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United States Patent [19]
Nielsen

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[45] **Date of Patent:** **Jul. 20, 1999**

[54] **METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR OBTAINING AND DISPLAYING NETWORK SERVER INFORMATION**

[75] Inventor: **Jakob Nielsen**, Atherton, Calif.

[73] Assignee: **Sun Microsystems, Inc.**, Mountain View, Calif.

[21] Appl. No.: **08/628,418**

[22] Filed: **Apr. 5, 1996**

[51] **Int. Cl.⁶** **H04N 1/00**

[52] **U.S. Cl.** **709/247; 707/513**

[58] **Field of Search** 395/200.33, 200.49, 395/200.57, 200.8, 968, 200.47, 200.61, 200.68; 707/3, 9, 10, 501, 513

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Primary Examiner—Thomas Peeso
Attorney, Agent, or Firm—Daniel B. Curtis

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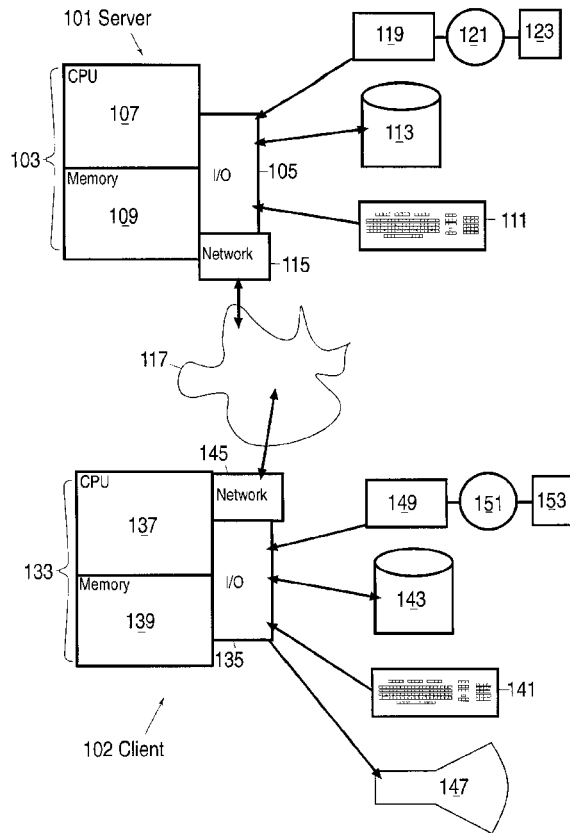
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[57] **ABSTRACT**

Apparatus, methods, and computer program products are disclosed to simplify a computer user's navigation through a distributed information space. The invention provides the computer user with information identifying the server that provides access to data (or to services) of interest to the user.

39 Claims, 14 Drawing Sheets



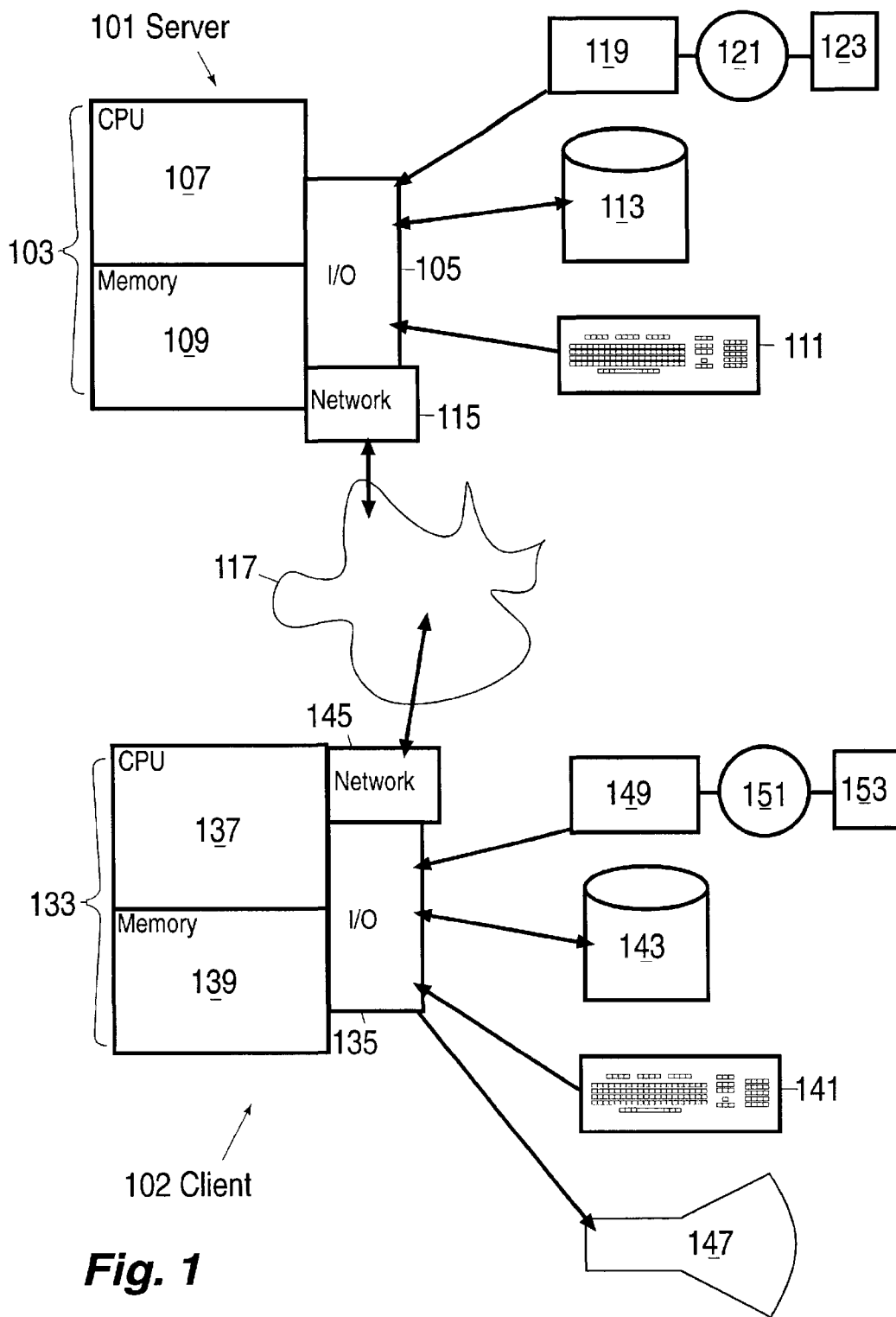


Fig. 1

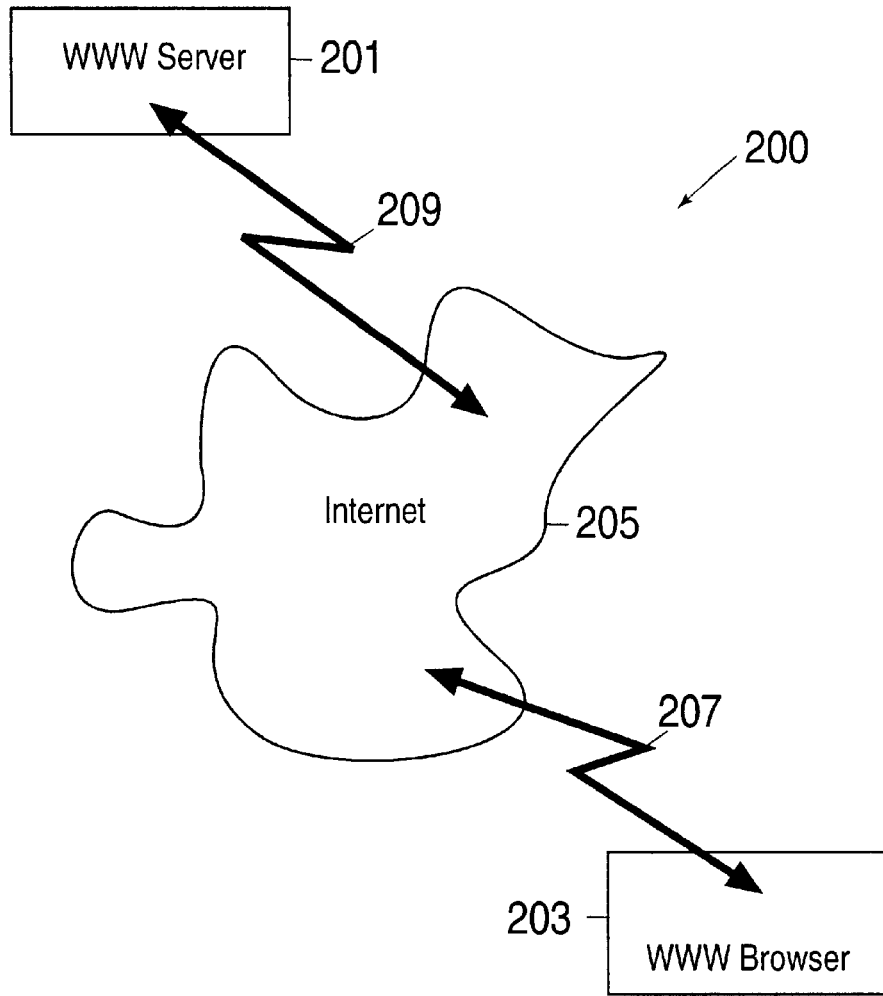


Fig. 2
(Prior Art)

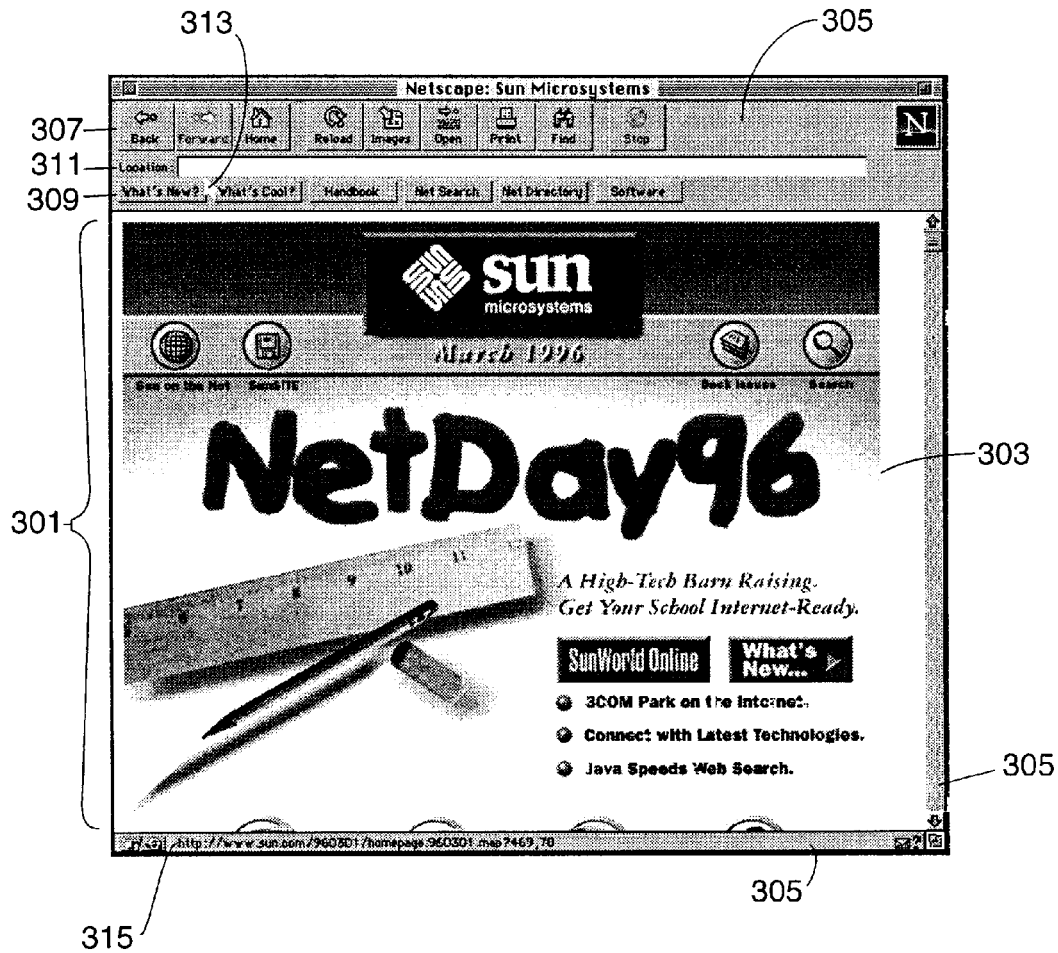


Fig. 3A
(Prior Art)

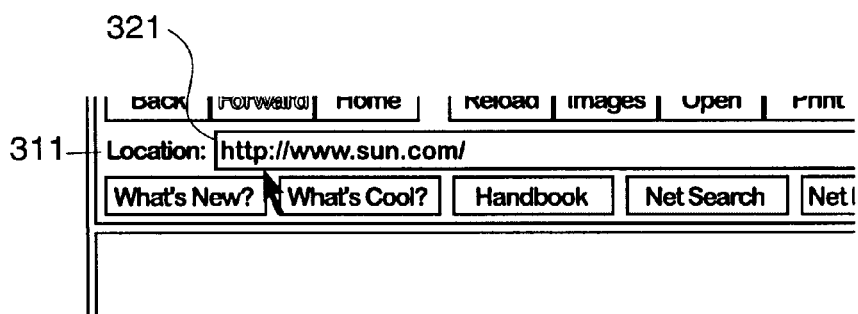


Fig. 3B
(Prior Art)

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