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(12) **United States Patent**  
**Hoyle**

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(54) **COMPUTER INTERFACE METHOD AND APPARATUS WITH PORTABLE NETWORK ORGANIZATION SYSTEM AND TARGETED ADVERTISING**

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(57) **ABSTRACT**

(\* ) Notice: Subject to any disclaimer, the term of this patent is extended or adjusted under 35 U.S.C. 154(b) by 0 days.

A method and apparatus for providing an automatically upgradeable software application includes targeted advertising based upon demographics and user interaction with the computer. The software application includes a display region used for banner advertising that is downloaded over a network such as the Internet. The software application is accessible from a server via the network and demographic information on the user is acquired by the server and used for determining what advertising will be sent to the user. The software application further targets the advertisements in response to normal user interaction with the computer. Data associated with each advertisement is used by the software application in determining when a particular advertisement is to be displayed. This includes the specification of certain programs that the user may have so that, when the user runs the program (e.g., a spreadsheet program), a relevant advertisement will be displayed (e.g., an advertisement for a stock brokerage). This provides two-tiered, real-time targeting of advertising—both demographically and reactively. The software application includes programming that accesses the server to determine if one or more components of the application need upgrading. If so, the components can be downloaded and installed without further action by the user. A distribution tool is provided for software distribution and upgrading over the network. Also provided is a user profile that is accessible to any computer on the network. Furthermore, multiple users of the same computer can possess Internet web resources and files that are personalized, maintained and organized.

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§ 371 (c)(1),  
(2), (4) Date: **Apr. 11, 2001**

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PCT Pub. Date: **Jan. 27, 2000**

**Related U.S. Application Data**

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(51) **Int. Cl.**<sup>7</sup> ..... **G06F 15/00**

(52) **U.S. Cl.** ..... **345/745; 717/170**

(58) **Field of Search** ..... **345/745, 762, 345/763, 852, 853, 854, 839; 717/120**

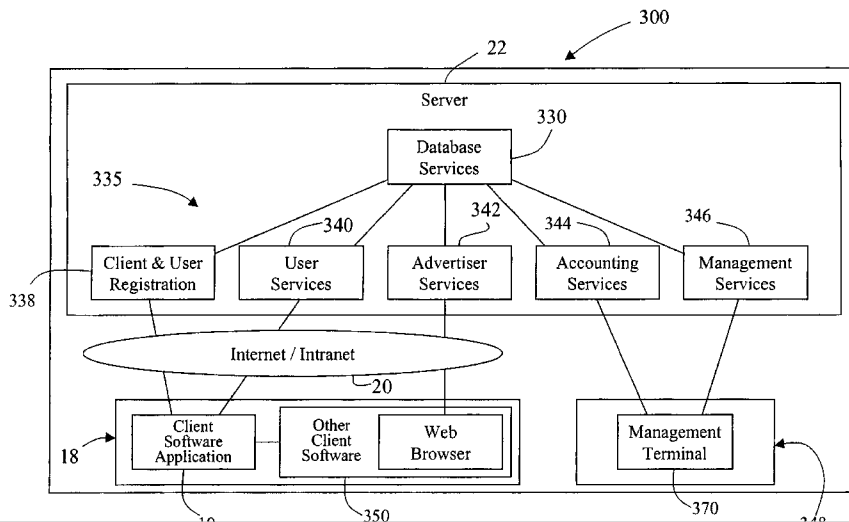
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**3 Claims, 16 Drawing Sheets**



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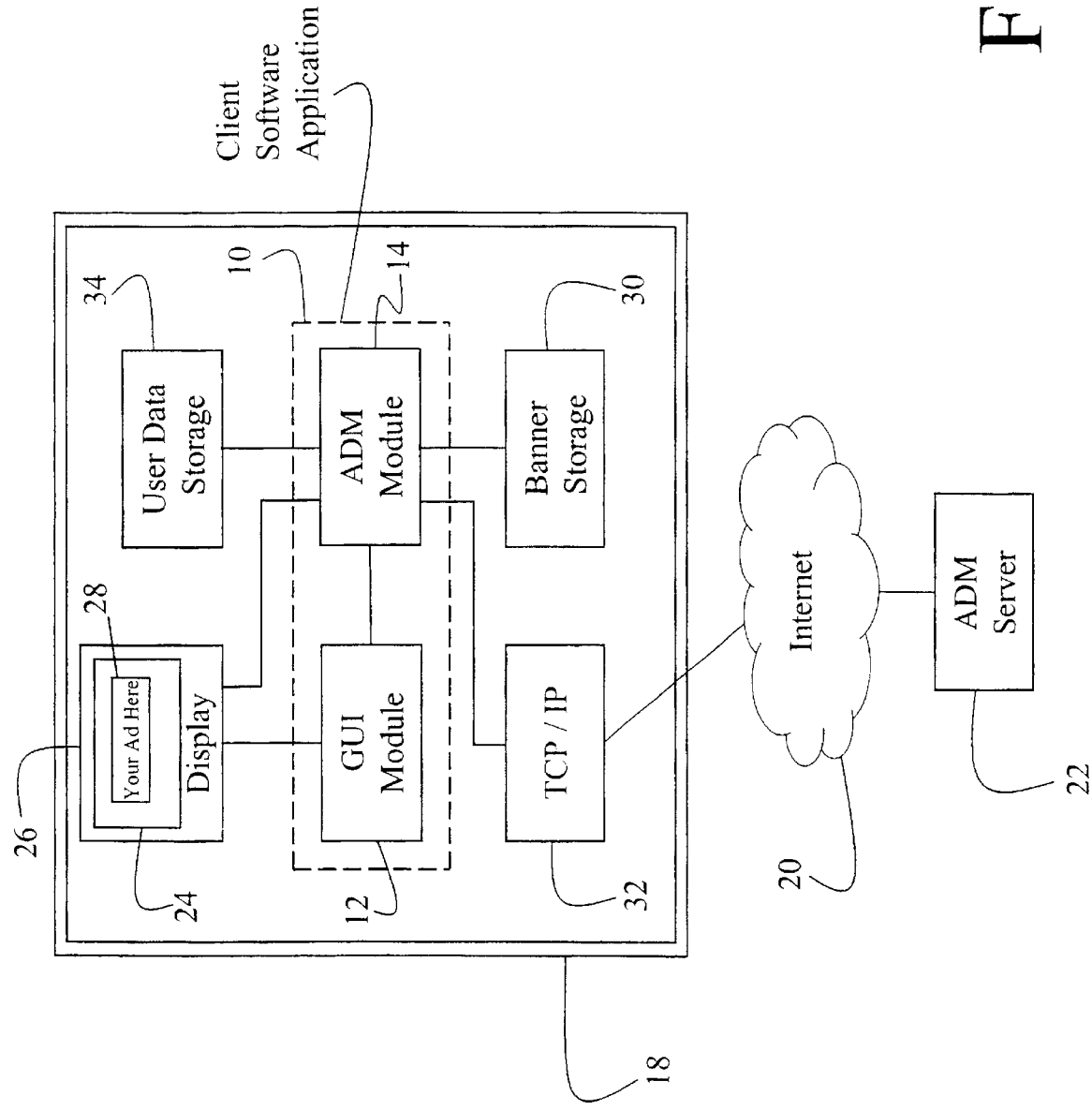
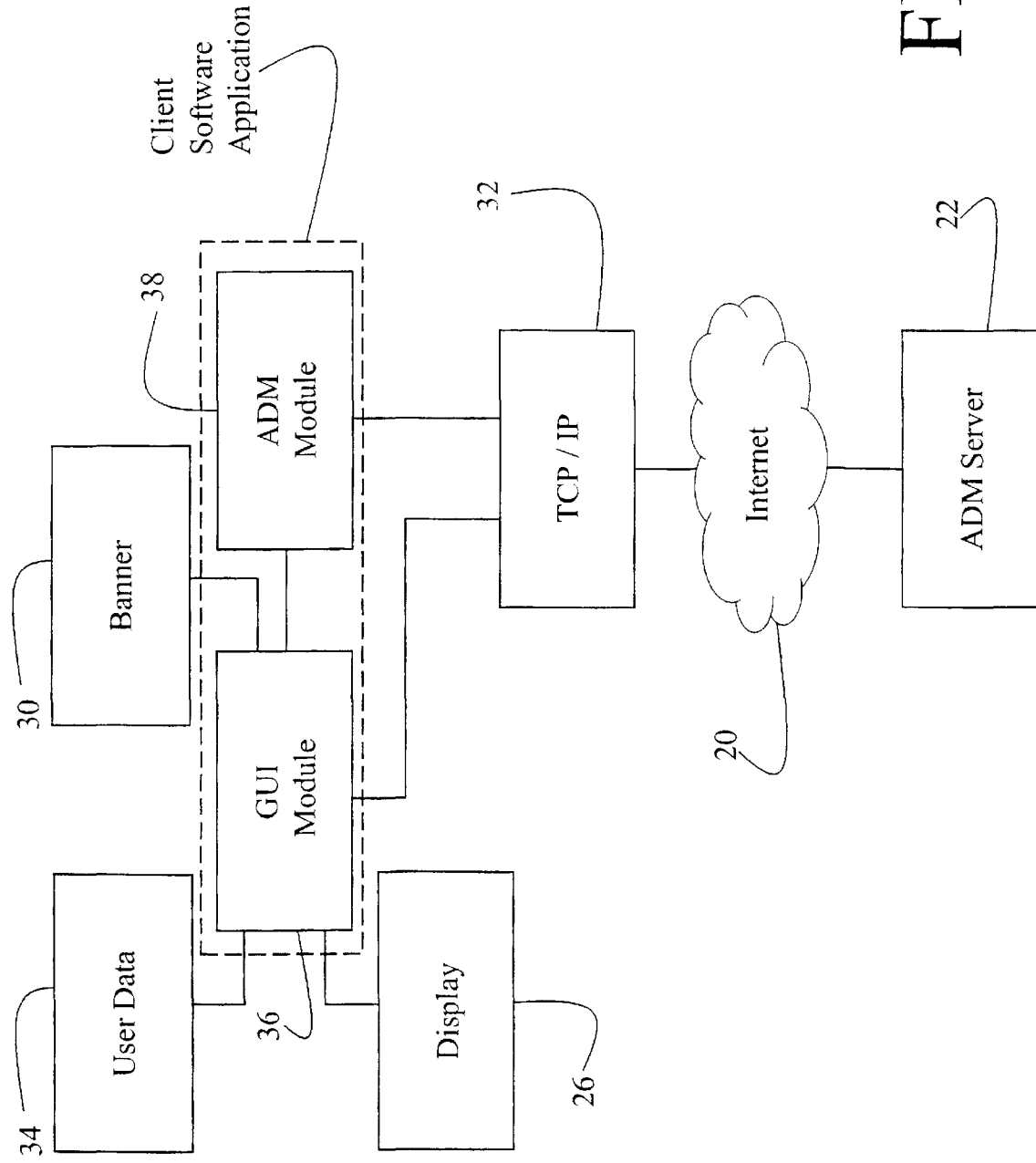


FIG.



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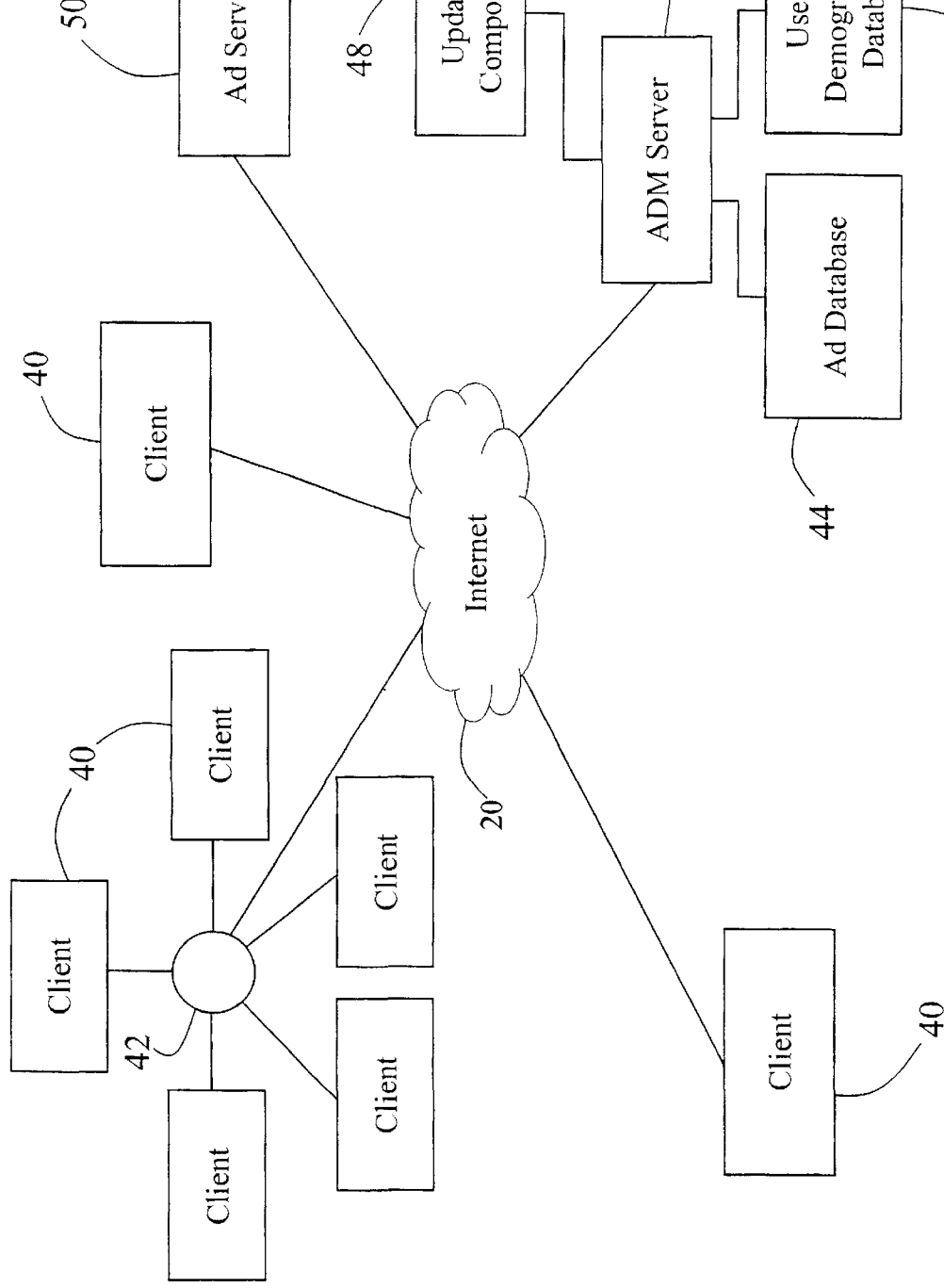


FIG. 3

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