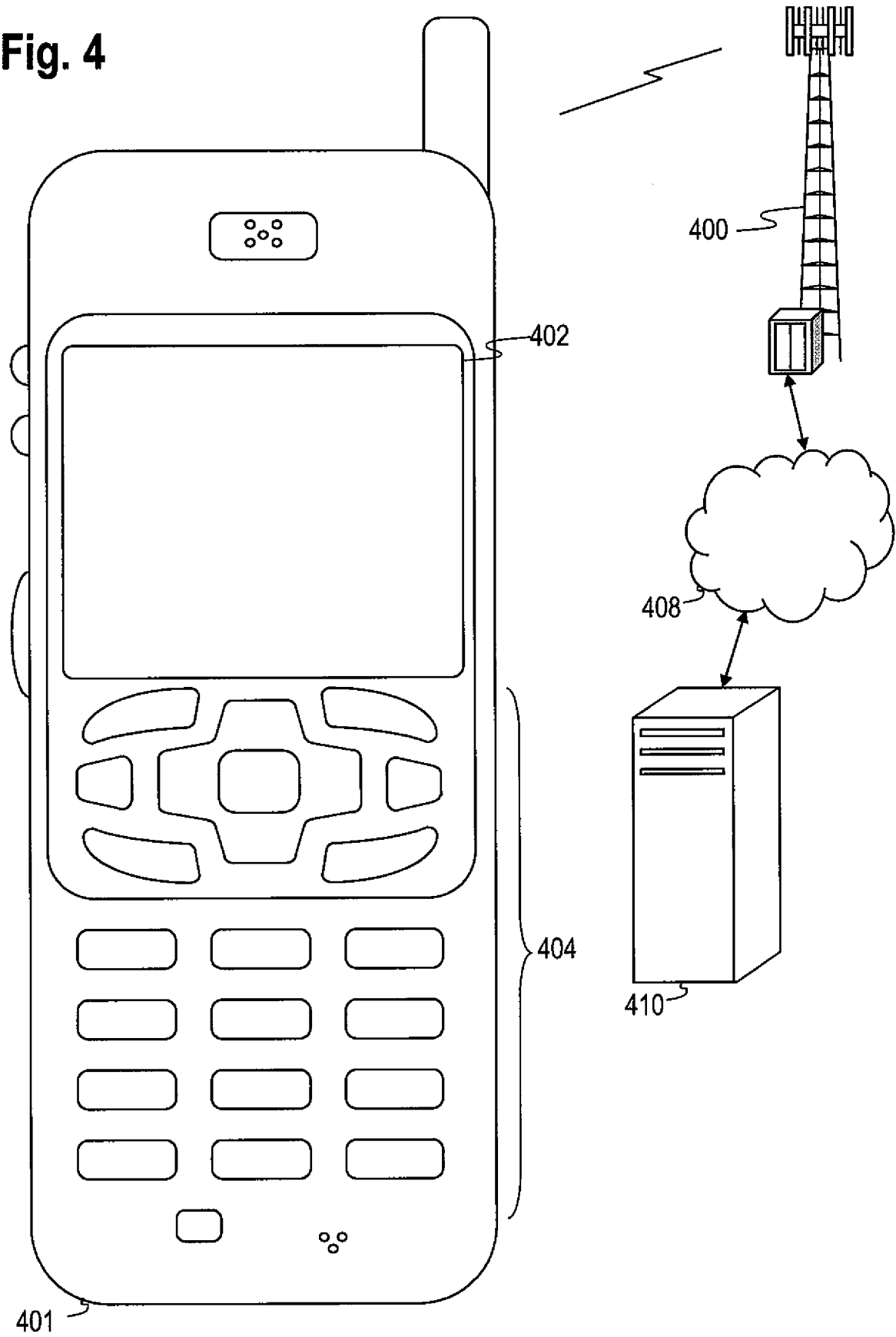
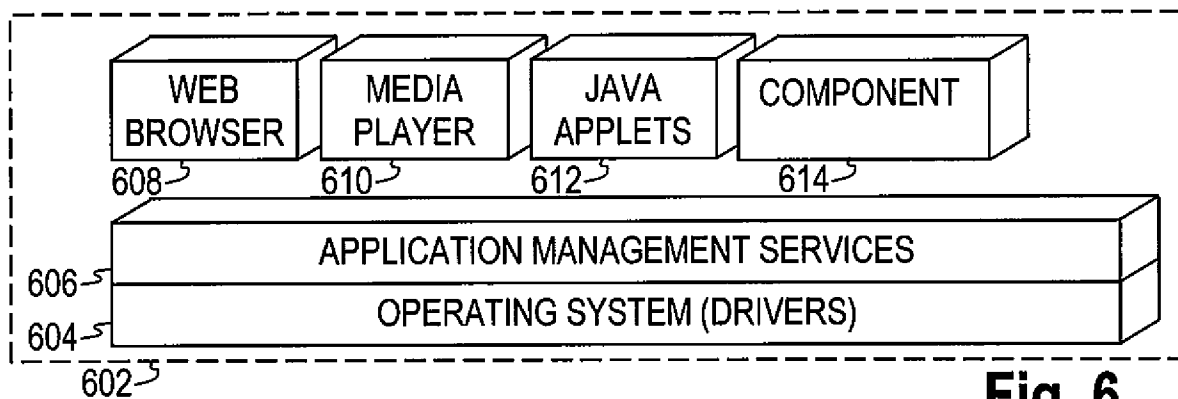
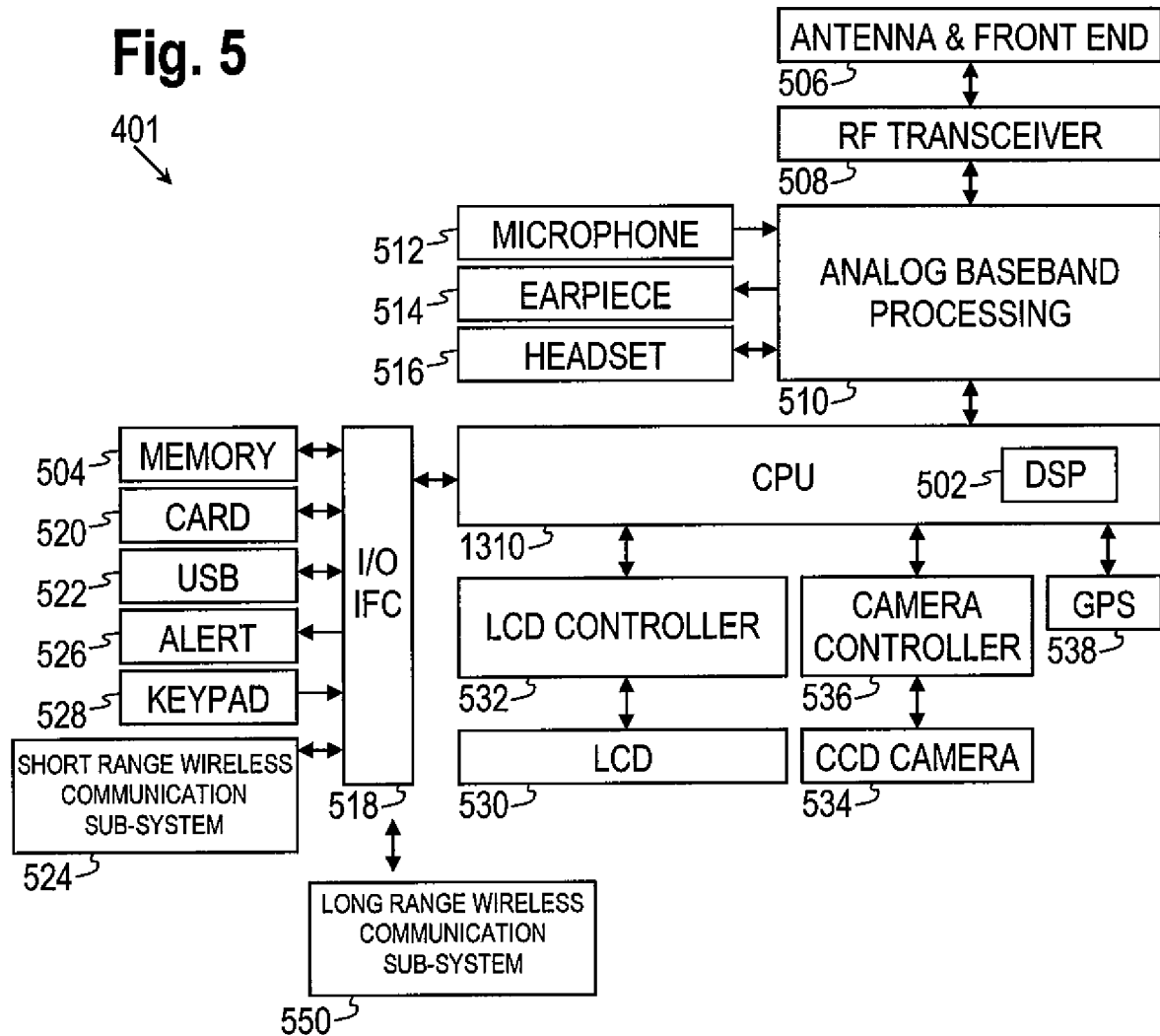
Fig. 4

Fig. 5**Fig. 6**

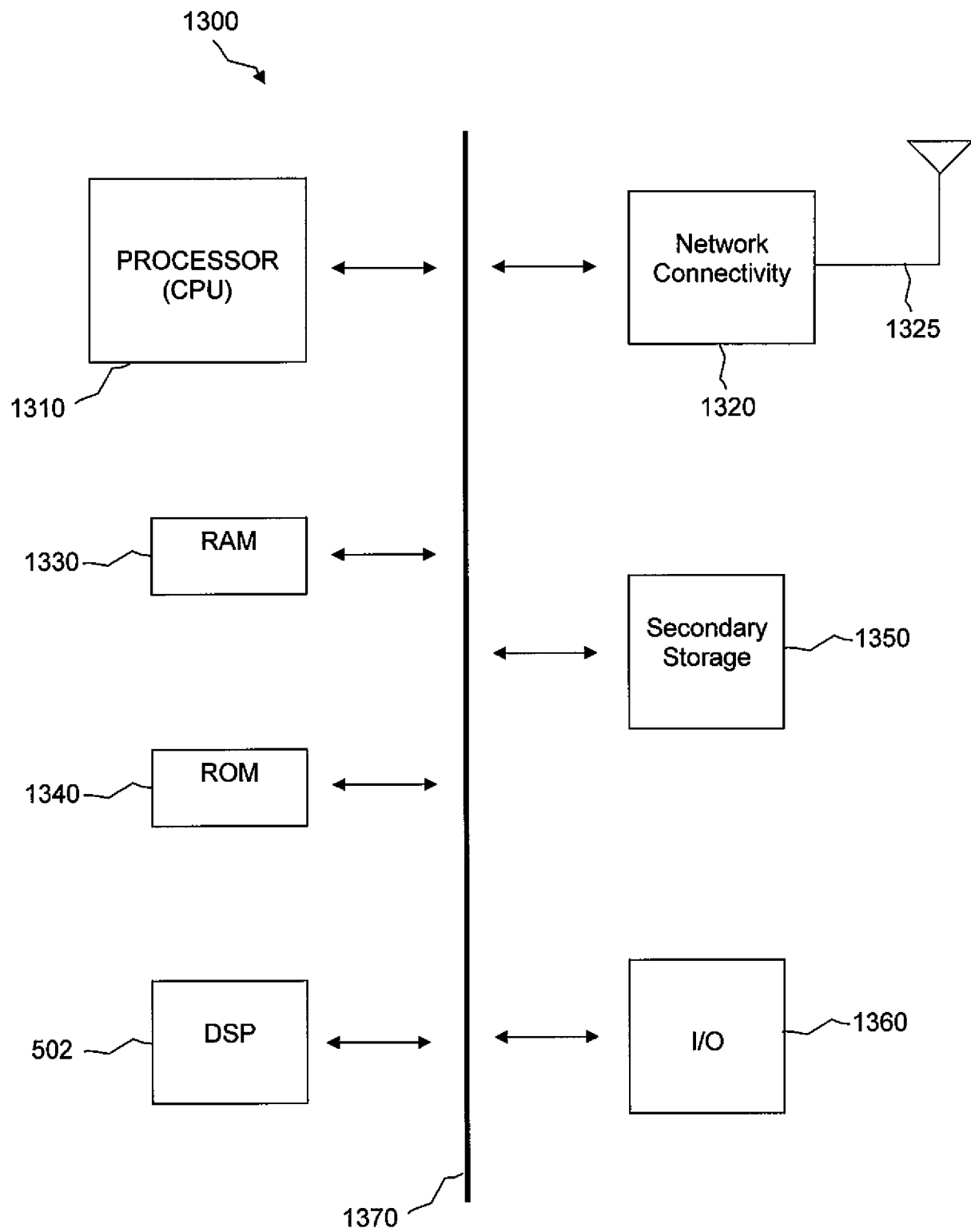


Figure 7

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No
PCT/US2009/033808

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER
INV. H04L29/08 H04M3/42

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)
H04L H04M

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, INSPEC

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	EP 1 511 267 A1 (SIEMENS MOBILE COMM SPA [IT]; SIEMENS AG [DE]) 2 March 2005 (2005-03-02)	1-4, 6-9
Y	abstract; figure 1 paragraph [0003] - paragraph [0004] paragraph [0007] - paragraph [0008] paragraph [0016] paragraph [0023] - paragraph [0024] paragraph [0031] paragraph [0037] - paragraph [0038] ----- -/--	5, 10

☒ 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
- "E" earlier document but published on or after the international filing date
- "L" document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified)
- "O" document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means
- "P" document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed

- "T" later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention
- "X" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone
- "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

25 February 2010

Date of mailing of the international search report

12/03/2010

Name and mailing address of the ISA/

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Authorized officer

Ross, Christopher

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No

PCT/US2009/033808

C(Continuation). DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	US 2008/153538 A1 (O'SHAUGHNESSY KEVIN MICHAEL [IE] ET AL) 26 June 2008 (2008-06-26)	1-4,6-9
Y	paragraph [0086] - paragraph [0088]; figure 3 paragraph [0105] paragraph [0108] - paragraph [0110]; figure 3a paragraph [0121] - paragraph [0128] paragraph [0138] paragraph [0152] - paragraph [0155]; figure 8	5,10
X	US 2007/168449 A1 (MALIK DALE [US] ET AL) 19 July 2007 (2007-07-19) abstract; figure 4	1,6
A	US 2005/068167 A1 (BOYER DAVID G [US] ET AL) 31 March 2005 (2005-03-31) abstract paragraph [0020]; figure 2 paragraph [0023] - paragraph [0025]	1-4,6-9
Y	US 2006/234735 A1 (DIGATE CHARLES J [US] ET AL) 19 October 2006 (2006-10-19) abstract paragraph [0004] paragraph [0015]; figure 1 paragraph [0035]; figure 3	5,10
Y	US 2005/198545 A1 (WIECK KYOKO T [US] ET AL) 8 September 2005 (2005-09-08) abstract paragraph [0021] - paragraph [0021]; figure 3	5,10
Y	US 2005/228895 A1 (KARUNAMURTHY RAJESH [CA] ET AL) 13 October 2005 (2005-10-13) paragraph [0007] - paragraph [0008]; table 1 paragraph [0039] - paragraph [0042]; figure 2 paragraph [0045] paragraph [0067]	5,10
Y	US 2007/042791 A1 (WALTER EDWARD [US]) 22 February 2007 (2007-02-22) abstract paragraph [0016] - paragraph [0024]; figure 2	5,10
Y	US 2005/266859 A1 (TEJANI AZIZ A [US] ET AL) 1 December 2005 (2005-12-01) abstract; figures 1,3	5,10

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.
PCT/US2009/033808

Box No. 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 No. 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 fees, this Authority did not invite payment of additional fees.
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.:

Remark on Protest

- ☐ The additional search fees were accompanied by the applicant's protest and, where applicable, the payment of a protest fee.
- ☐ The additional search fees were accompanied by the applicant's protest but the applicable protest fee was not paid within the time limit specified in the invitation.
- ☒ 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: 1-4, 6-9

The subject-matter of these claims is concerned with managing presence information from various sources in various formats.

2. claims: 5, 10

These claims are concerned with incorporating typically network-related input into presence information to be supplied. Such input is not standard presence-related information.

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Information on patent family members

International application No

PCT/US2009/033808

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US 2005198545	A1	08-09-2005	EP 1714205 A2	25-10-2006
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