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(54) Title: METHOD AND SYSTEM FOR STORING CONTACT INFORMATION IN A NETWORK CONTACT DATABASE

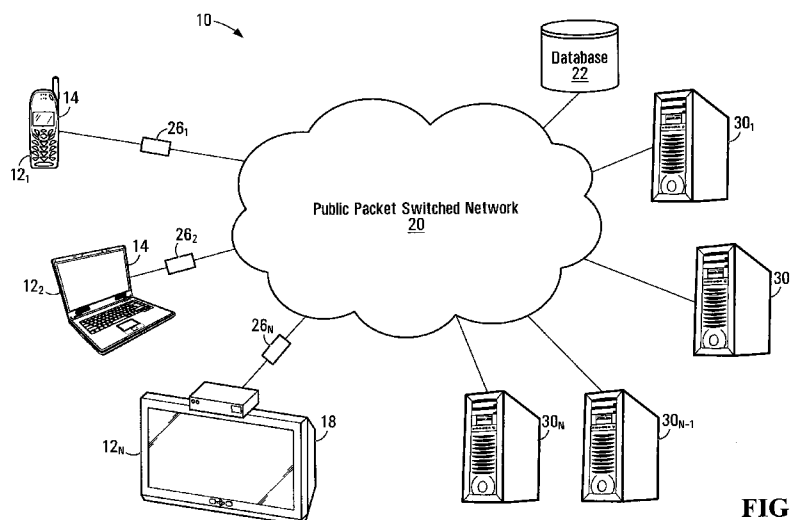


FIG. 1

(57) Abstract: The invention provides a method comprising, receiving an indication of a desire for contact information associated with given media content, obtaining the contact information associated with the given media content in response to the indication and causing the obtained contact information to be stored in a database associated with a given party.

**TITLE: METHOD AND SYSTEM FOR STORING CONTACT
INFORMATION IN A NETWORK CONTACT DATABASE**

FIELD OF THE INVENTION

The present invention relates generally to the field of network contact databases, and more particularly to a method and system for enabling a user to quickly and easily add contact information to a network contact database.

BACKGROUND

Many people who use network devices, such as cell phones, are associated with a network contact database (otherwise known as a network address book) in which contact information associated with their contacts is stored. In this manner, a user's address book is not located locally within their cell phone. As such, the size of the network address book is not limited by the memory space within the cell phone, nor is all a user's contact information lost if the cell phone is lost or damaged. As such, there are numerous advantages to having a network address book.

Typically, in order for a user to add contact information to their network address book, the user must manually enter the contact information (the contact's name, phone number, fax number, address, etc...) and then indicate that it should be stored to their network address book. This can be both time consuming and inconvenient for a user.

Thus, there remains a need in the industry to provide a technological solution that alleviates, at least in part, some of the deficiencies associated with the manner in which contact information is entered and stored into a network address book.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

In accordance with a first broad aspect, the invention provides a method comprising, receiving an indication of a desire for contact information associated with given media content, obtaining the contact information associated with the given media

1 content in response to the indication and causing the obtained contact information to
2 be stored in a database associated with a given party.

3
4 In accordance with a second broad aspect, the invention provides a system comprising
5 an input for receiving an indication that a given party desires contact information
6 associated with given media content, and a processing unit for obtaining the contact
7 information associated with the given media content and causing the obtained contact
8 information to be stored in a database associated with the given party.

9
10 These and other aspects and features of the present invention will now become
11 apparent to those of ordinary skill in the art upon review of the following description
12 of specific embodiments of the invention in conjunction with the accompanying
13 drawings.

14 15 **BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS**

16
17 In the accompanying drawings:

18
19 Figure 1 shows a network architecture in accordance with a non-limiting embodiment
20 of the invention that comprises a plurality of network devices in communication with
21 a packet switched network 20;

22
23 Figure 2 shows a non-limiting functional block diagram of a network device in
24 accordance with the present invention;

25
26 Figure 3 shows a non-limiting example of potential contents of a database containing
27 a plurality of network contact databases for storing contact information; and

28
29 Figure 4 shows a non-limiting example of a method for causing contact information to
30 be stored in a network contact database;

31
32 Figure 5 shows a non-limiting example of a display screen on which a user can
33 identify contact information to be stored in a database associate with the user; and

1 Figure 6 shows a network architecture in accordance with an alternative non-limiting
2 embodiment of the invention.

3

4 It is to be expressly understood that the description and drawings are only for the
5 purpose of illustration of certain embodiments of the invention and are an aid for
6 understanding. They are not intended to be a definition of the limits of the invention.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF NON-LIMITING EMBODIMENTS

Figure 1 depicts an architecture 10, in accordance with a non-limiting example of implementation of the present invention that allows users of network devices 12_{1-N} that are connected to a packet-switched network 20 (e.g., the Internet) to access and interact with media content (e.g., web sites, IPTV channels, etc) over the packet-switched network 20.

In the embodiment shown in Figure 1, the network devices 12_{1-N} are embodied as a hand-held communication device 14, a computer 16 and an IPTV set-top box 18. It should, however, be appreciated that the network devices 12_{1-N} can be embodied as any type of communication device or computing device that can communicate with the packet-switched network 20. For the purposes of the present description, each of the network devices 12_{1-N} will be referred to in the singular as a network device 12.

Shown in Figure 2 is a non-limiting functional block diagram illustrating at least some of the functional components implemented at each of the network devices 12_{1-N}. As shown, each of the network devices 12_{1-N} comprises a computing device 40 that includes a processing unit 44 communicatively connected to a memory unit 46. The memory unit 46 includes data 50 and program instructions 48 that are adapted for being processed by the processing unit 44 for implementing the functionality of the network device 12. The computing device 40 may also comprise a number of interfaces, such as an input/output interface 52 and a network interface 42, for receiving and/or sending data elements to/from external devices or networks. For example, the input/output interface 52 can be operative for receiving signals from one or more user input devices 54, or for transmitting signals to one or more output devices such as a screen or speakers, among other possibilities. The network interface 42 allows the computing device 40 to exchange signals with the public packet switched network 20. Although the network interface 42 is shown as being included within the computing device 40, it should be appreciated that the network interface 42 could be a separate component, such as a separate modem, that is connected to the computing device 40 through a wireless or wireline connection link.

1 It should be appreciated that depending on the specific implementation of the network
2 devices 12_{1-N}, the functional block diagram shown in Figure 2 may comprise other
3 functional components.

4
5 In the case of the hand-held communication device 14, the computing device 40 can
6 be implemented as a web-enabled cellular phone, a smart-phone, a web-enabled PDA,
7 or any other form of hand-held communication device that is capable of
8 communicating with the packet-switched network 20. The computing device 40 is in
9 communication with one or more user input device(s) 54, via the input/output
10 interface 52, so as to enable interaction between a user and the computing device 40.

11 The user input device(s) 54 can be a keypad, a keyboard, a touchscreen, a pointing
12 device, a stylus, a microphone, etc. The user input device(s) 54 can be integral with
13 the hand-held communication device 14 (such as in the case of a built in keypad or
14 pointing device) or could be separate from the communication device (such as a
15 stylus, or a keyboard) and connected to the hand-held communication device 14 via a
16 USB port, a micro-USB port, a mini-USB port or a fire-wire port, among other
17 possibilities. The network interface 42 enables the hand-held communication device
18 14 to exchange data with the public packet-switched network 20. For example, the
19 network interface 42 may be implemented as a wireless modem that is integrated into
20 the computing device 40 (e.g., it may be a card internal to the computing device 40).

21 The computing device 40 is operative to run a software application (that is most likely
22 stored within the memory 46) implementing a network browser (e.g., a web browser)
23 with which a user can interact via a display and the user input device(s) 54 (as well as
24 possibly one or more other output devices), in order to access and interact with
25 network sites of the packet-switched network 20.

26
27 In the case of the computer 16, the computing device 40 may be implemented as a
28 personal computer (PC) such as a desktop computer, a laptop computer, or a tablet
29 PC. The computing device 40 is in communication with one or more user input
30 device(s) 54 via the input/output interface 52 so as to enable interaction between a
31 user and the computing device 40. The user input device(s) 54 can include a
32 keyboard, a mouse, a touchscreen, a stylus, a microphone, etc. It should also be
33 appreciated that the user input device(s) 54 can be integral with the computer 16 (such
34 as in the case of a keyboard) or could be separate from the computer 16 (such as a

1 mouse or a USB or wireless keyboard) and connected to computer 16 via a USB port,
2 a micro-USB port, a mini-USB port or a fire-wire port, among other possibilities. The
3 network interface 42 enables the computer 16 to exchange data with the packet-
4 switched network 20. The network interface 42 may be implemented as a modem
5 such as a broadband modem (e.g., a digital subscriber line (DSL) modem or a cable
6 modem) or a narrowband modem (e.g., a dial-up modem). Although the network
7 interface 42 is shown in Figure 2 as being an integral part of the computing device 40,
8 it should be appreciated that it could be a separate component that is connected to the
9 computer 16 in manners known in the art. The computing device 40 is operative to
10 run a software application implementing a network browser (e.g., a web browser) with
11 which a user can interact via the display and the one or more user input device(s) 54
12 (as well as possibly one or more other output devices) in order to access and interact
13 with network sites of the public packet-switched network 20.

14
15 In the case of the IPTV set top box 18, the computing device 40 may be implemented
16 as an IPTV set top box, or an actual television that includes built in IPTV
17 functionality.. The computing device 40 is in communication with one or more user
18 input device(s) 54 via the input/output interface 52, so as to enable interaction
19 between a user and the computing device 40. The user input device(s) 54 can include
20 a keyboard, a remote control device or a game-controller among other possibilities.
21 The user input device(s) 54 can be integral with the computing device 40, such as in
22 the case of a keypad on the set top box, or could include a separate component, such
23 as a remote control device that has RF or infrared communication capabilities for
24 transmitting signals to the IPTV set top box 18. The network interface 42 enables the
25 IPTV set-top box 18 to exchange data with the public packet-switched network 20.
26 The network interface unit 42 may be implemented as an Ethernet cable, a satellite
27 dish, a coaxial cable, a telephone line (including DSL connections) or broadband over
28 power line. In the case of an "Ethernet" arrangement, the network interface unit 42
29 would communicate with a router that is connected to a DSL modem that is connected
30 to the network. In the case of broadband over powerline, a similar interface
31 connection would be established. In the case of a satellite dish, a coax interface is
32 connected to the satellite dish which is connected to a network. The computing device
33 40 is operative to run a software application implementing an IPTV interface with
34 which a user can interact via the TV display and the at least one input device 54 (as

1 well as possibly one or more other output devices) in order to interact with sources of
2 IP video content over the public packet-switched network 20.

3
4 In the case where the media content is provided to a television set top box via a
5 satellite or cable source, then the media content is unidirectional from the
6 Satellite/Cable to the set top box. In such a circumstance, the computing device 40
7 within the set top box is able to communicate with the packet switched network via a
8 modem or broadband connection.

9
10 The network devices 12_{1-N} are capable of exchanging data with the public packet-
11 switched network 20 via various network portions 26_{1-N}. The network portions 26_{1-N}
12 may traverse one or more network components and may comprise one or more
13 physical links and one or more logical links. For example, the network portions 26_{1-N}
14 may comprise a physical link between the network interfaces 42 and a network
15 component such as a DSL access multiplexer (DSLAM), a cable modem termination
16 system (CMTS), or another type of network component. The physical link may
17 comprise a copper twisted pair, a coax cable, an Ethernet link, a fiber optic link (e.g.,
18 fiber to the premises (FTTP)), a wireless link, a satellite link, or a combination
19 thereof. The network portions 26_{1-N} may also comprise a dedicated logical link
20 between two network components that provides access to the packet-switched
21 network 20. The network components may further include a network access server
22 (NAS), a router, etc. It will be appreciated that the network portions 26_{1-N} may take on
23 many forms in various embodiments.

24
25 In order to exchange data over the packet-switched network 20, each network device
26 12_{1-N} (or its associated network interface 42) is assigned a logical identifier, which
27 may be an Internet Protocol (IP) address (e.g., in compliance with IPv4 or IPv6) or a
28 proprietary address, label or tag. A logical identifier may be statically assigned to one
29 or more of the network device 12_{1-N} in which case it does not change over time (e.g.,
30 a static IP address), or the logical identifier may be dynamically assigned to one or
31 more of the network devices 12_{1-N} in which case it may change over time (e.g., a
32 dynamic IP address).

33

1 In order to be able to access the packet-switched network 20, each of the network
2 devices 12_{1-N} has an account or profile with a service provider that provides network
3 access (in this case, to the public packet-switched network 20). Each of the network
4 devices 12_{1-N} can have an account with the same service provider, or with different
5 service providers, respectively. The service provider can be a communications service
6 provider (CSP) such as an access service provider (ASP, also sometimes called a
7 regional access network provider (RANP)) that may or may not be an internet service
8 provider (ISP). The service provider operates a network component (such as a NAS)
9 that allows the network devices 12_{1-N} to access the public packet-switched network
10 20.

11
12 In accordance with a non-limiting embodiment, the service provider maintains a
13 database (not shown) containing account information associated with the network
14 devices 12_{1-N} to which a network access service is provided. The account information
15 may take on many forms in various different embodiments. In general, the account
16 information includes an account number or code, as well as personal information
17 regarding a party (which may or may not be the user of the network device 12). For
18 instance, this personal information may include any one or more of a name, an age, a
19 correspondence language, a civic address (e.g., a residential or work address), a phone
20 number (e.g., a residential, work, VoIP or mobile phone number), an email address, a
21 SIP address, an instant messaging (IM) identifier, and/or financial information (e.g.,
22 credit or debit card information, bank account information, or other information used
23 to pay for the network access service) of the party. The personal information
24 regarding the party may be obtained by the service provider as a result of interaction
25 between the party and the service provider (e.g., during a registration or service
26 activation phase).

27
28 These examples of account information potentially included in a database managed by
29 the service provider are presented for illustrative purposes only and should not be
30 considered limiting in any respect.

31
32 In addition, the packet switched network 20 includes one or more network contact
33 databases for storing contact information belonging to respective parties. These
34 network contact databases may be implemented and managed by the service provider,

1 or any other entity, such as Google, Microsoft. These network contact databases are
2 associated with a given party via a unique identifier, and allow users or members of
3 the given party to store contact information therein. The unique identifier may be
4 associated with a user (such as a user's email address or account number), with a
5 communication device (such as a phone number, a MAC address, or SIP address
6 associated with the communication device), or with a group of users (such as a group
7 email, or a group account or subscription number). A network contact database can be
8 set up when a user registers with the service provider, or upon a request by a user to a
9 company that manages these network contact databases, such as Google or Microsoft.
10 At the time of set-up, the unique identifier that links a given party to an associated
11 network contact database may be chosen by the service provider (or other provider of
12 this network contact database service), or can be chosen by the subscriber.

13 As mentioned previously, the network devices 12_{1-N} can be used to interact with
14 network sites and sources of IP video content via the public packet-switched network
15 20. These network sites and sources of IP video content are implemented by servers
16 $30_1...30_N$ connected to the public packet-switched network 20. The servers $30_1...30_N$
17 and the network sites and sources of IP video content that they implement are
18 operated, managed or otherwise associated with various entities, including, for
19 example, the service provider, corporations, governmental organizations, non-profit
20 organizations, and individuals.

21
22 Each of the servers $30_1...30_N$ comprises suitable hardware, firmware, software,
23 control logic, or a combination thereof for implementing a plurality of functional
24 elements, including an interface and a processing unit. The interface of each of the
25 servers $30_1...30_N$ is adapted to receive and send data (e.g., in the form of packet-based
26 messages) from and to network devices 12_{1-N} connected to the public packet-switched
27 network 20 as well as other components (e.g., computers or databases)
28 communicatively coupled to that server but not necessarily connected to the network
29 20. The processing unit of each of the servers $30_1...30_N$ is adapted to effect various
30 processing operations to implement that server's functionality.

31
32 When a user of one of the network devices 12_{1-N} accesses a network site or source of
33 IP video content that is implemented by one or more of the servers $30_1...30_N$, the
34 computing device 40 implemented by the given network device 12, which may run a

1 browser or other program suitable for accessing packet-based content, interacts with
2 the one or more appropriate servers in order to allow a user of the given network
3 device 12 to view, hear or otherwise be presented with online media content via the
4 display and/or one or more other output devices of the computing device 40. While
5 interacting with the network site or source of IP video content, the user may also input
6 information (e.g., by entering text, selecting an option, etc.) and/or one or more
7 commands (e.g., by clicking on a graphical button or a hyperlink) via at least one of
8 the input devices 54 connected to the computing device 40.

9
10 The online media content presented to the user when he/she accesses or interacts with
11 the network site, or source of IP video content, comprises various online content
12 elements. An online content element can include any information visually and/or
13 audibly presentable to the user when he/she accesses or interacts with the network site
14 or source of IP video content. For example, an online content element may include
15 text, one or more images, one or more videos, one or more sounds, one or more
16 animations, one or more hyperlinks, one or more links to downloadable files, one or
17 more interactive features (e.g., games, maps, etc.), and/or other information that can
18 be presented to a user when he/she accesses or interacts with the network site or
19 source of IP video content. In some cases, an online content element may constitute
20 an entire online page (e.g., web page), while in other cases it may constitute a portion
21 (e.g., text, an image, a video, and/or sound) of such a page. An online content element
22 may also constitute a video stream for displaying an entire TV episode, or movie. In
23 addition, in some cases, an online content element may be part of a window
24 containing a currently-displayed page of the network site, while in other cases it may
25 be part of another window (e.g., a pop-up window) that is separate from the window
26 containing the currently-displayed page of the network site, or the window or screen
27 containing the currently-displayed video stream.

28
29 Also, the online media content presented to the user when he/she accesses or interacts
30 with a network site or source of IP video content that is implemented by one of the
31 servers 30₁...30_N, comprises primary content and possibly advertising content.

32
33 The primary content serves to provide a primary function of the network site
34 implemented by a server. For example: where the network site is a search engine site,

1 the primary content serves to provide searching functionality and search results to the
2 user of a network device 12; where the network site is a commercial site associated
3 with a company, the primary content serves to provide information on the company or
4 its products and/or services; where the network site is a personal site associated with a
5 person, the primary content serves to provide information on the person; where the
6 network site is a news site, the primary content serves to provide news; where the
7 network site is a map and/or directions site, the primary content serves to provide
8 maps and/or directions; etc.

9
10 The advertising content, if any, serves to provide one or more online advertisements.
11 The online advertisement can be a paid or un-paid online announcement designed to
12 attract public attention to promote, for instance, an entity (e.g., a company or other
13 organization), a product, a service, or an event. For example, an online advertisement
14 may be a banner ad, a vertical banner ad, a skyscraper ad, a pop-up ad, a pop-under
15 ad, an interstitial ad, a floating ad, an expanding ad, a trick banner ad, a video ad, or
16 any other type of online ad.

17
18 Referring back to Figure 1, the architecture 10 includes a database 22 that is
19 accessible via the public-packet switched network 20. It should be appreciated that
20 the database 22 can be stored at one of the servers 30_{1...N} or can be stored at a location
21 that is accessible to one or more of the servers 30_{1...N}, via the public switched network
22 20. This database 22 can be managed by a network service provider, or by other
23 entities that offer network services.

24
25 Shown in Figure 3 is a non-limiting example of the potential contents of the database
26 22. For the purposes of the present invention, the database 22 includes one or more
27 network contact databases 60_{1-N} that each store contact information associated with a
28 given party.

29
30 An advantage of storing contact information belonging to a given party within a
31 network contact database is that the contact information stored within the network
32 contact database can be accessed by the given party irrespective of the communication
33 device being used.

1 Although database 22 is depicted in Figure 3 as being one component, the database 22
2 may be distributed in nature. For example, the database 22 can have portions of its
3 content stored in different data storage media possibly located in different network
4 components of the packet switched network 20.

5
6 As will be described in more detail below, in accordance with the present invention, a
7 user of a network device 12 is able to cause contact information associated with given
8 media content that is displayed, or otherwise presented to a user of that network
9 device 12, to be stored in a network contact database 60_{1...N} associated with a given
10 party. The given party may be the user of that network device 12, or the given party
11 may be a group of people, such as a family or a business group, wherein the user of
12 that network device 12 is a member of the group. In yet a further alternative, the given
13 party may be the network device itself, such that regardless of who is using the
14 network device 12, media content that is identified by any user of the network device
15 12 is stored to the same network contact database associated with that particular
16 network device 12.

17
18 In the embodiment shown in Figure 3, the database 22 includes a plurality of network
19 contact databases 60_{1...N}. Each of the network contact databases 60_{1...N} includes a
20 unique identifier 62 for associating the respective network contact database with a
21 given party. The unique identifier 62 could be an account number, a subscriber
22 number, an email address, a phone number or a SIP address, among other
23 possibilities. In addition, each of the network contact databases 60_{1...N} includes a
24 plurality of entries 64. Each of the entries 64 includes contact information for
25 contactable entities, such as individuals, companies, service providers, etc. The
26 contact information may include a name of an individual or company, one or more
27 phone numbers, one or more fax numbers, one or more email addresses, physical
28 address information, website address (URL), and/or any other relevant contact
29 information for the contactable entity.

30
31 In the embodiment shown, network contact database 60₁ is associated with hand-held
32 communication device 14, and the unique identifier 62 for associating this network
33 contact database 60₁ with hand-held communication device 14 includes a SIP address
34 associated with the user. The network contact database 60₂ is associated with a group

1 of users of computer 16; namely the Smith family. The unique identifier 62 for
2 associating this network contact database 60₂ with the Smith family includes an email
3 address for the Smith family. The network contact database 60_{N-1} is associated with
4 IPTV set-top box 18, and the unique identifier 62 for associating this network contact
5 database 60_{N-1} with the IPTV set-top box 18 includes an account number associated
6 with the IPTV set-top box 18 .

7
8 It should be appreciated that although each contact database 60 shown includes only
9 one unique identifier 62 associated therewith, each contact database 60 could be
10 associated with a plurality of unique identifiers 62 for different network devices
11 associated to a given party. For example, the database 60₂ associated with the Smith
12 Family includes a unique identifier 62 that is an email address associated with the
13 Smith Family. Database 60₂ could also have included one or more telephone numbers
14 associated with cellular phones belonging to the members of the Smith Family. In
15 such a manner, the members of the Smith Family would be able to add contact
16 information to, and retrieve information from, the contact database 60₂ with each of
17 these network devices.

18
19 In some cases, a given contact database 60 may be associated with a plurality of
20 different kinds of network devices 12, such as a cell phone, a computer having an IP
21 address, an TV having an IPTV account number, etc. As such, the contact information
22 can be caused to be stored in the contact database 60, and retrieved from the contact
23 database 60, via any of these network devices 12.

24
25 When users of the network devices 12_{1...N} access the public packet-switched network
26 20, media content from network sites (or sources of IP video content) is displayed, or
27 otherwise provided, to those users of the network devices 12_{1...N}. In accordance with
28 the present invention, when a user of a network device 12 is presented with media
29 content, the user can provide an indication that contact information associated with
30 that media content is desired to be stored. By so doing, the contact information will be
31 obtained and stored to a network contact database associated with a given party. The
32 present invention will now be described in more detail with respect to the flow chart
33 shown in Figure 4.

34

1 Firstly, in operation, a user of a network device 12 interacts with a network site or
2 source of IP video content that is implemented by one or more of the servers
3 30₁...30_N, such that the user is presented with online media content via a display
4 and/or one or more other output devices of the network device 12. While the user is
5 presented with the media content, the user may decide that he/she would like to store
6 contact information associated with the given media content. In accordance with the
7 present invention, the user is thus able to provide an indication that contact
8 information associated with the media content is desired to be stored, such that at step
9 70, the computing device 40 receives the indication indicative of a desire for storing
10 the contact information associated with the given media content.

11
12 The indication of a user's desire for the contact information associated with the given
13 media content to be stored can be provided via a user input device 54 that is activated
14 by the user. This will now be described in the context of the hand-held
15 communication device 14, the computer 16 and the IPTV set top box 18.

16
17 In the case of the hand-held communication device 14 or the computer 16, the user
18 generally interacts with a network site via a web-browser implemented by the
19 computing device 40. Shown in Figure 5, is a non-limiting example of media content
20 that can be displayed to a user of either the hand-held communication device 14 or the
21 computer 16, via a web-browser.

22
23 In the example shown, a user has accessed a web-page for a pizza shop that includes
24 contact information for that pizza shop. In order to provide an indication that contact
25 information associated with the pizza shop is desired to be stored, a user activates a
26 user input device 54, such as a mouse. In accordance with the non-limiting example
27 shown, the user right-clicks the mouse, such that a menu 76 appears on the screen and
28 provides an option 78 that can be selected by the user for indicating that the contact
29 information associated with the given media content is desired to be stored. In the
30 example shown, the menu 76 includes an option 78 entitled "Add to contacts". It
31 should be appreciated that this option 78 could have numerous different names
32 without departing from the spirit of the invention, such as "store contact information",
33 "save contact" etc... By selecting the "Add to contacts" option 78 in the menu, the
34 user provides an indication to the computing device 40 of a desire for storing the

1 contact information associated with the media content. In an alternative embodiment,
2 the menu 76 may be caused to appear by using the mouse to click on a drop-down
3 menu in the task bar 75.

4
5 Although the example of selecting from a menu is given above, it should be
6 appreciated that any type of input via a user input device 54 that is in communication
7 with the computing device 40 can be used by the user for providing an indication that
8 contact information associated with given media content is desired to be stored. For
9 example, the pressing of a combination of keys on a keypad or keyboard, or providing
10 a voice indication such as "save contact" to a microphone, could all be used to
11 provide an indication to the computing device 40 of a desire for contact information
12 associated with given media content to be stored.

13
14 In the case of an IPTV set top box 18, a user can view media content in the form of
15 TV and/or movie video streams provided by sources of IP video content of the packet-
16 switched network 20. In order to provide an indication that contact information
17 associated with the media content is desired to be stored, a user can activate a user
18 input device 54, such as a remote control that is in communication with the computing
19 device 40 of the IPTV set top box 18. For example, by pressing a dedicated button on
20 a remote control, the user can provide an indication that contact information
21 associated with the given media content is desired to be stored. In this manner, the
22 computing device 40 will receive the indication from the remote control device.
23 Alternatively, the user can use the remote control device to cause an interactive menu
24 to be displayed on the display screen of the TV, such that an option from the menu
25 can be selected in order to indicate to the computing device 40 that contact
26 information associated with the media content is desired for storage. As mentioned
27 above, alternative input devices, such as a microphone, a touch pad or keyboard can
28 also be used for enabling a user to provide an indication that contact information
29 associated with given media content is desired for storage.

30
31 At step 72, in response to receipt of the indication that contact information associated
32 with the media content is desired, the computing unit 40 proceeds to obtain the
33 contact information associated with the media content. This can be done in a variety
34 of different manners.

1

2 In accordance with a first non-limiting example of implementation, the computing
3 device 40 is able to obtain the contact information associated with the media content
4 that is displayed via a text recognition process. This text recognition process may be
5 executed by the processing unit 44 on the basis of software or other program
6 instructions stored within the memory 46. Software and/or program instructions for
7 performing text recognition, and for determining contact information from the
8 recognized text, are known in the art, and as such will not be described in more detail
9 herein.

10

11 In the non-limiting example shown in Figure 5, the website includes contact
12 information associated with the pizza shop. Using the text recognition process, the
13 processing unit 44 of the computing device 40 is able to recognize the text of the
14 contact information, and identify that the recognized text is contact information.

15

16 It should be appreciated that this text recognition process may occur only when a user
17 provides an indication that contact information associated with the media content is
18 desired. Alternatively, this text recognition process may occur whenever the user
19 accesses new media content (such as a new web page), such that even before a user
20 provides an indication of a desire for contact information associated with that media
21 content to be stored, the processing unit 44 of the computing device 40 has already
22 identified whether or not the web page includes text that could potentially be contact
23 information. In such an embodiment, when the processing unit 44 has determined that
24 the media content being displayed includes contact information, the processing unit
25 44 will cause the “add to contacts” option in the menu 76 to be enabled when a user
26 right clicks the mouse or requests the menu from the task bar. Whereas, if the
27 processing unit 44 has determined that the media content being displayed does not
28 include any contact information, then if a user right clicks the mouse, the “add to
29 contacts” option 78 will not be enabled, such that a user cannot provide an indication
30 that media content is desired.

31

32 In the example shown in Figure 5, the contact information is displayed in the media
33 content that is provided to a user. It should be appreciated that in an alternative
34 embodiment, the user may access the “pizza shop” website but not be able to find a

1 web page that actually displays contact information. Even if contact information is not
2 readily visible, a user can still provide an indication that contact information
3 associated with the given media content is desired for storage.

4
5 For example, in certain cases a user may access the “pizza shop” home page, which
6 provides information about “pizza shop”, but does not include the pizza shop contact
7 information thereon. In such a case, the user can still provide an indication that
8 contact information associated with the media content is desired for storage. This can
9 be done by accessing a menu and selecting an “Add to contacts” option, or by
10 providing an indication in any other manner described above. In such a case, given
11 that the media content being provided to the user relates to “pizza shop”, even though
12 no contact information is presented on the home page, upon receipt of the indication
13 from a user that contact information is desired, the computing device 40 will realize
14 that the user is requesting contact information associated with “pizza shop”. The
15 computing device 40 will then obtain information associated with “pizza shop”.

16
17 In accordance with a non-limiting example of implementation, the contact information
18 can be obtained by the computing device 40 on the basis of information supplied by
19 the media content provider. For example, in the case where the media content is a web
20 page, the contact information may be embedded within html code, or other code used
21 for creating the web-page or pages being displayed. As such, in the example provided
22 above, in the case where the media content being presented to a user is the “pizza
23 shop” home page, the contact information may be embedded within the webpage
24 code. In the case where the media content being displayed is a packet-based video
25 stream, the contact information may be embedded within the video stream. In such
26 circumstances, the processing unit 44 is operative for obtaining the contact
27 information by extracting it from the embedded information provided by the media
28 content provider.

29
30 In yet a further non-limiting example of implementation, the computing device 40
31 may obtain the contact information on the basis of a request submitted to a network
32 entity. Keeping with the example described above wherein the “pizza shop” home
33 page does not include any contact information thereon, upon receipt of an indication
34 from a user of a desire for contact information associated with “pizza shop”, the

1 processing unit 44 may issue a request via the network interface 42 to a network entity
2 via the packet-switched network 20 that stores contact information associated with a
3 variety of different entities and/or organizations.

4
5 For example, in the case of the “pizza shop” homepage, upon receipt of an indication
6 from a user that contact information associated with “pizza shop” is desired, the
7 processing unit 44 may generate and issue a request to a network entity for contact
8 information associated with “pizza shop”. In such an embodiment, the processing unit
9 44 is aware of the network address of this network entity, such that the processing unit
10 44 can obtain from the network entity the requested contact information. The network
11 entity may be a server that manages a database that stores contact information for a
12 variety of organizations. For example, the network entity may act as a type of “yellow
13 pages directory”, such that contact information for almost any and all service
14 providers, organizations and/or individuals can be obtained.

15
16 In the case of the IPTV set top box 18, the media content that is provided to a user is
17 IP video content. In such a situation, the source of the IP video content may store
18 contact information associated with the IP video content in a database, such that upon
19 request, the source of the IP video content can provide the contact information to a
20 computing device 40. For example, each time the source of the IP video content
21 receives IP video content (which could be in the form of a TV episode, a movie, a
22 commercial, etc) that it intends to make available to users through the IPTV set top
23 box 18, the source of the IP video content also obtains contact information associated
24 with that IP video content. This contact information can be stored in a database, such
25 that if the source of IP video content receives a request from an IPTV set top box 18
26 for contact information associated with media content that is being displayed through
27 the IPTV set top box 18, then the source of IP video content will be able to provide
28 this information.

29
30 As an example, assume that the source of IPTV video content agreed to broadcast a
31 commercial for “pizza shop”. At the time of obtaining the IP video stream for the
32 commercial, the source of IP video content would associate the commercial with
33 contact information for pizza shop, which could be stored in a database at the source
34 of IP video content. As such, if the IPTV set top box 18 gets a request for contact

1 information associated with the commercial for pizza shop, the source of IP video
2 content can provide the computing device 40 of the IPTV set top box 18 with the
3 contact information.

4
5 In accordance with a further example, assume that the source of IPTV video content
6 obtains IP video stream packets for a new movie that it plans to make available to
7 users through the IPTV set top box 18, and assume that the movie includes many
8 product or service promotions (such as the actors eating pizza from “pizza shop”, or
9 the actors visiting a trendy restaurant), then the source of IP video content can also
10 receive contact information that is associated to given time periods within the movie.

11 As such, if a user is watching the movie via their IPTV set top box 18, and sees that
12 the actor’s are eating “pizza shop” pizza, the user may decide that he/she wants the
13 contact information for “pizza shop”. The user can then provide an indication via a
14 user input device (such as a remote control) of a desire for contact information
15 associated with the given media. Upon receipt of this indication, the computing device
16 40 may issue a request to the source of the IP video content for contact information
17 associated with the given media content. This request may indicate the time period in
18 the movie where the indication that contact information was desired was received
19 from a user. As such, the source of IP video content will be able to map that time
20 period with contact information for the product or service that is being displayed at
21 that point. For example, if it is known that the user entered the indication 20 minutes
22 into the movie, the source of IP video content may know that at the 20 minute mark,
23 “pizza shop” pizza was being displayed. As such, the source of IP video content
24 would return contact information associated with domino’s pizza.

25
26 Alternatively, this contact information that is associated with different time periods
27 within the movie can be embedded within the IP video packets such that the
28 computing device 40 can determine the appropriate contact information without
29 having to contact the source of IP video content.

30
31 Finally, at step 74, once the computing device 40 has obtained the contact information
32 associated with the given media content, the computing device 40 causes the contact
33 information to be stored in a database associated with a given party. As mentioned
34 above, the given party may be an individual, a group or a network device.

1
2 In order to cause the contact information that has been obtained to be stored in a
3 network contact database associated with a given party, the computing device 40
4 transmits the contact information, together with a unique identifier, to a network
5 entity, such as a database management server. The database management server can
6 be implemented at one or more servers 30_{1...N}, and is operative for causing the contact
7 information to be stored into an appropriate network contact database.

8
9 In order to provide the database management server with the contact information, the
10 computing unit 40 knows the network address of the database management server,
11 such that the information is routed to the appropriate network entity. This network
12 address can be stored within the memory 46 of the computing device 40.

13
14 The manner in which the computing device 40 causes the contact information to be
15 stored in a database associated with a given party will now be described in more detail
16 with respect to each of the hand-held communication device 14, the computer 16 and
17 the IPTV set-top box 18.

18
19 In the case of the hand held communication device 14, once the processing entity 44
20 has obtained the contact information, the contact information is sent, together with a
21 unique identifier associated with a given party, to a network address of a database
22 management server (which could be any one or more of the servers 30_{1...N}). This
23 information is issued to the database management server via the network interface 42
24 over the packet-switched network 20. The unique identifier associated with the given
25 party is then used by the database management server for identifying the database
26 associated with the given party. For the sake of example, the given party is the hand-
27 held communication device 14, and the unique identifier for identifying the database
28 associated with the hand-held communication device 14 is the SIP address of the
29 hand-held communication device 14.

30
31 Once the database management server receives the contact information and the unique
32 identifier (the SIP address), the server accesses the database 22 and determines that it
33 is the network contact database 60₁ that is associated with the hand held
34 communication device 14. In accordance with a non-limiting example of

1 implementation, this determination can be done on the basis of a comparison
2 algorithm that compares the unique identifier provided by the hand held
3 communication device 14 with the unique identifier of each of the network contact
4 databases 60_{1...N}.

5
6 Once the database management server has identified the network contact database 60₁
7 that is associated with the hand-held network device 14, the server 30 then proceeds to
8 add the contact information to the network contact database 60₁, for example as a new
9 entry 64'. In this manner, the contact information desired by the user of the hand-held
10 communication device 14 is stored into the network contact database 60₁ associated
11 with the hand-held communication device 14.

12
13 When the computing device 40 issues the message containing the contact information
14 and the unique identifier associated with the given party to the network address of the
15 appropriate database management server, the computing device 40 may also provide
16 instructions to the database management server as to how to handle the information
17 being sent. Alternatively, the database management server may not require
18 instructions, and may already include logic and program instructions for handling the
19 information that arrives from different network devices 12_{1...N}.

20
21 In the case of the computer 16, once the processing entity 44 has obtained the contact
22 information, it sends the contact information together with a unique identifier
23 associated to a given party to a network address of a database management server
24 (which could be any one of servers 30_{1-N}). This information is issued to the database
25 management server via the network interface 42 over the packet-switched network 20.
26 The unique identifier is then used by the database management server for identifying
27 the particular network contact database associated with the given party. For the sake
28 of example, the given party is the Smith family that uses computer 16, and the unique
29 identifier for identifying the Smith family is the email address of the Smith family;
30 namely smithfamily@smith.ca.

31
32 Once the database management server receives the contact information and the unique
33 identifier (the email address), the database management server accesses the database
34 22 and determines that it is the network contact database 60₂ that is associated with

1 the Smith family. In accordance with a non-limiting example of implementation, this
2 determination can be done by a comparison algorithm for comparing the unique
3 identifier provided by the computer 16 with the unique identifier of each of the
4 network contact databases $60_{1...N}$.

5
6 Once the database management server has identified the network contact database 60_2
7 that is associated with the Smith Family, the server 30 then proceeds to add the
8 contact information to the network contact database 60_2 as a new entry 64". In this
9 manner, the contact information that was indicated as being desired by a user for
10 storage is stored into the network contact database 60_2 associated with the Smith
11 family.

12
13 In the case of the IPTV set-top box 18, once the processing entity 44 has obtained the
14 desired contact information, it sends this contact information together with a unique
15 identifier to a network address of a database management server (which could be any
16 one of servers $30_{1...N}$). This information is issued to the database management server
17 via the network interface 42 over the packet-switched network 20. The unique
18 identifier is used by the database management server for identifying the network
19 contact database associated with the given party. For the sake of example, the given
20 party is the subscriber or subscribers of the IPTV service, and the unique identifier for
21 identifying the subscriber(s) is the account number associated with the IPTV service.

22
23 Once the database management server receives the contact information and the unique
24 identifier (in this case, the account number), the server accesses the database 22 and
25 determines that it is the network contact database 60_{N-1} that is associated with the
26 subscribers of the IPTV service. In accordance with a non-limiting example of
27 implementation, this determination can be done by a comparison algorithm for
28 comparing the unique identifier provided by the IPTV set-top box 18 with the unique
29 identifier of each of the network contact databases 60_{1-N} .

30
31 Once the database management server has identified the network contact database
32 60_{N-1} that is associated with the subscriber(s) of the IPTV service, the server 30 then
33 proceeds to add the desired contact information to the network contact database 60_{N-1}
34 as a new entry 64''''. In this manner, the contact information that was indicated as

1 being desired by a person watching the IPTV video stream is stored into the network
2 contact database 60_N associated with the subscribers of the IPTV service.

3
4 The method described above for allowing a user to indicate that contact information
5 associated with given media content is desired, and then causing the contact
6 information to be stored in a network contact database associated with a given party,
7 is implemented by the computing device 40 of each of the network devices 12_{1...N}.
8 The logic, data and program instructions for allowing the computing device 40 to
9 implement the above described method are stored in the data 50 and program
10 instructions 48 of the memory 46. In accordance with a non-limiting embodiment, this
11 functionality can be built into the computing device 40 such that the functionality is
12 included in the network device 12 when a user purchases the network device 12
13 (whether it is the hand-held communication device 14, the computer 16, or the IPTV
14 set top box 18).

15
16 Alternatively, the logic, data and program instructions for allowing the computing
17 device 40 to implement the above described method of Figure 4 can be provided to
18 the computing device 40 via a plug-in to an existing set of program instructions. For
19 example, in the case of the hand-held communication device 14 and the computer 16,
20 the functionality may be provided to the computing device 40 in the form of a plug-in
21 for a web-browser that is implemented at the computing device 40. In the case of the
22 IPTV set top box 18, the functionality may be provided to the computing device 40 in
23 the form of a plug-in for the existing program instructions that run on the IPTV set-
24 top box. This plug-in can be downloaded from the packet-switched network 20, or can
25 be obtained from a memory storage medium, such as a CD or a USB key, for
26 example.

27
28 In yet a further example, instead of the functionality described above being provided
29 in the form of a plug-in to an existing program, such as a web-browser program, the
30 functionality can be provided in the form of a separate program that is dedicated to
31 enabling a user to provide an indication that contact information associated to given
32 media content is desired, determining the contact information and then causing that
33 information to be stored in a network contact database.

1 In the embodiment described above, upon receipt of an indication from a user that
2 contact information associated with given media content is desired, it is the processing
3 unit 44 located within the computing device 40 that obtains the contact information
4 and then provides the contact information, together with the unique identifier, to the
5 database management server for causing the contact information to be stored in a
6 network contact database. It should, however, be appreciated that in an alternative
7 embodiment, at least a portion of the functionality described above with respect to
8 Figure 4 could be performed at a network processing entity (which could be part of
9 the packet-switched network), instead of at the processing entity 44 of the computing
10 device 40.

11

12 **Alternative embodiment**

13 Shown in Figure 6 is the network architecture 10, wherein a network processing entity
14 80 is implemented at network server 30₂. In this alternative embodiment, the network
15 processing entity 80 is in communication with a memory 82 and is operative for
16 performing at least a portion of the functionality described above with respect to
17 Figure 4.

18

19 In this alternative embodiment, when a user of a network device 12_{1-N} provides an
20 indication of a desire for contact information associated with given media content, the
21 processing unit 44 of the computing device 40 generates and transmits one or more
22 signals via the network interface 42 to the network processing entity 80. The one or
23 more signals include 1) an indication of a desire for contact information associated
24 with given media content, 2) a unique identifier associated with the network device or
25 with one or more users of the network device and 3) an indication as to the given
26 media content that was provided to the user of the network device. Upon receipt of the
27 one or more signals, it is the network processing entity 80 that performs the process
28 described with respect to Figure 4.

29

30 More specifically, at step 70, the network processing entity 80 upon receipt of the one
31 or more signals from the computing device 40, receives an indication that a user
32 desires contact information associated with given media content. The network
33 processing entity 80 then proceeds to step 72, wherein it obtains the contact
34 information associated with the given media content. This can be obtained on the

1 basis of the indication as to the given media content that was provided to the user of
2 the network device that is received from the computing unit 40. The indication as to
3 the given media content that was provided to the user of the network device may be a
4 screenshot of the given media content that was being displayed to the user at the time
5 the user provided the indication that contact information associated with the given
6 media content was desired. In this way, on the basis of the screenshot, the network
7 processing entity can perform a text recognition process or operation in order to
8 obtain the contact information that is displayed on the screen shot.

9
10 In an alternative embodiment, the indication as to the given media content that was
11 provided to a user of the network device may be a URL address indicative of the
12 source of the media content. On the basis of this URL address, the network processing
13 entity can obtain contact information associated with the media content that was
14 displayed to the user. For example, the network processing entity 80 can contact a
15 provider or source of the media content for obtaining the contact information
16 associated with that media content.

17
18 Once the network processing entity 80 has obtained the contact information associated
19 with the given media content, the network processing entity 80 is operative for
20 causing the obtained contact information to be stored in a database associated with a
21 given party. The database associated with the given party can be determined on the
22 basis of the unique identifier that is provided to the network processing entity 80 by
23 the computing device 40. This can be done in the same manner as described above
24 with respect to step 74 of Figure 4.

25
26 In this embodiment wherein it is the network processing entity 80 that performs the
27 method described above with respect to Figure 4, the computing device 40 includes
28 logic, data and program instructions for causing the computing device 40 to issue the
29 one or more signals to the network processing entity 80 that contain 1) an indication
30 of a desire for contact information associated with given media content, 2) a unique
31 identifier associated with the network device or with one or more users of the network
32 device and 3) an indication as to the given media content that was provided to the user
33 of the network device.

34

1 The contact information that is stored within a network contact database associated
2 with a given party can be retrieved from that network contact database by one or more
3 users associated with that given party. Network contact databases are known in the
4 art, and as such will not be described in more detail herein.

5

6 While specific embodiments of the present invention have been described and
7 illustrated, it will be apparent to those skilled in the art that further modifications and
8 variations can be made without departing from the scope of the invention as defined
9 in the appended claims.

CLAIMS:

- 1) A method comprising:
 - a) receiving an indication of a desire for storing contact information associated with given media content;
 - b) obtaining the contact information associated with the given media content in response to the indication;
 - c) causing the obtained contact information to be stored in a network contact database associated with a given party.
- 2) A method as defined in claim 1, wherein the given media content includes a web-page.
- 3) A method as defined in claim 1, wherein the given media content includes an IP video stream.
- 4) A method as defined in claim 1, wherein obtaining the contact information includes performing a text recognition operation on the given media content.
- 5) A method as defined in claim 1, wherein obtaining the contact information includes receiving from a provider of the given media content the contact information.
- 6) A method as defined in claim 1, wherein the contact information is received in response to a request.
- 7) A method as defined in claim 1, wherein the contact information is received together with the given media content.
- 8) A method as defined in claim 1, wherein the indication of a desire for storing contact information associated with given media content is received from a user input device.

- 1 9) A method as defined in claim 8, wherein the user input device includes a
2 pointing device.
3
- 4 10) A method as defined in claim 8, wherein the user input device includes a remote
5 control device.
6
- 7 11) A method as defined in claim 8, wherein the user input device includes a keypad
8 on a communication device.
9
- 10 12) A method as defined in claim 1, wherein the given media content is displayed to
11 the given party via a network device.
12
13
- 14 13) A method as defined in claim 12, wherein the network contact database
15 associated with the given party comprises a plurality of entries, each entry
16 comprising contact information associated with a given contactable entity.
17
- 18 14) A method as defined in claim 1, wherein said method is performed by a network
19 device.
20
- 21 15) A method as defined in claim 1, wherein said method is performed by a network
22 processing entity.
23
- 24 16) A system comprising:
25 a) an input for receiving an indication of a desire for storing contact
26 information associated with given media content;
27 b) a processing unit operative for:
28 i) obtaining the contact information associated with the given media
29 content;
30 ii) causing the obtained contact information to be stored in a network
31 contact database associated with a given party.
32
- 33 17) A system as defined in claim 16, wherein the given media content includes a
34 web-page.

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18) A system as defined in claim 16, wherein the given media content includes an IP video stream.

19) A system as defined in claim 16, wherein obtaining the contact information includes performing a text recognition operation on the given media content.

20) A system as defined in claim 16, wherein the system is implemented within a network processing entity.

21) A system as defined in claim 20, wherein said input is further operative for receiving:

- a) a unique identifier associated with the given party;
- b) information regarding the given media content for which contact information is desired.

22) A system as defined in claim 21, wherein said processing unit is operative for causing the obtained contact information to be stored in the network contact database associated with the given party at least in part on the basis of the unique identifier associated with the given party.

23) A system as defined in claim 22, wherein the network contact database associated with the given party comprises a plurality of entries, each entry comprising contact information associated with a given contactable entity.

24) A system as defined in claim 22, wherein obtaining the contact information includes receiving from a source of the given media content the contact information.

25) A system as defined in claim 22, wherein the contact information is received in response to a request.

- 1 26) A system as defined in claim 22, wherein the indication that a given party desires
2 contact information is received from a network device on which the given media
3 content is provided.
4
- 5 27) A system as defined in claim 16, wherein the system is implemented within a
6 network device associated with the given party.
7
- 8 28) A system as defined in claim 27, further comprising an output, said output being
9 operative for releasing a signal to a network processing entity indicative of:
10 a) the obtained contact information; and
11 b) a unique identifier associated with the given party.
12
- 13 29) A system as defined in claim 27, wherein the processing unit is further operative
14 for causing the given media content to be displayed on a display screen of said
15 network device.
16
- 17 30) A system as defined in claim 27, wherein obtaining the contact information
18 includes receiving from a source of the given media content the contact
19 information.
20
- 21 31) A system as defined in claim 30, wherein the contact information is received in
22 response to a request.
23
- 24 32) A system as defined in claim 30, wherein the contact information is received at
25 the network device together with the given media content.
26
- 27 33) A system as defined in claim 27, wherein the indication of a desire for contact
28 information associated with given media content is received via a user input
29 device.
30
- 31 34) A system as defined in claim 33, wherein the user input device includes a
32 pointing device.
33

1 35) A system as defined in claim 33, wherein the user input device includes a remote
2 control device.

3

4 36) A system as defined in claim 33, wherein the user input device includes a keypad
5 on the network device.

6

7 37) A system as defined in claim 27, wherein the database associated with the given
8 party comprises a plurality of entries, each entry comprising contact information
9 associated with a given contactable entity.

10

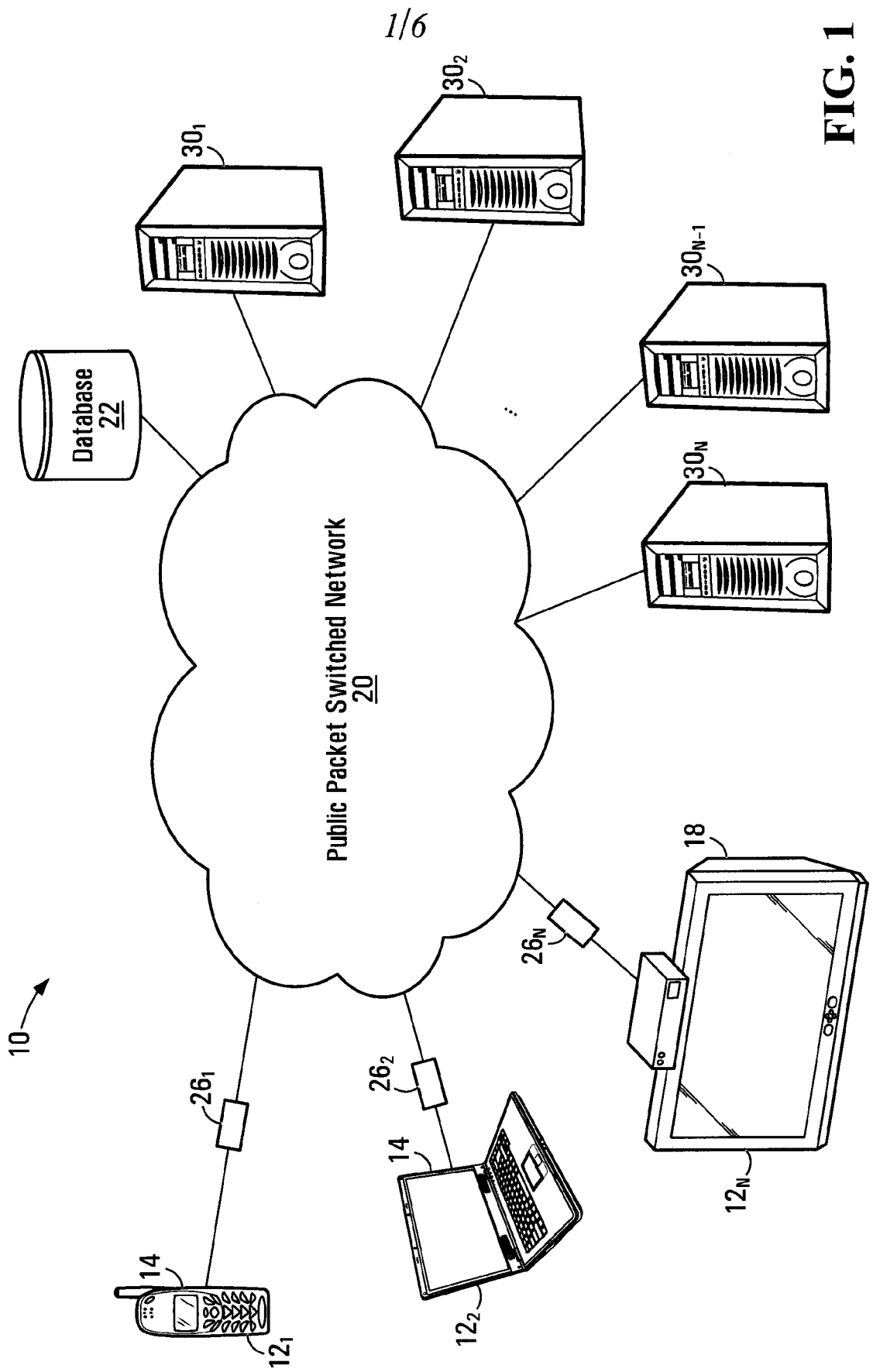


FIG. 1

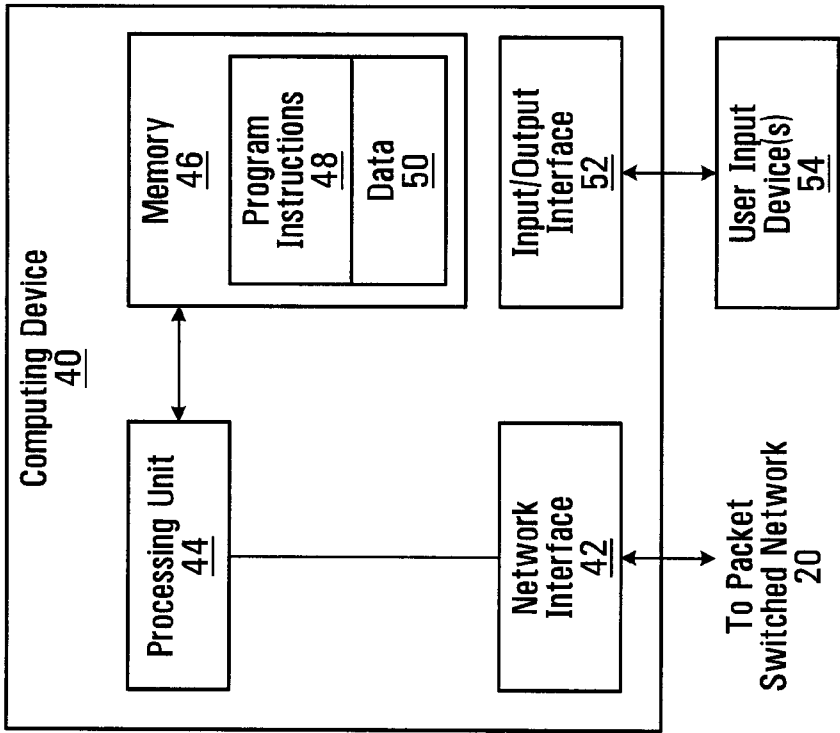


FIG. 2

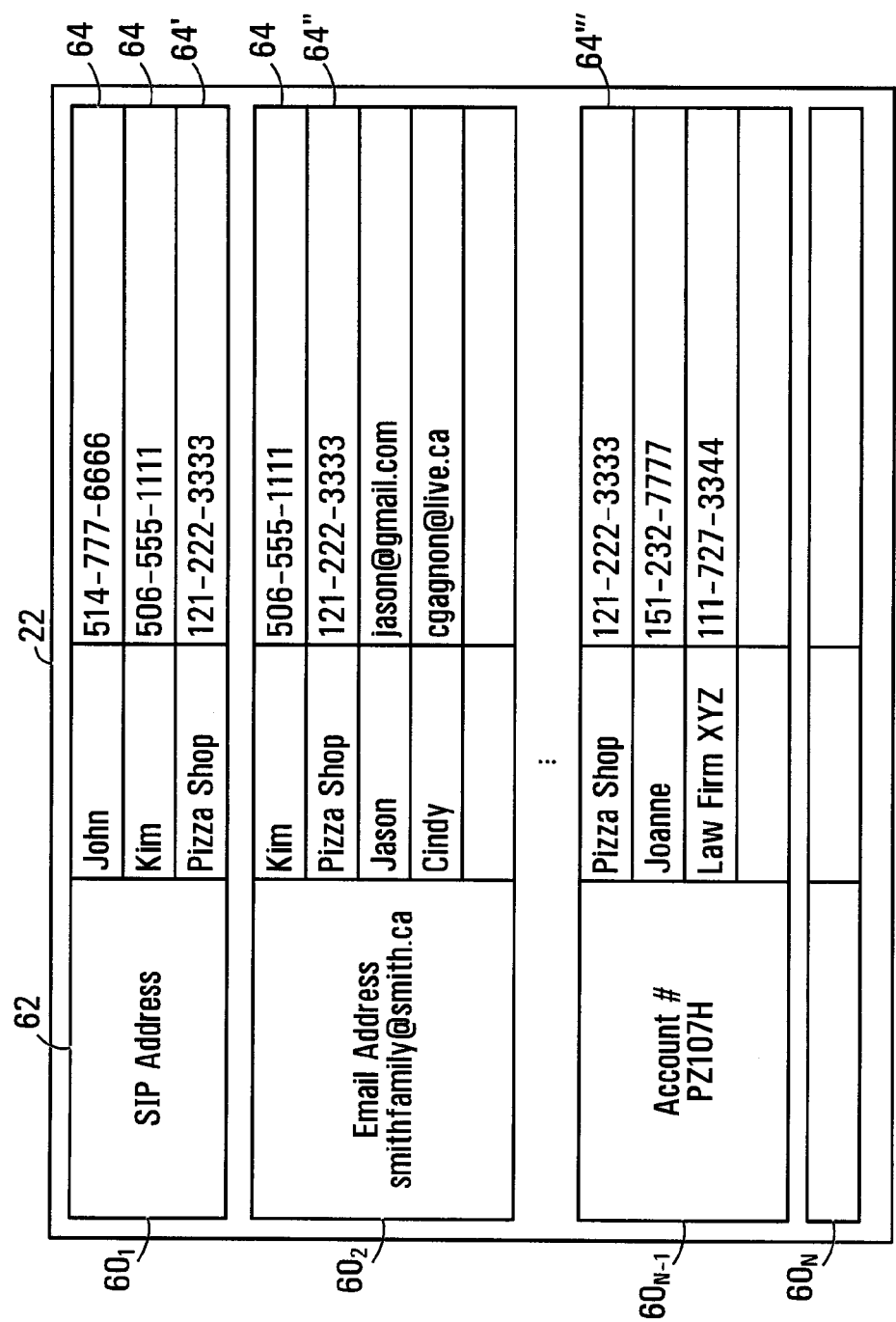
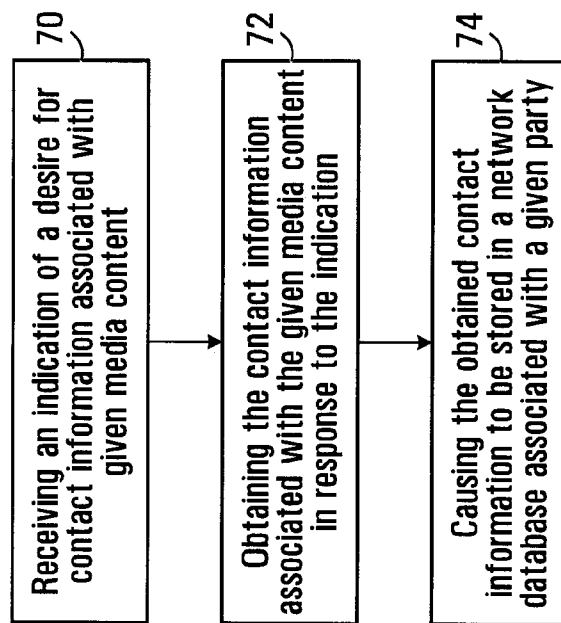


FIG. 3

4/6

**FIG. 4**

5/6

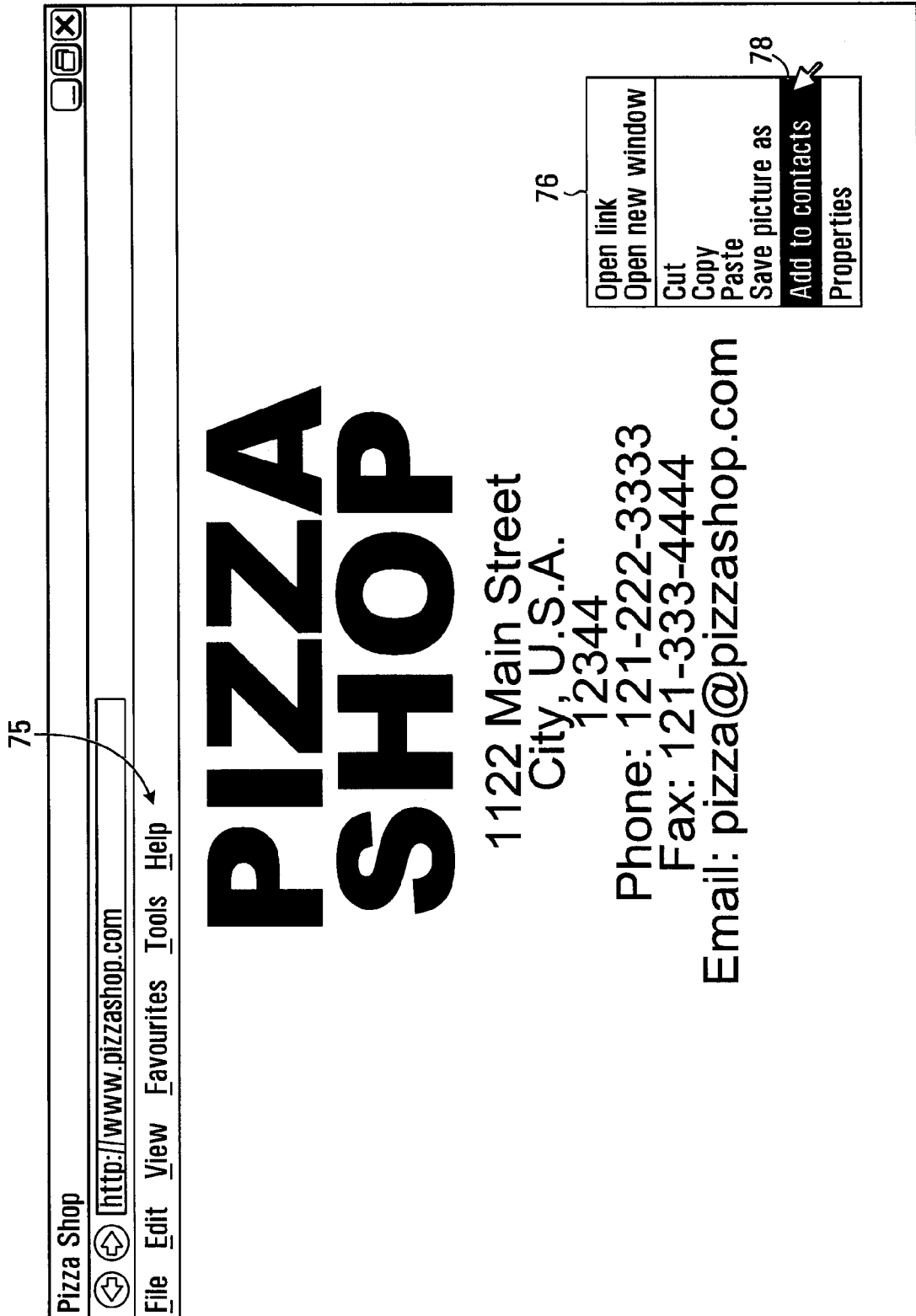


FIG. 5

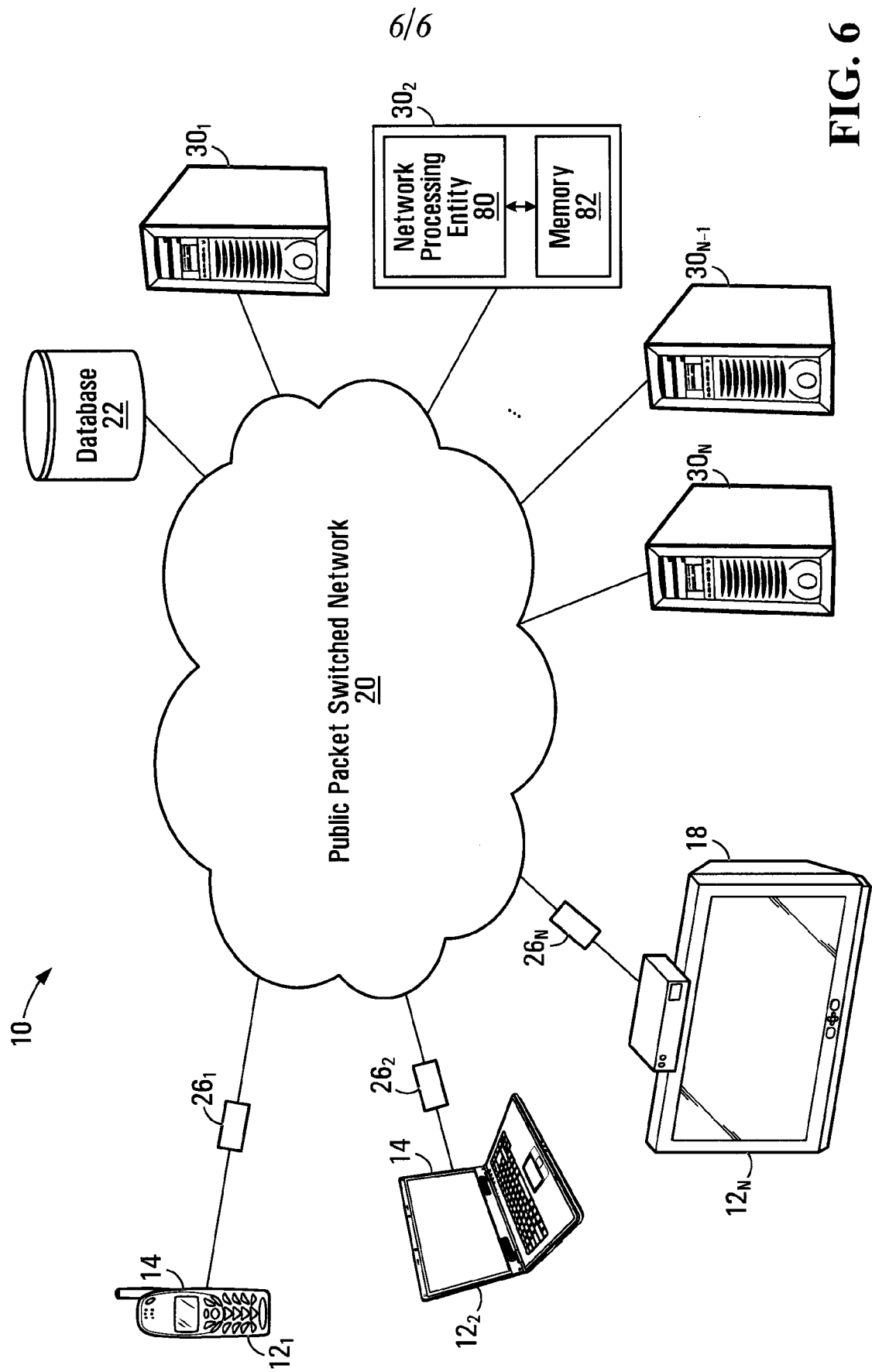


FIG. 6

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.
PCT/CA2008/002295

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER IPC: H04L 12/24 (2006.01) , H04W 8/18 (2009.01) According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC														
B. FIELDS SEARCHED Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols) IPC: H04L 12/24 (2006.01) , H04W 8/18 (2009.01) Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched Electronic database(s) consulted during the international search (name of database(s) and, where practicable, search terms used) West, Delphion, USPTO, QPat, INTELLECT (Keywords: IPTV, stream,web site/page,contact information,network address book,network contact database,text recognition,media content,set-top box,commercial,marketing,movie,add/save contact,keypad,mouse,remote														
C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Category*</th> <th>Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages</th> <th>Relevant to claim No.</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>X</td> <td> US 2007/0223683 A1 (PEARSON) 27 September 2007 (27-09-2007) page 5, paragraphs [0049]-[0051] and [0056]; page 6, paragraphs [0059]-[0064]; page 7, paragraphs [0070]-[0072] and [0074]; claims 17-19; Figures 4 and 6-10 ----- </td> <td>1-2, 5-9, 12-17, 20-27, 29-34, 37</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Y</td> <td> US 2008/0235740 A1 (GUPTA et al.) 25 September 2008 (25-09-2008) *see whole document* ----- </td> <td>1-37</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Y</td> <td> US 2008/0235012 A1 (GIBBON et al.) 25 September 2008 (25-09-2008) *see whole document* </td> <td>1-37</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>			Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.	X	US 2007/0223683 A1 (PEARSON) 27 September 2007 (27-09-2007) page 5, paragraphs [0049]-[0051] and [0056]; page 6, paragraphs [0059]-[0064]; page 7, paragraphs [0070]-[0072] and [0074]; claims 17-19; Figures 4 and 6-10 -----	1-2, 5-9, 12-17, 20-27, 29-34, 37	Y	US 2008/0235740 A1 (GUPTA et al.) 25 September 2008 (25-09-2008) *see whole document* -----	1-37	Y	US 2008/0235012 A1 (GIBBON et al.) 25 September 2008 (25-09-2008) *see whole document*	1-37
Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.												
X	US 2007/0223683 A1 (PEARSON) 27 September 2007 (27-09-2007) page 5, paragraphs [0049]-[0051] and [0056]; page 6, paragraphs [0059]-[0064]; page 7, paragraphs [0070]-[0072] and [0074]; claims 17-19; Figures 4 and 6-10 -----	1-2, 5-9, 12-17, 20-27, 29-34, 37												
Y	US 2008/0235740 A1 (GUPTA et al.) 25 September 2008 (25-09-2008) *see whole document* -----	1-37												
Y	US 2008/0235012 A1 (GIBBON et al.) 25 September 2008 (25-09-2008) *see whole document*	1-37												
☐ Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C. ☒ See patent family annex. <table border="1"> <tbody> <tr> <td>* Special categories of cited documents :</td> <td>"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</td> </tr> <tr> <td>"A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance</td> <td>"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</td> </tr> <tr> <td>"E" earlier application or patent but published on or after the international filing date</td> <td>"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</td> </tr> <tr> <td>"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)</td> <td>"&" document member of the same patent family</td> </tr> <tr> <td>"O" document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>"P" document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed</td> <td></td> </tr> </tbody> </table>			* Special categories of cited documents :	"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	"A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance	"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	"E" earlier application or patent but published on or after the international filing date	"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	"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)	"&" document member of the same patent family	"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	
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Name and mailing address of the ISA/CA Canadian Intellectual Property Office Place du Portage I, C114 - 1st Floor, Box PCT 50 Victoria Street Gatineau, Quebec K1A 0C9 Facsimile No.: 001-819-953-2476		Authorized officer Suchita Varma (819) 934-4549												

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT
Information on patent family members

International application No.
PCT/CA2008/002295

<u>Patent Document Cited in Search Report</u>	<u>Publication Date</u>	<u>Patent Family Member(s)</u>	<u>Publication Date</u>
US 2007223683A1	27-09-2007	None	
US 2008235740A1	25-09-2008	None	
US 2008235012A1	25-09-2008	None	