



(22) Date de dépôt/Filing Date: 1999/11/01

(41) Mise à la disp. pub./Open to Public Insp.: 2000/10/01

(45) Date de délivrance/Issue Date: 2006/08/29

(30) Priorité/Priority: 1999/04/01 (JP11-094677)

(51) Cl.Int./Int.Cl. *H04L 12/54* (2006.01),
H04N 1/00 (2006.01), *H04N 1/327* (2006.01)

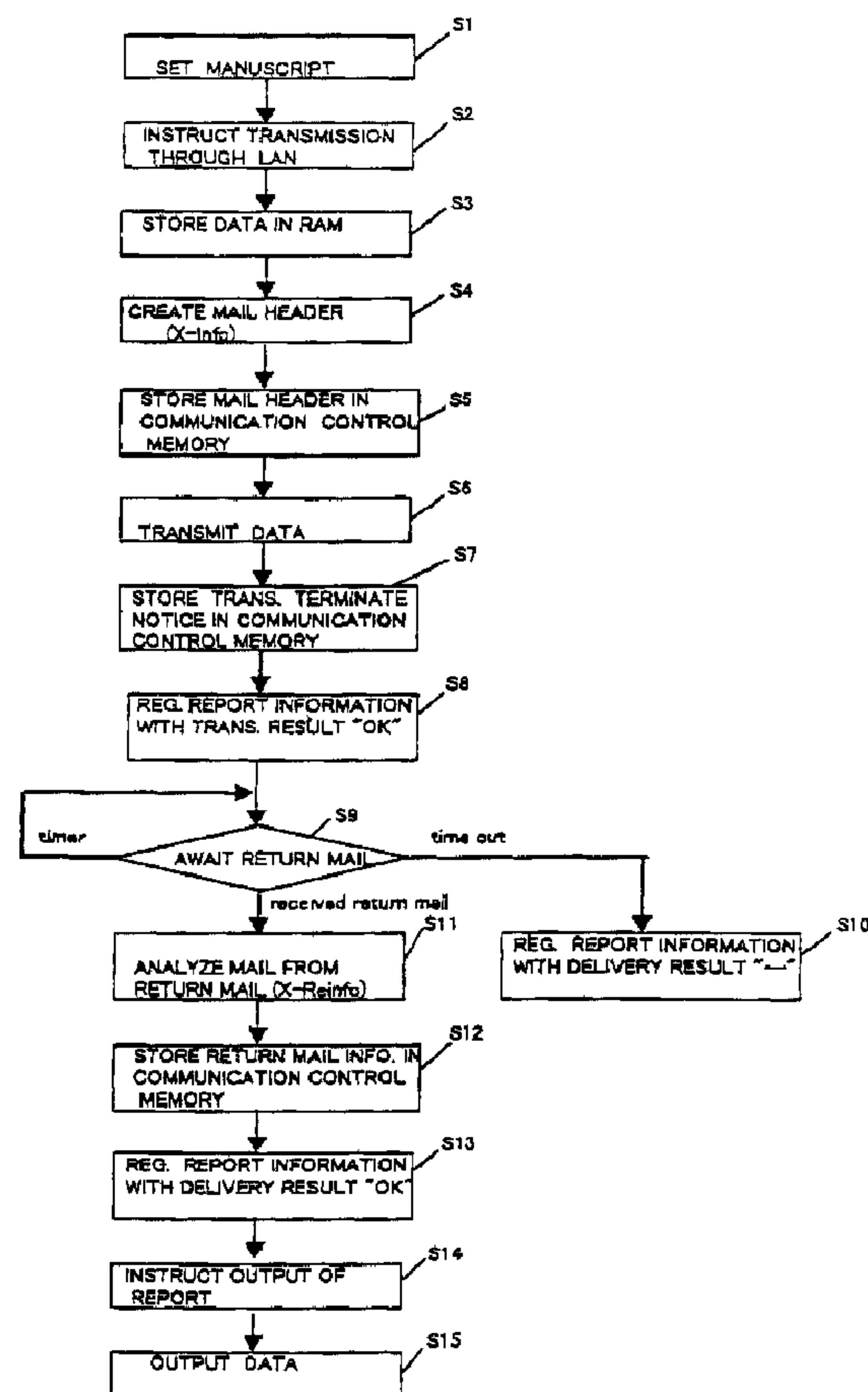
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(54) Titre : DISPOSITIF DE COMMUNICATIONS ET METHODE DE COMMUNICATIONS

(54) Title: COMMUNICATIONS APPARATUS AND COMMUNICATION METHOD



(57) Abrégé(suite)/Abstract(continued):

communication control memory. The communications control memory stores a transmit result indicating whether the transmitting device has completed the transmission and a delivery result indicating whether a destination side apparatus has received the transmission. Both the results are stored along with their correspondence to each other. A communication method utilizing this communications apparatus is also provided. The apparatus and the method allow users to confirm completion of transmission and delivery to a destination with ease and without fail by storing a notice of completing the transmission as well as information about a return mail into the communication control memory in the apparatus on the transmitter side.

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A communications apparatus connected to a network, such as the Internet or a LAN, includes an input system for inputting image data, a transmitter that transmits the image data via e-mail, a receiver that receives a reply related to the transmission, and a communication
5 control memory. The communications control memory stores a transmit result indicating whether the transmitting device has completed the transmission and a delivery result indicating whether a destination side apparatus has received the transmission. Both the results are stored along with their correspondence to each other. A communication method utilizing this communications apparatus is also provided. The apparatus and the method allow users to
10 confirm completion of transmission and delivery to a destination with ease and without fail by storing a notice of completing the transmission as well as information about a return mail into the communication control memory in the apparatus on the transmitter side.

COMMUNICATIONS APPARATUS AND COMMUNICATION METHOD

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

1. Field of the Invention

The present invention relates to a communications apparatus such as a facsimile machine which utilizes the Internet or a LAN (local area network), and a communication method employing this apparatus. The present invention particularly relates to a communications apparatus which allows users to confirm a delivery result, and a method for confirming the delivery result.

2. Background and Material Information

A conventional communications apparatus, e.g., a facsimile machine, indicates "data transmitting" on its display panel during a transmission, and when it completes the transmission, this display disappears. Users determine that the data has been successfully transmitted when the display disappears, or when the machine does not print a "non-delivery" message within a certain period after the transmission.

On the other hand, a facsimile machine linked to the Internet is unable to confirm whether the data has been transmitted correctly and users must assume the data has been successfully transmitted when the transmission is completed. In this respect, facsimiles sent via the Internet are different from facsimiles sent via the PSTN (public switched telephone network). The users thus ask the destination (i.e., recipient) to send a return mail (i.e., e-mail) from the destination-side facsimile machine linked to the Internet to confirm receipt of the data. The users print out the return mail upon receipt to confirm the acknowledgment.

Fig. 1 depicts an output format that acknowledges the data transmission by a conventional facsimile machine linked to the Internet. As shown in Fig. 1, users can acknowledge facsimile transceiving by "OK" (as examples No. 22 and 26 show) and confirm a relay transmission by "R-OK" (as examples No. 14 and 24 show). However, during LAN communications, although receipt of e-mail is acknowledged by "OK" (as example No. 13 shows), transmission of e-mail does not have any means for acknowledgment, as seen in

receiving a reply from the predetermined destination, in association with reception of the transmitted image data by the predetermined destination;

generating a second notice indicating reception result; and

registering the first notice, indicating that the transmission was successfully completed, in correlation with the second notice, indicating reception result by the predetermined destination.

8. The communication method according to claim 7, further comprising outputting a communication report that includes the first notice and the second notice.

