EXHIBIT D

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(54) SYSTEM, METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR CONNECTING USERS IN AN ONLINE COMPUTER SYSTEM BASED ON THEIR RELATIONSHIPS WITHIN SOCIAL NETWORKS

(75) Inventor: **Jonathan H. Abrams**, Sunnyvale, CA (US)

Correspondence Address:
Jonathan H. Abrams
Suite 112-280
415 N. Mary Avenue
Sunnyvale, CA 94085 (US)

(73) Assignee: **FRIENDSTER INC., a California Corporation**

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(57) **ABSTRACT**

A method and apparatus for calculating, displaying and acting upon relationships in a social network is described. A computer system collects descriptive data about various individuals and allows those individuals to indicate other individuals with whom they have a personal relationship. The descriptive data and the relationship data are integrated and processed to reveal the series of social relationships connecting any two individuals within a social network. The pathways connecting any two individuals can be displayed. Further, the social network itself can be displayed to any number of degrees of separation. A user of the system can determine the optimal relationship path (i.e., contact pathway) to reach desired individuals. A communications tool allows individuals in the system to be introduced (or introduce themselves) and initiate direct communication.

Path Calculation Process Flowchart

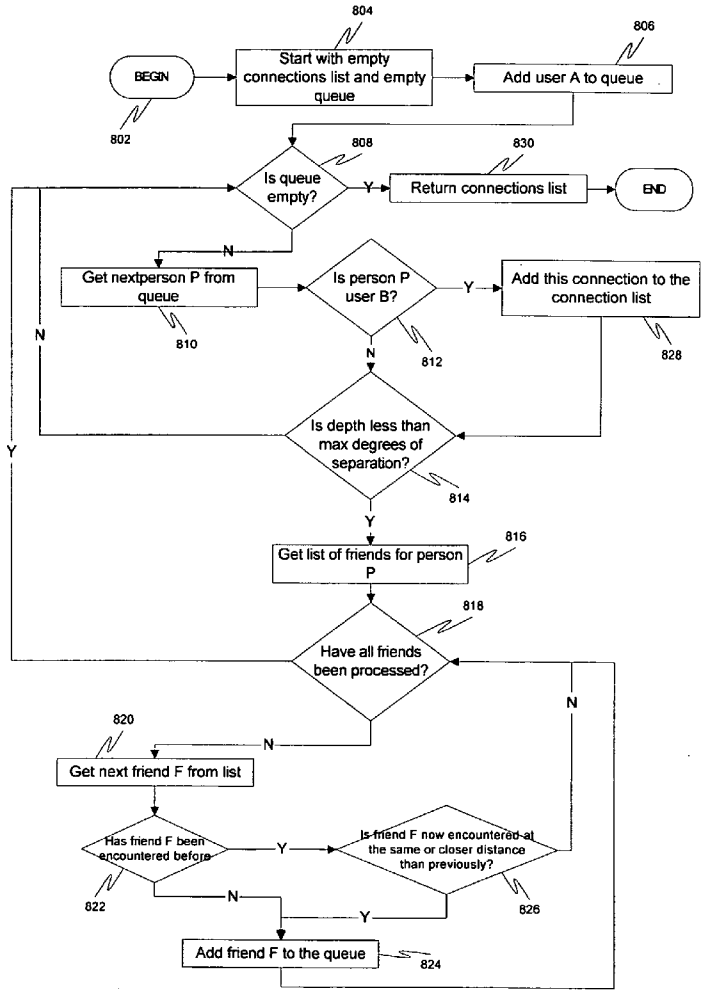

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FIG. 1
System Diagram

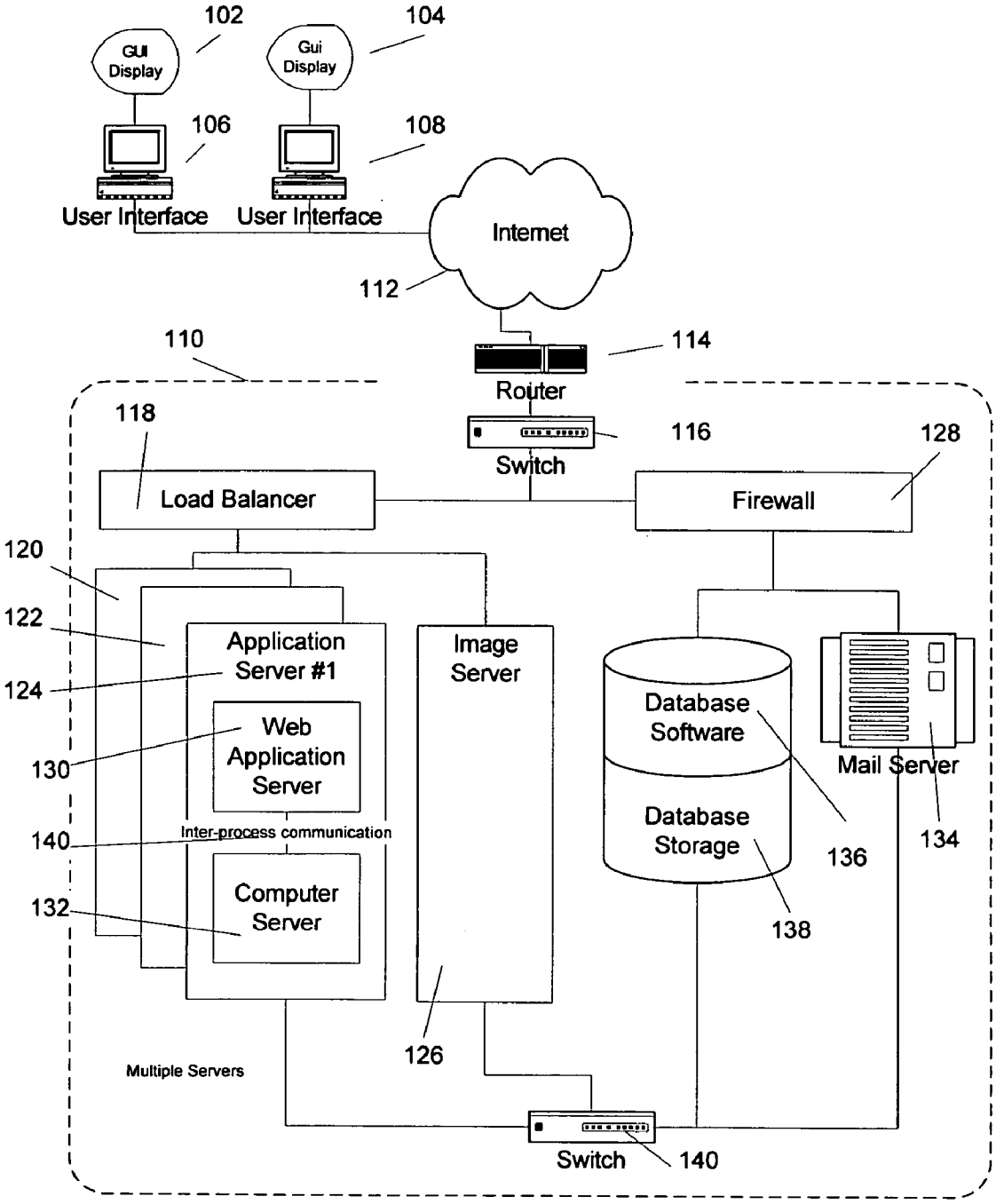

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FIG. 2
Database

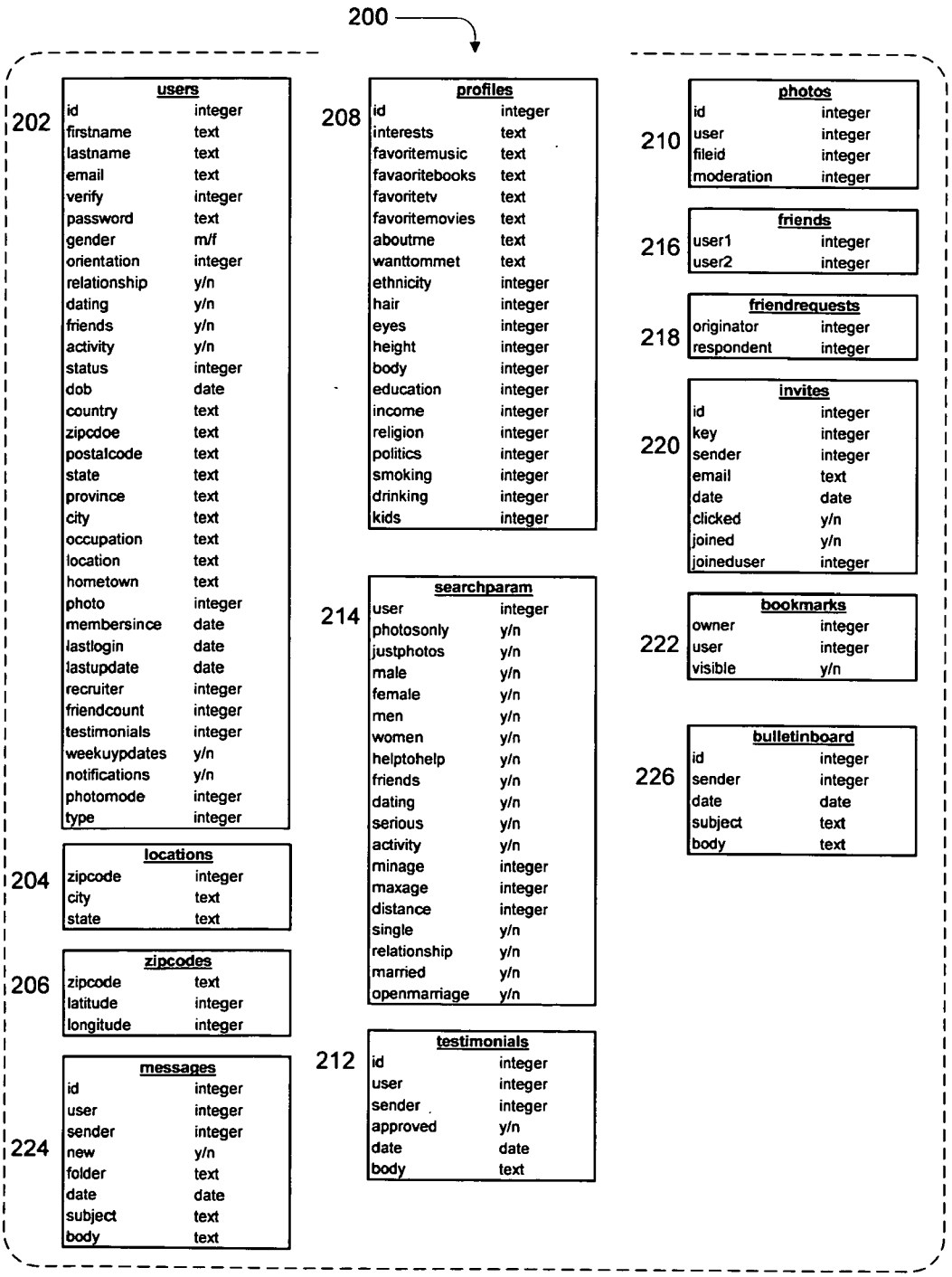

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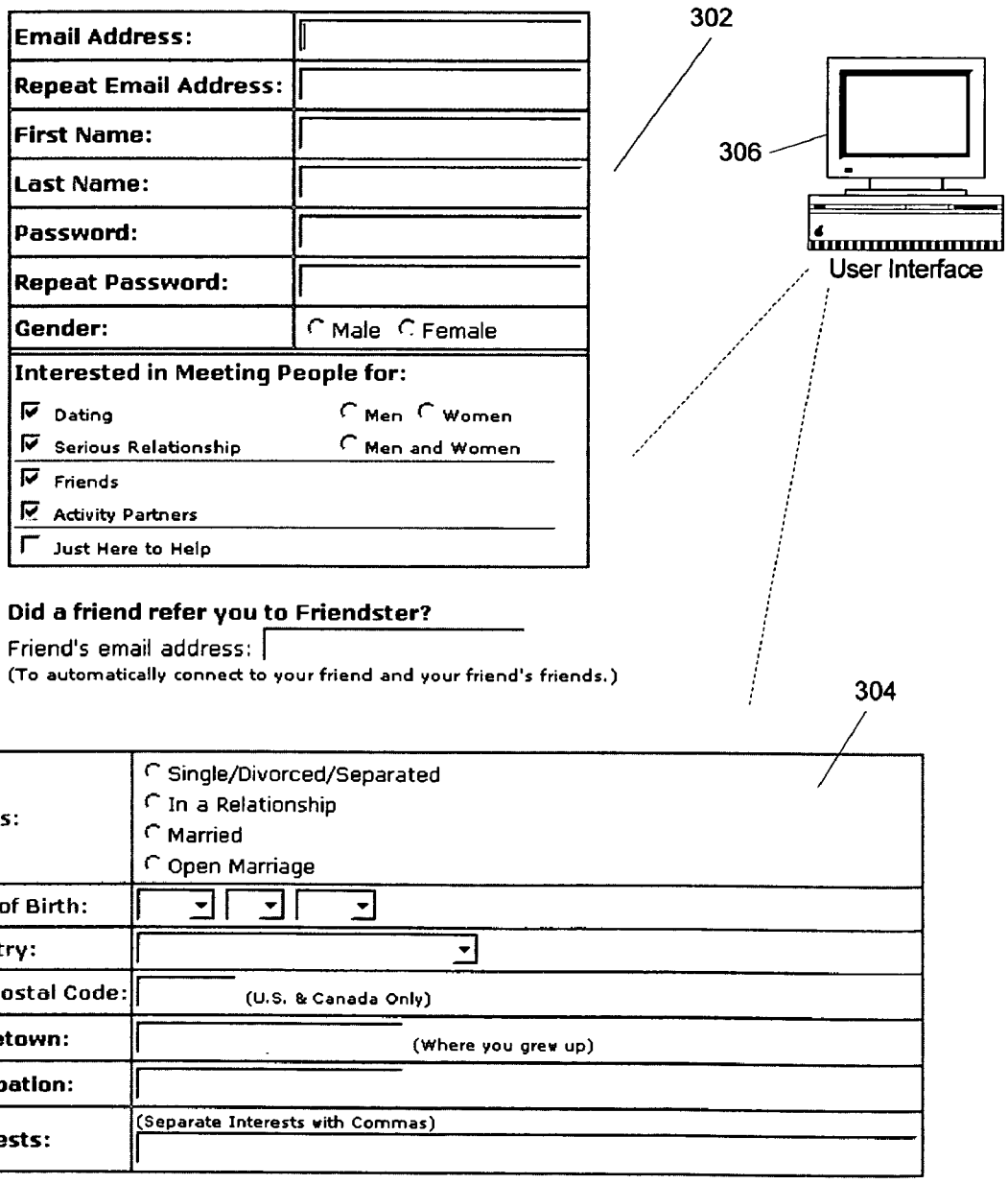
FIG. 3a
Data Collection Interface



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