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Swartz

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(54) INTERNET CONTROLLED TELEPHONE SYSTEM

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(58) Field of Search 370/352, 218, 370/235, 252, 253, 254, 255, 260, 264, 299, 321, 326, 327, 336, 353, 354, 355, 356, 357, 359, 360, 396, 398, 400, 401, 402, 404, 405, 420, 421, 422; 379/68, 69, 70, 71, 85, 88.01, 88.04, 88.27

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Primary Examiner—Douglas Olms

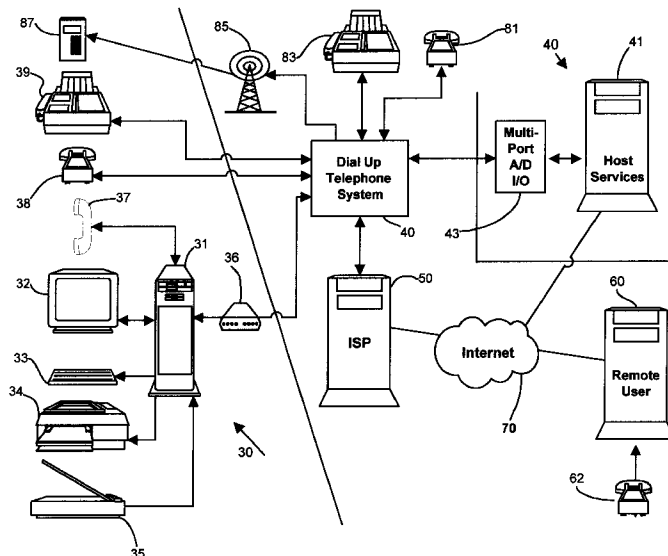
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(57) ABSTRACT

An Internet controlled telephony system employing a host services processor connected to a subscriber via the Internet and further connected to the public switched telephone system (PSTN). The subscriber employs a web interface to populate a database with preference data which is used by the host services processor to handle incoming calls and establish outgoing telephone connections in accordance with the preference data provided by the subscriber. Incoming calls to a telephone number assigned to the subscriber may be automatically forwarded to any telephone number specified by the preference data. The subscriber may also use the web interface to specify whether call waiting is to be activated, to screen or reroute calls from designated numbers, for recording voice mail messages in designated voice mailboxes, for selectively playing back voice mail messages via the web interface or for forwarding voice mail as an email attachment, for handling incoming fax transmissions using character recognition and email attachment functions, and for automatically paging the subscriber when incoming voice mail, fax or email messages are received, all in accordance with the preference data supplied by the subscriber using the web interface. Outgoing connections and conference calls may be initiated using the web interface, and the subscriber may block the operation of caller identification functions. Call progress information may be visually displayed to the subscriber during calls by transmitting web pages from the host services computer to the subscriber's web browser.

13 Claims, 11 Drawing Sheets



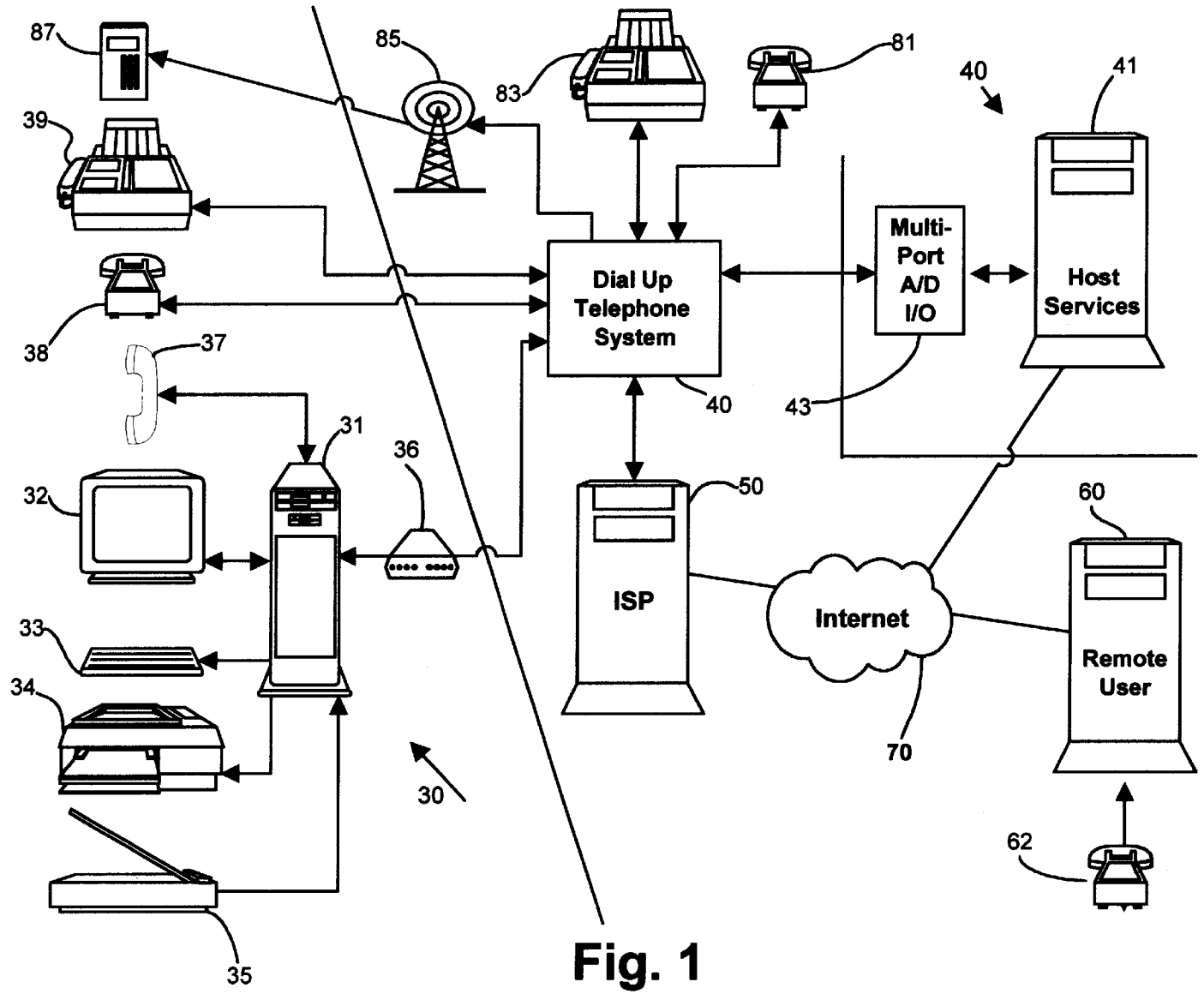


Fig. 1

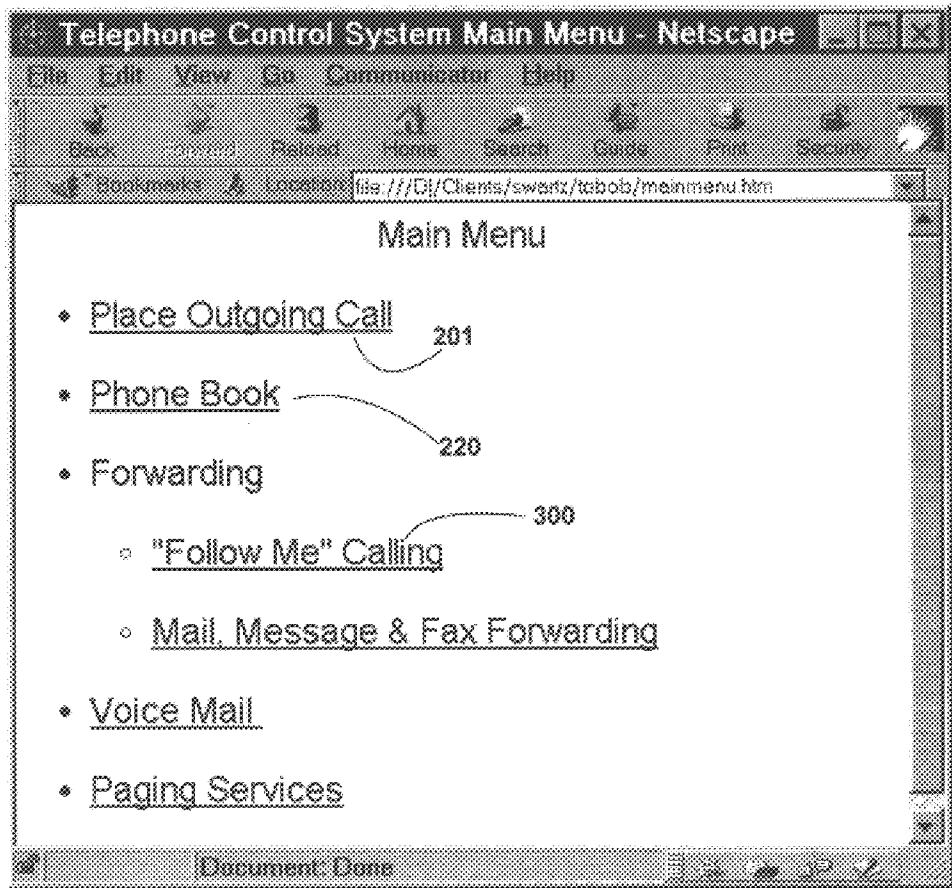


Fig. 2

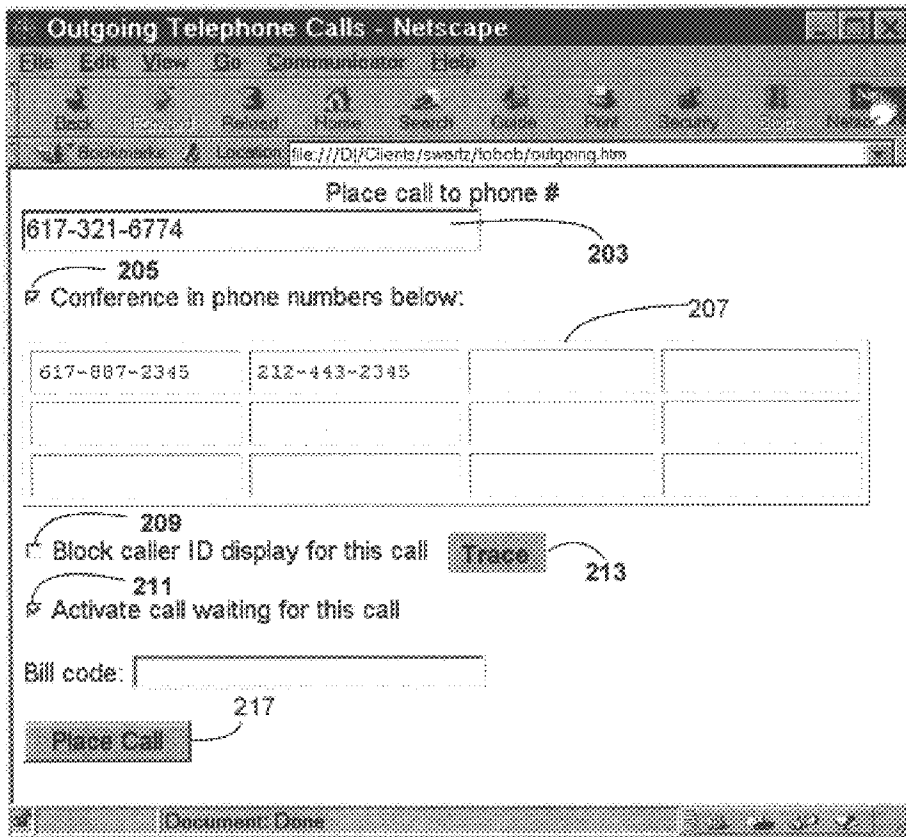


Fig. 3

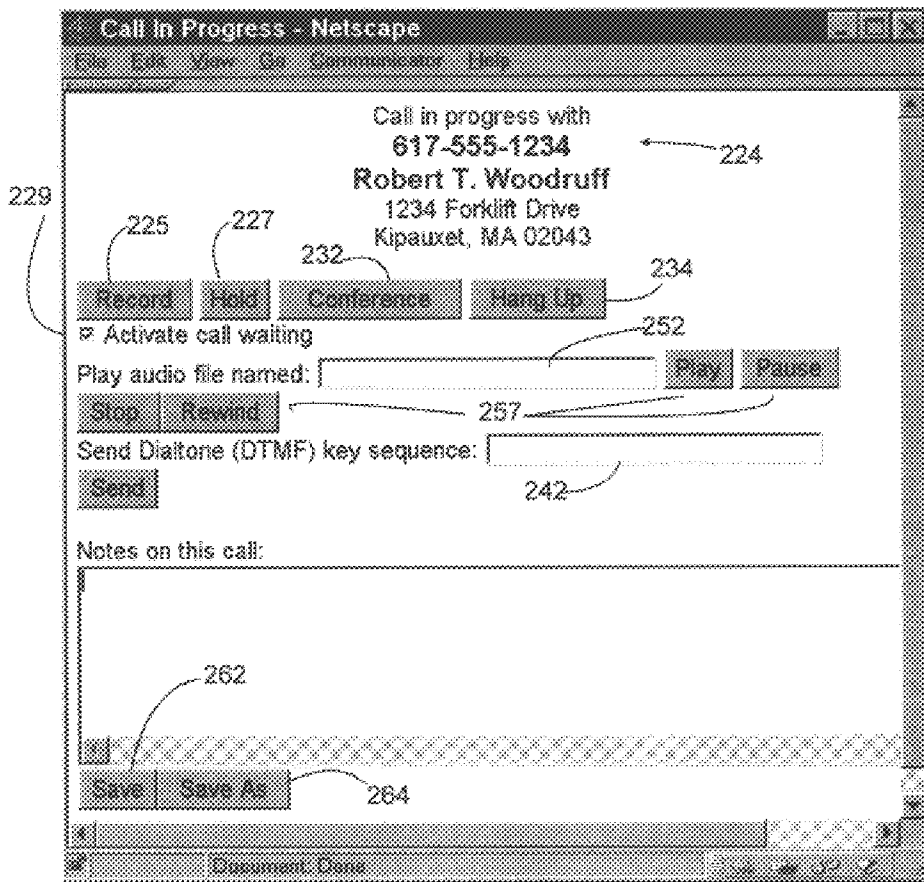


Fig.4

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