

(12) United States Patent
Wachtel

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(54) SYSTEM AND METHOD FOR OBTAINING IMPROVED SEARCH RESULTS AND FOR DECREASING NETWORK LOADING

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(*) Notice: This patent issued on a continued prosecution application filed under 37 CFR 1.53(d), and is subject to the twenty year patent term provisions of 35 U.S.C. 154(a)(2).

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

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(52) U.S. Cl. 707/3; 707/2; 707/5; 707/10; 709/217; 709/218; 709/219

(58) Field of Search 707/5, 10, 3, 2; 395/200.33, 200.03, 200.09, 200.57; 364/284, 282.4; 346/282.1; 709/217, 218, 219

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Primary Examiner—Hosain T. Alam

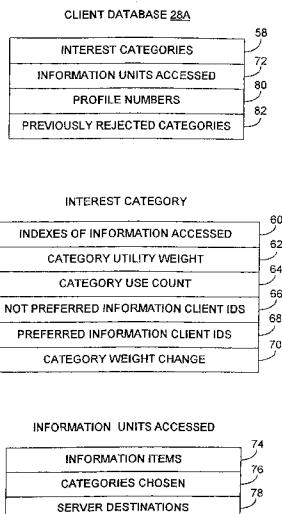
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(57) ABSTRACT

A networked information sharing model is described. The network described comprises a client-server model or a client only model. There exists a shared information database, a shared category database, a shared interest profile database and a shared client enhancement database, each of which is continually and dynamically updated. The shared category database contains categories of interests, within which are weighted and marked information units. Weights are arrived at by empirical use. Marks are maintained to distinguish where the information came from and to access information according to client source preference. The shared interest profile contains a set of profiles which clients are associated with. Useful client categories within profiles are offered when requested. A shared client enhancement list is maintained to identify and weight useful sources of information. A client specific database is maintained with client categories, preferred information sources, weights and weighted information access history. This database is used in conjunction with the shared databases to provide intelligent information sharing.

17 Claims, 14 Drawing Sheets



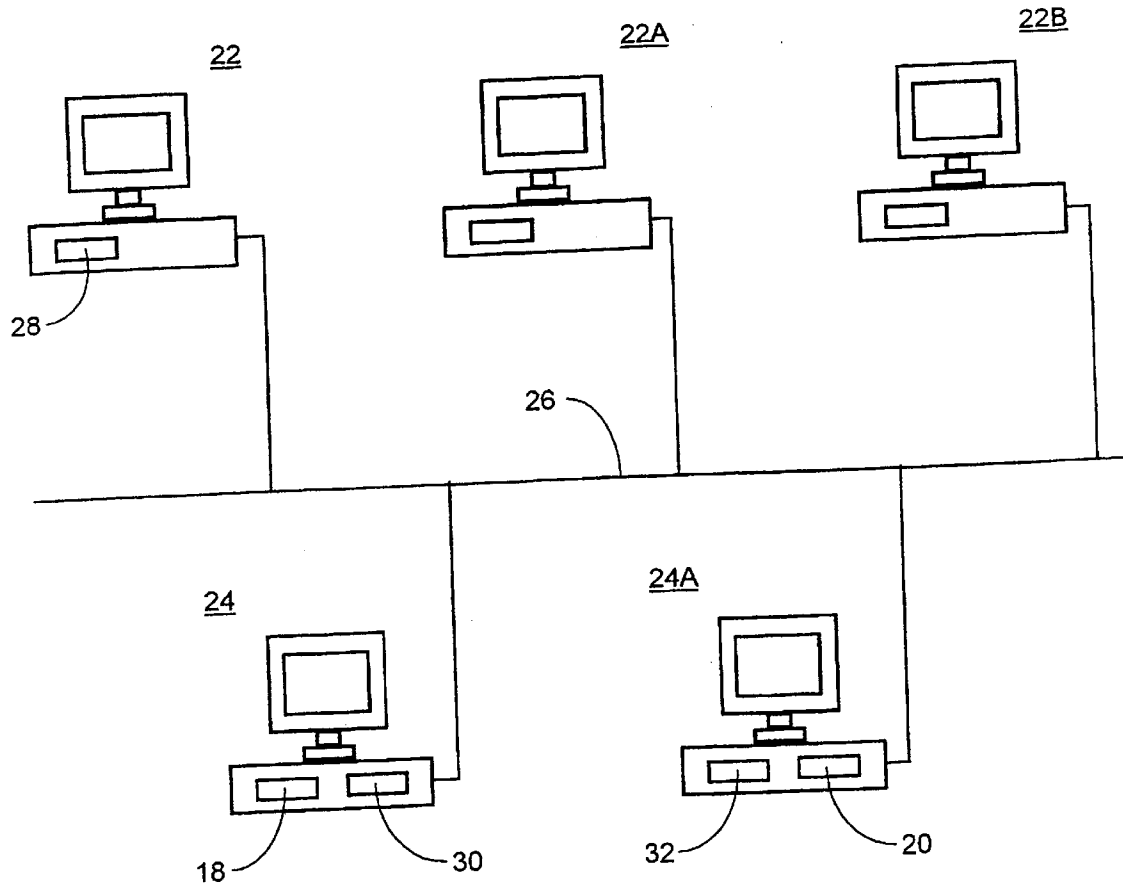
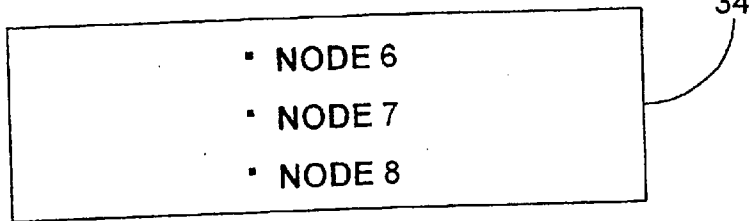
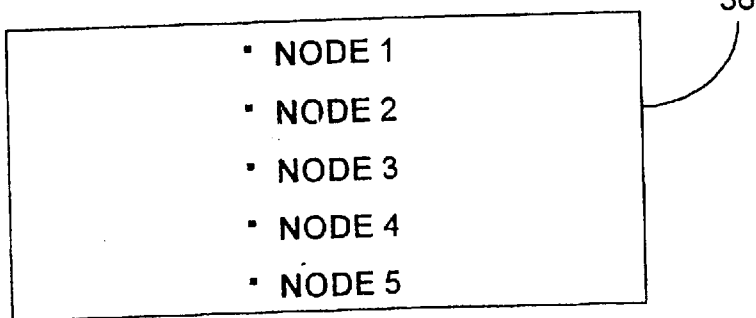


FIGURE 1

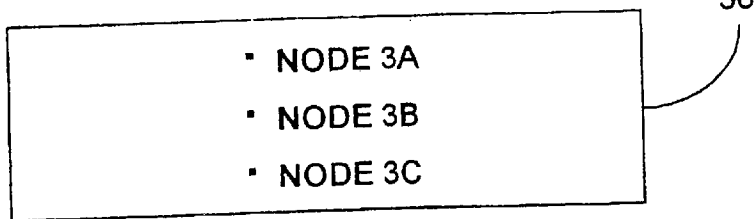
SUGGESTED INTEREST CATEGORIES



CURRENT INTEREST CATEGORIES



CHILD EXPANDED NODE



PARENT EXPANDED NODE 40

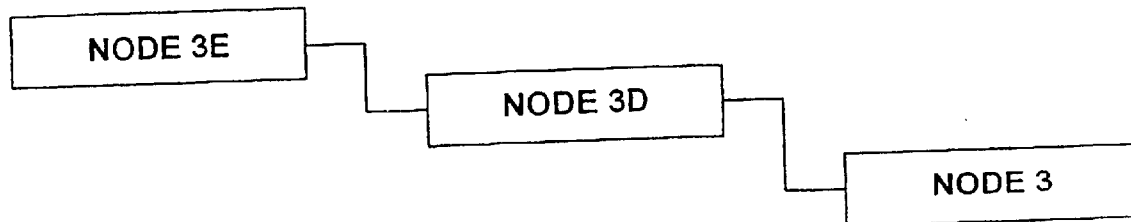


FIGURE 2

INFORMATION UNIT 44

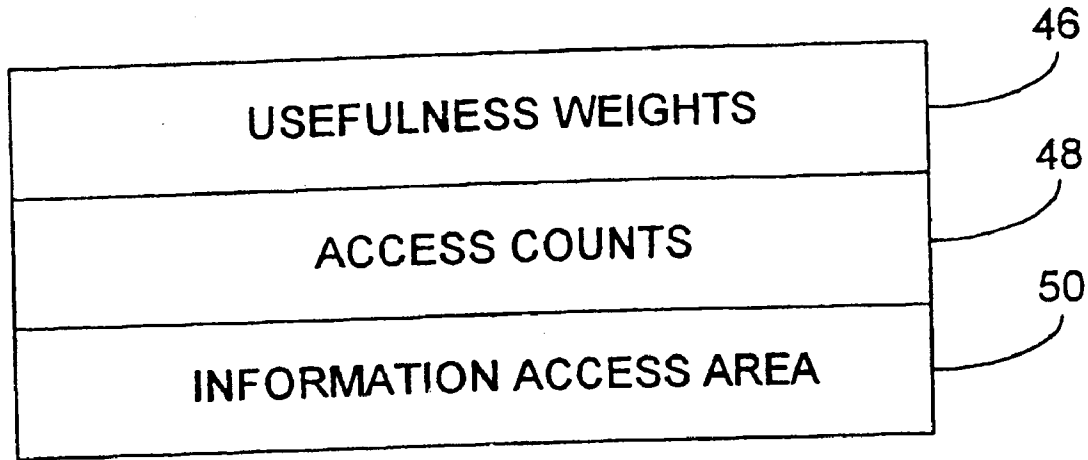
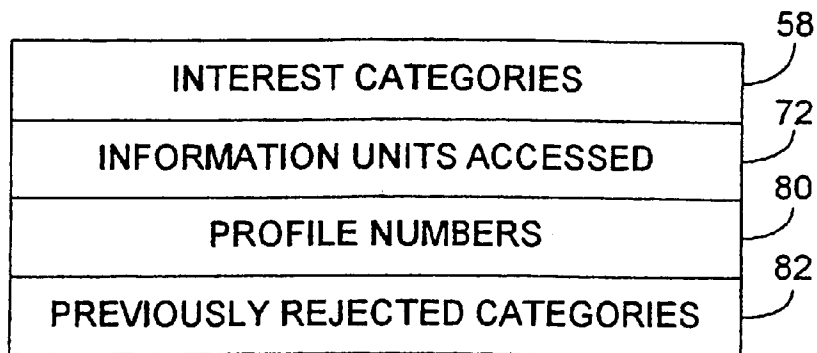
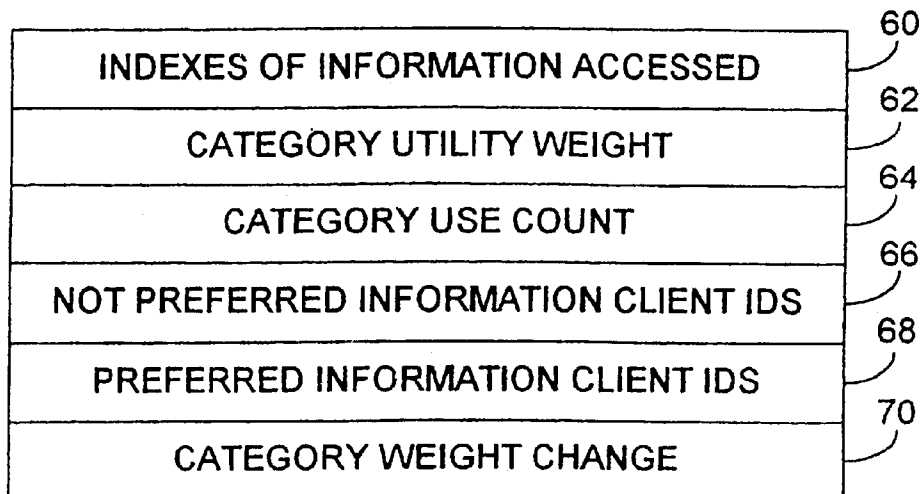


FIGURE 3

CLIENT DATABASE 28A



INTEREST CATEGORY



INFORMATION UNITS ACCESSED

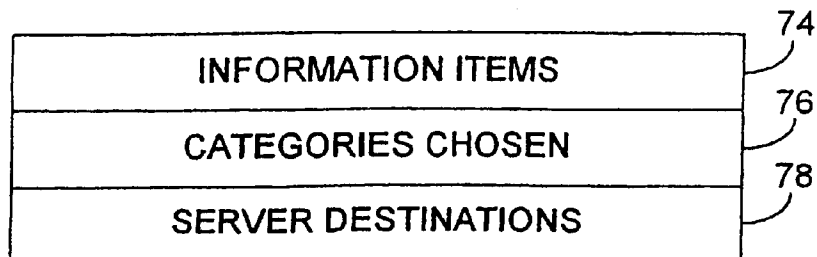


FIGURE 4

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