United States Patent [19]

Taylor et al.

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[54] **SYSTEM AND METHOD FOR A COMMUNICATION SYSTEM**

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Related U.S. Application Data

[63] Continuation of Ser. No. 77,402, Jun. 15, 1993, abandoned.

[51] **Int. Cl.^{6}** **H04N 1/00**

[52] **U.S. Cl.** **358/400**; 358/402; 358/407; 358/442; 395/200.06; 395/200.07

[58] **Field of Search** 358/400, 402, 358/403, 405, 407, 442; 379/88, 89, 67, 201, 142, 100; 395/153, 161, 200.06, 200.07, 200.02, 200.04, 200.1, 200.11, 200.12

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[57] **ABSTRACT**

A method and a structure for providing electronic mail, facsimile transmission and file transfer maintain a data base in which the communication parameters of a local computer are maintained separately from the communication parameters of a remote computer which communicates the local computer. The data base includes an electronic address book in which a method and a structure are provided for specifying person, group, computer, calling card and service data. The person type data includes specification of a preference for data, or facsimile transmission. Service information are efficiently added because of modularly designed application programming interface. A method and a structure are also provided to allow synchronization between files residing on different computers.
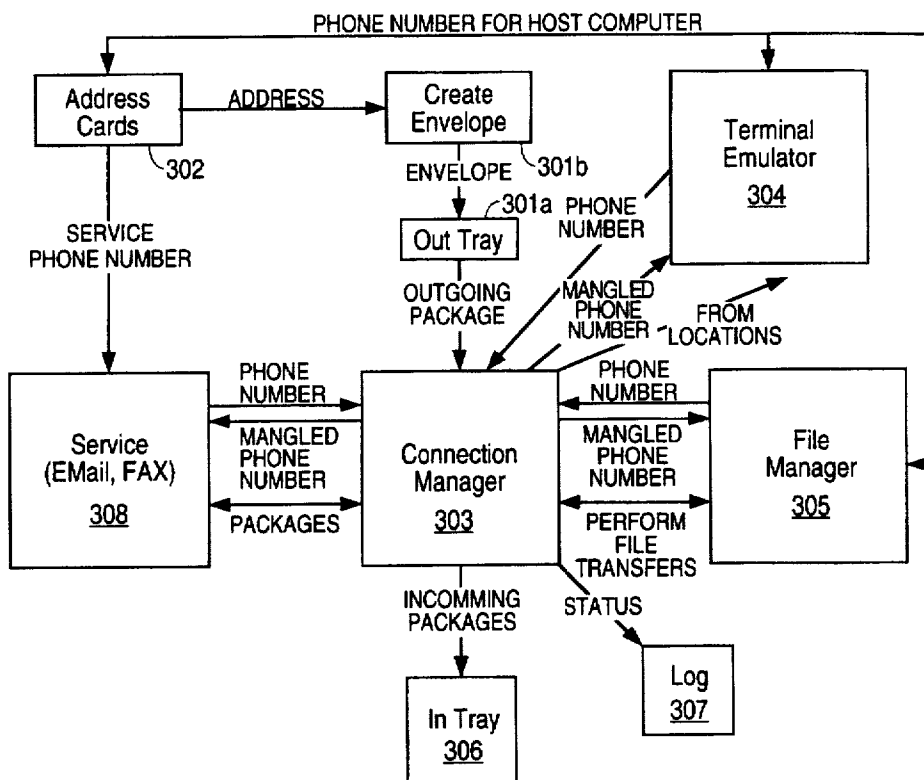
8 Claims, 27 Drawing Sheets

COMPUTER 100a

102a MODEM

100b COMPUTER

SWITCH

103

SWITCH

COMPUTER 100c

102c MODEM

FIG. 1
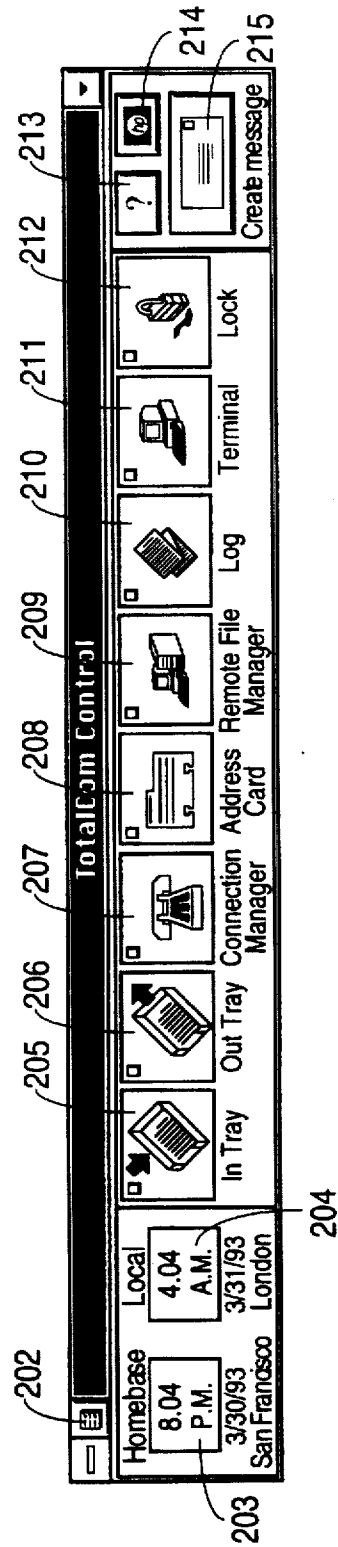
FIG. 2

PHONE NUMBER FOR HOST COMPUTER
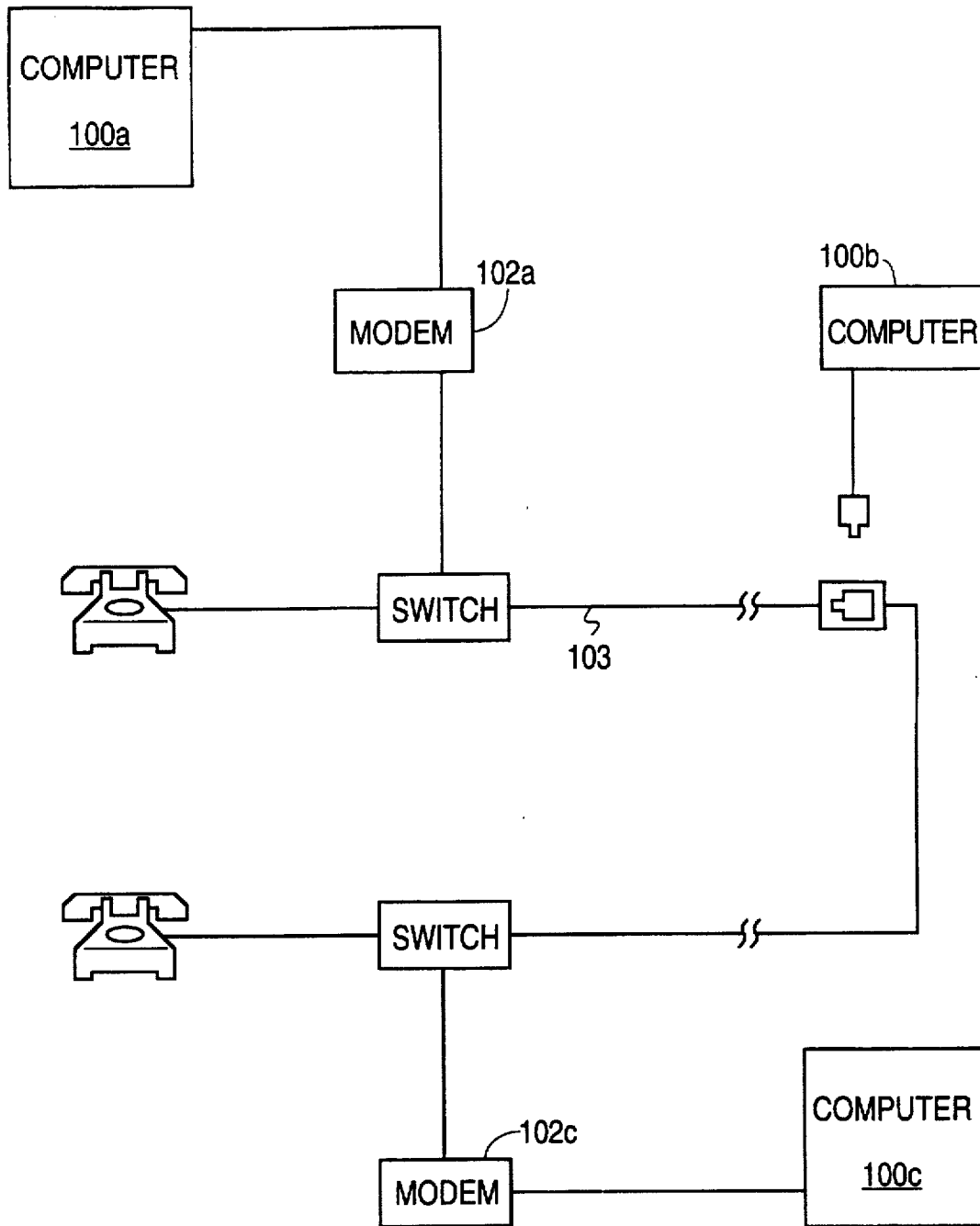
FIG. 3

FIG. 4

DOCKET ALARM
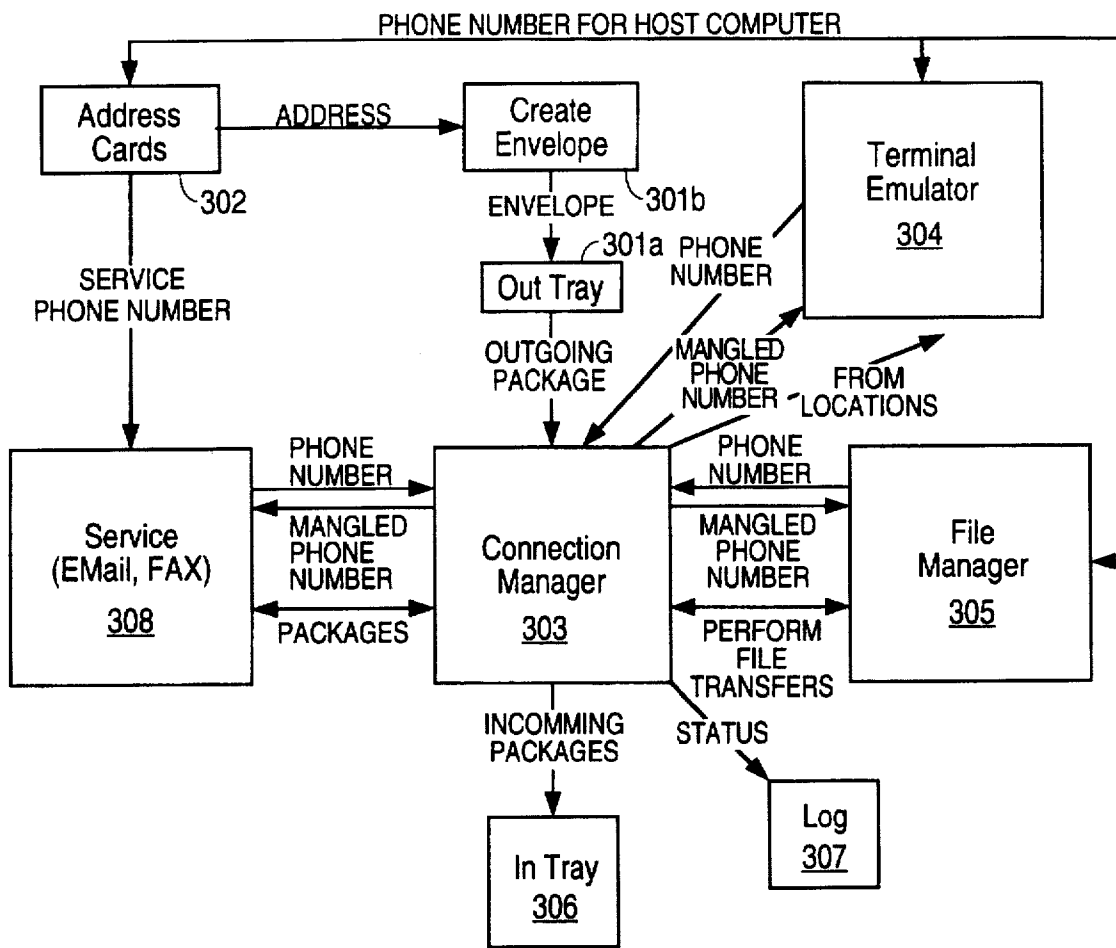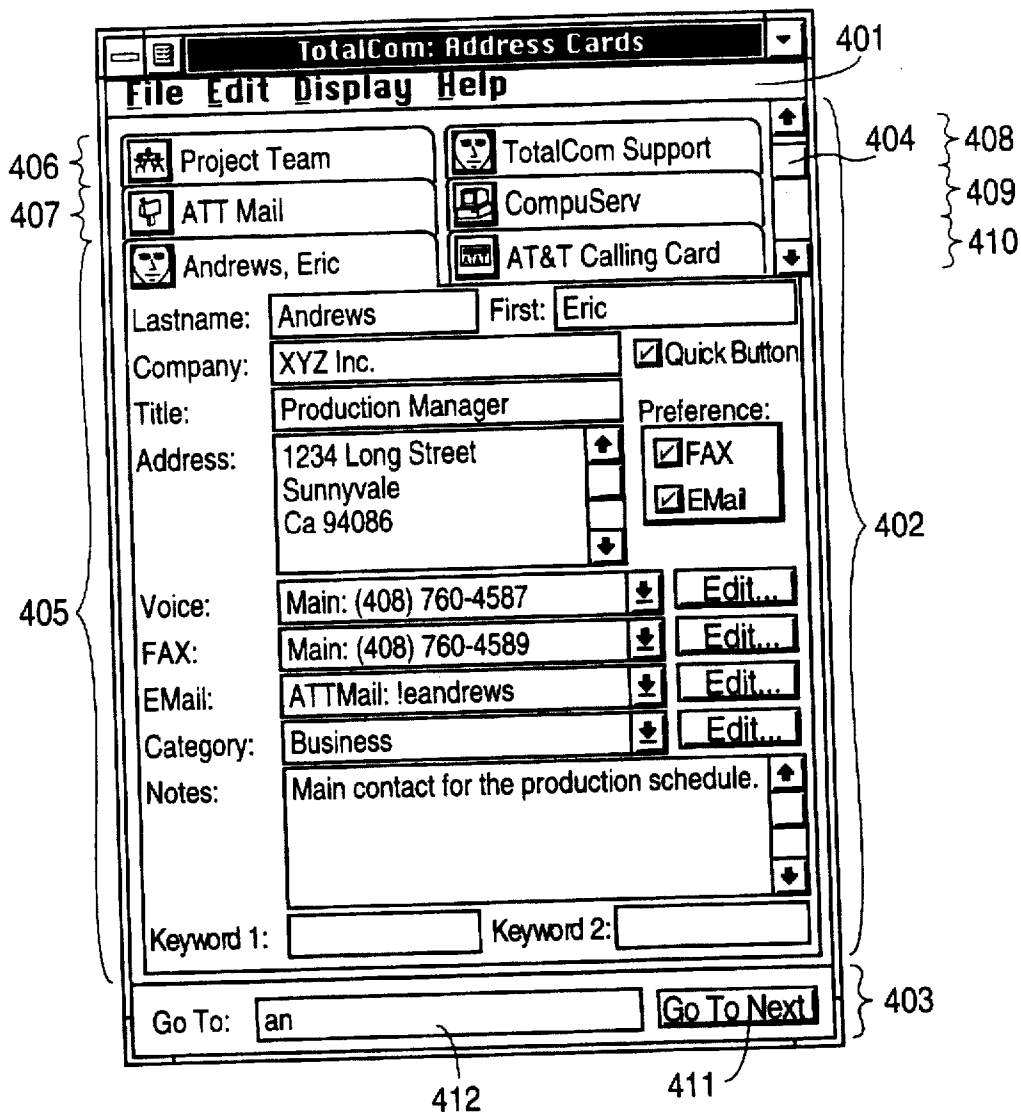
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