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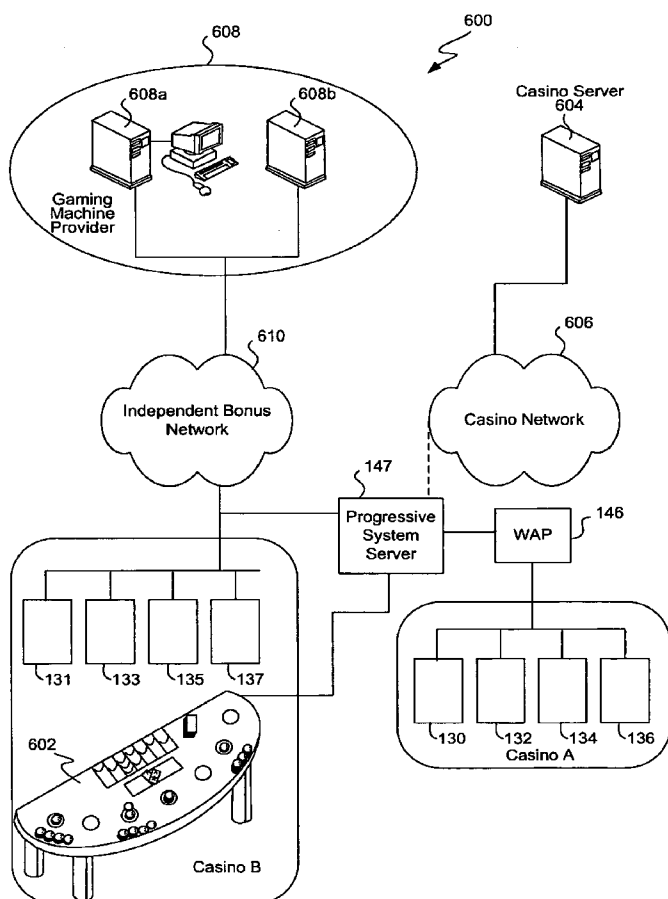
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[Continued on next page]

(54) Title: WIDE AREA LOYALTY ACCESS THROUGH INDEPENDENT BONUS NETWORK



(57) Abstract: Disclosed are methods, apparatus, and systems, including computer program products, implementing and using techniques for providing wide area bonus over a gaming network from a gaming machine provider. Player identification information associated with a player is received. Gaming machine data is also retrieved. The gaming machine data is associated with the player identification information, and includes information particular to one or more gaming machines played by the player. One or more criteria are applied to the retrieved gaming machine data. A player bonus is issued according to the application of the one or more criteria to the retrieved gaming machine data. The gaming machine data can identify a brand of gaming machines played by the player. The gaming machine data can also include data selected from the group consisting of total number of machines played, gaming machine play history, games played, number of plays per machine, number of plays per game, amounts wagered per machine, amounts wagered per game, and gaming machine location. The gaming machine data can be stored on a portable device carried by the player.



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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

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A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER
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B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)
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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, WPI Data

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	US 2003/092484 A1 (SCHNEIDER RICHARD J [US] ET AL) 15 May 2003 (2003-05-15) paragraph [0057] - paragraph [0061] -----	1-30
X	US 6 302 793 B1 (FERTITTA III FRANK [US] ET AL) 16 October 2001 (2001-10-16) the whole document -----	1-30
X	WO 97/44750 A (HARRAH S OPERATING COMPANY INC [US]) 27 November 1997 (1997-11-27) abstract -----	1-30



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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Information on patent family members

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