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(12) **United States Patent**
Petite

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(54) **SYSTEM AND METHOD FOR ACCESSING RESIDENTIAL MONITORING DEVICES**

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- (*) Notice: Subject to any disclaimer, the term of this patent is extended or adjusted under 35 U.S.C. 154(b) by 720 days.

- (21) Appl. No.: **09/811,076**
- (22) Filed: **Mar. 16, 2001**

- (65) **Prior Publication Data**
US 2001/0024163 A1 Sep. 27, 2001

Related U.S. Application Data

- (63) Continuation-in-part of application No. 09/790,150, filed on Feb. 21, 2001, now Pat. No. 6,522,974, and a continuation-in-part of application No. 09/439,059, filed on Nov. 12, 1999, now Pat. No. 6,437,692, and a continuation-in-part of application No. 09/412,895, filed on Oct. 5, 1999, now Pat. No. 6,218,953, and a continuation-in-part of application No. 09/271,517, filed on Mar. 18, 1999, now abandoned, and a continuation-in-part of application No. 09/172,554, filed on Oct. 14, 1998, now Pat. No. 6,028,522, and a continuation-in-part of application No. 09/102,178, filed on Jun. 22, 1998, now Pat. No. 6,430,268.
- (60) Provisional application No. 60/223,932, filed on Aug. 9, 2000.
- (51) **Int. Cl.⁷** **G08B 17/10**
- (52) **U.S. Cl.** **340/628; 340/629; 340/630; 340/539.1**
- (58) **Field of Search** **340/628, 629, 340/630, 632, 539.1, 577, 500, 520-524, 531, 540, 534, 286.02, 286.05; 370/310**

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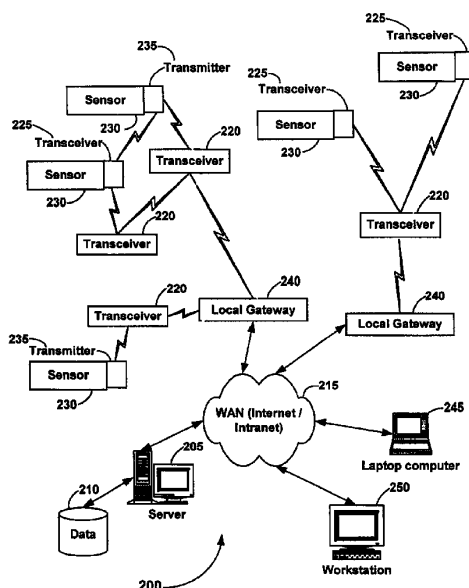
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(57) **ABSTRACT**

The present invention is directed to a system and method for accessing home monitoring devices remotely via a distributed wide-area network (WAN). More specifically, the present invention is directed towards smoke detector system, which monitors for the presence of smoke and communicates the smoke condition to a remote location. The smoke detection system comprises a smoke detection device connected to a communication device. The smoke detection device outputs a signal or a change in a signal upon detection of smoke. This signal or change in signal is monitored by the communication device. The smoke condition is then communicated to the remote central location via a message system.

12 Claims, 14 Drawing Sheets



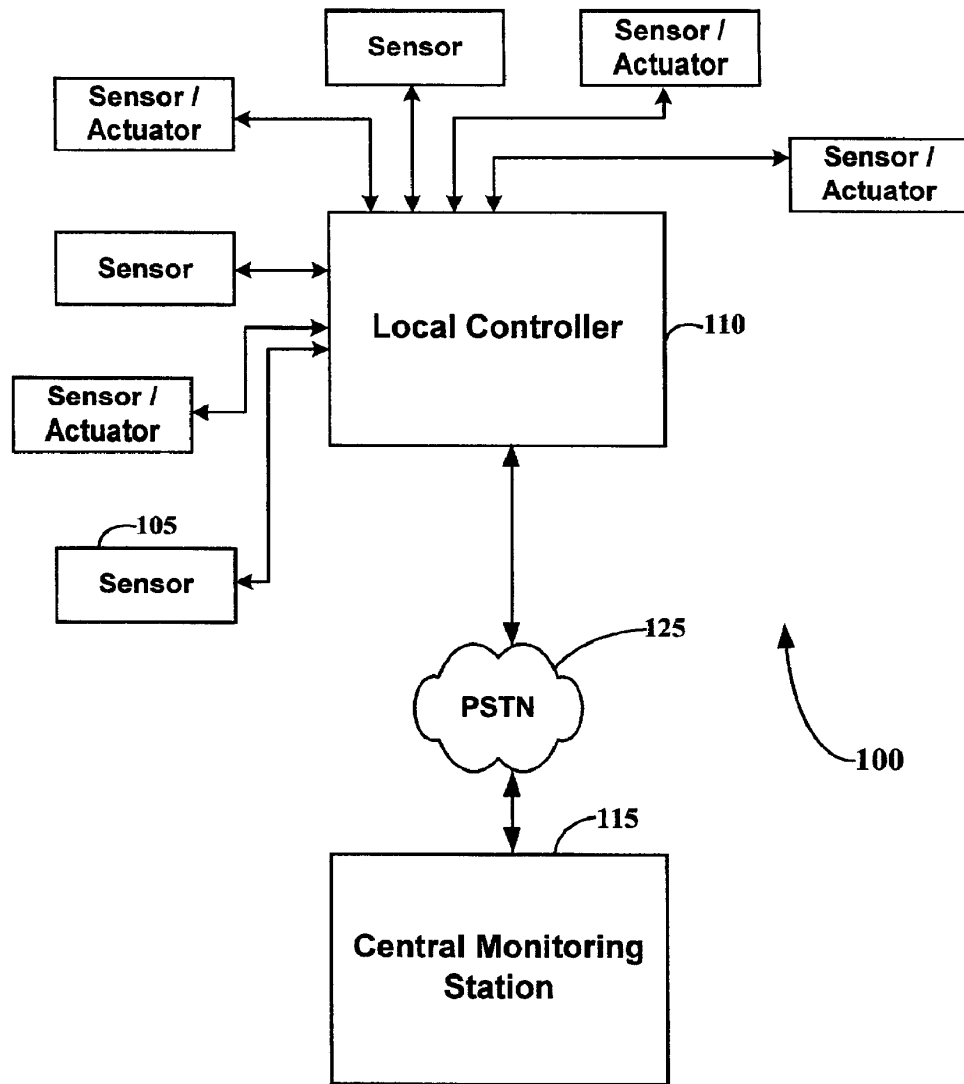


FIG. 1
(PRIOR ART)

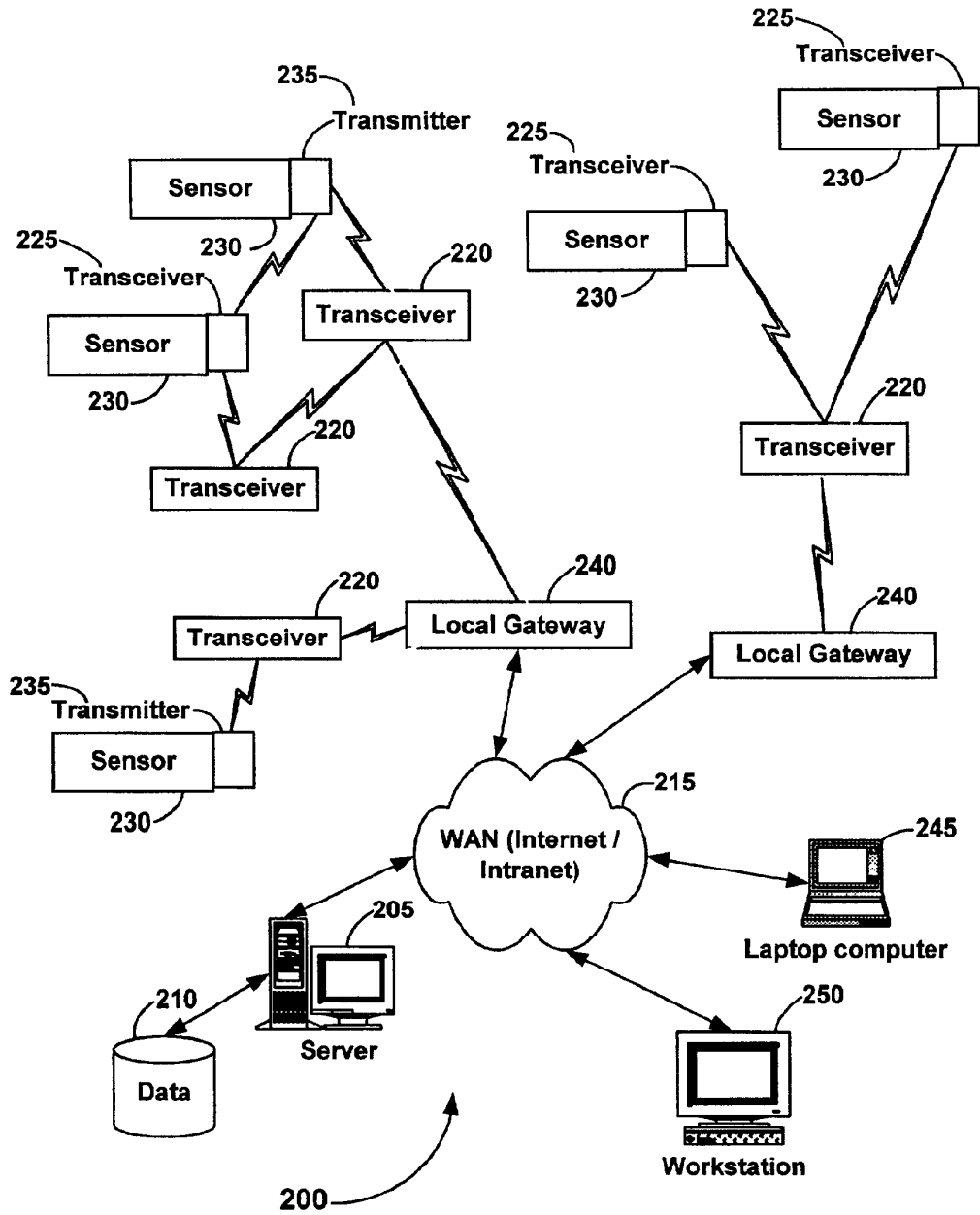


FIG. 2

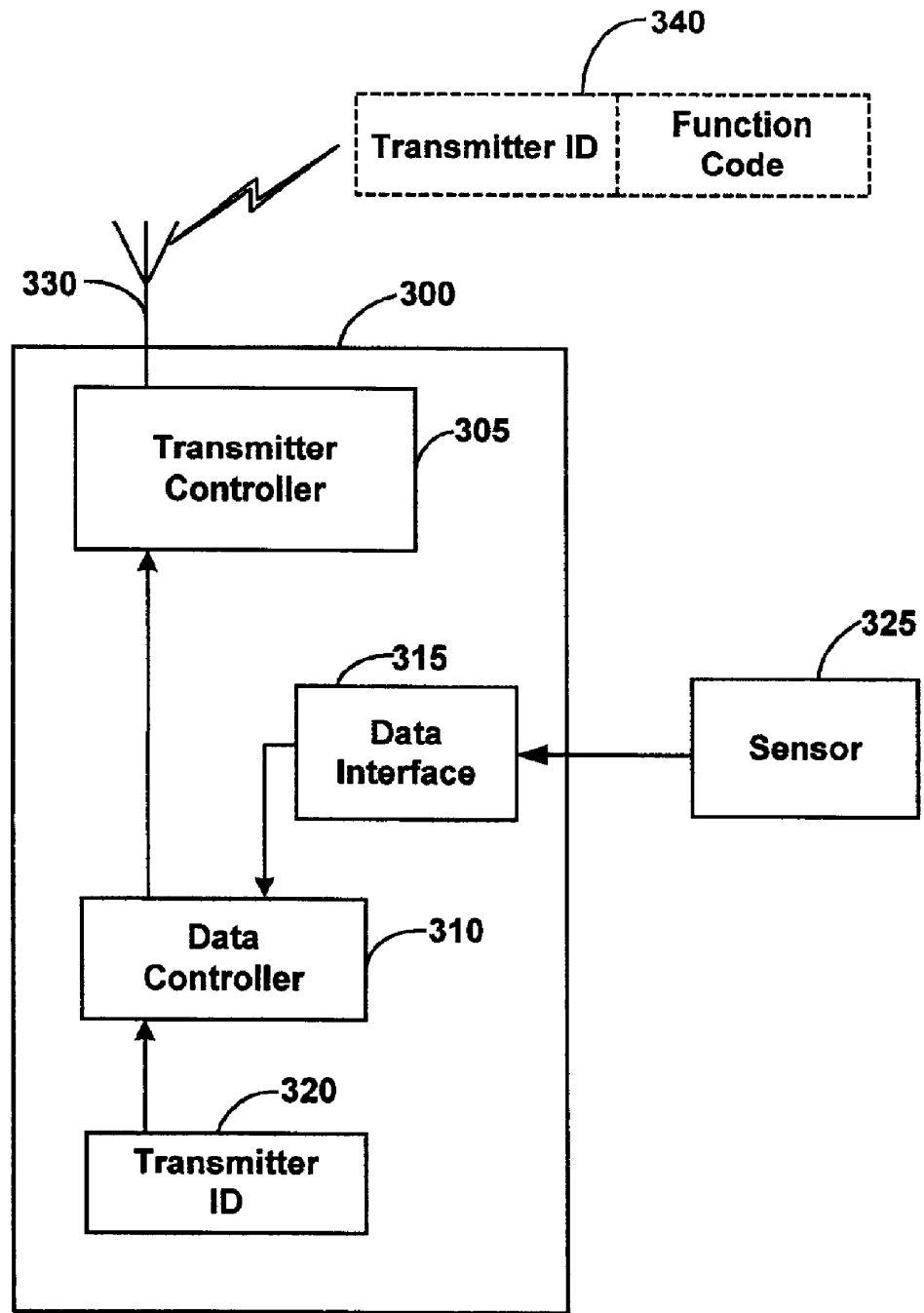


FIG. 3

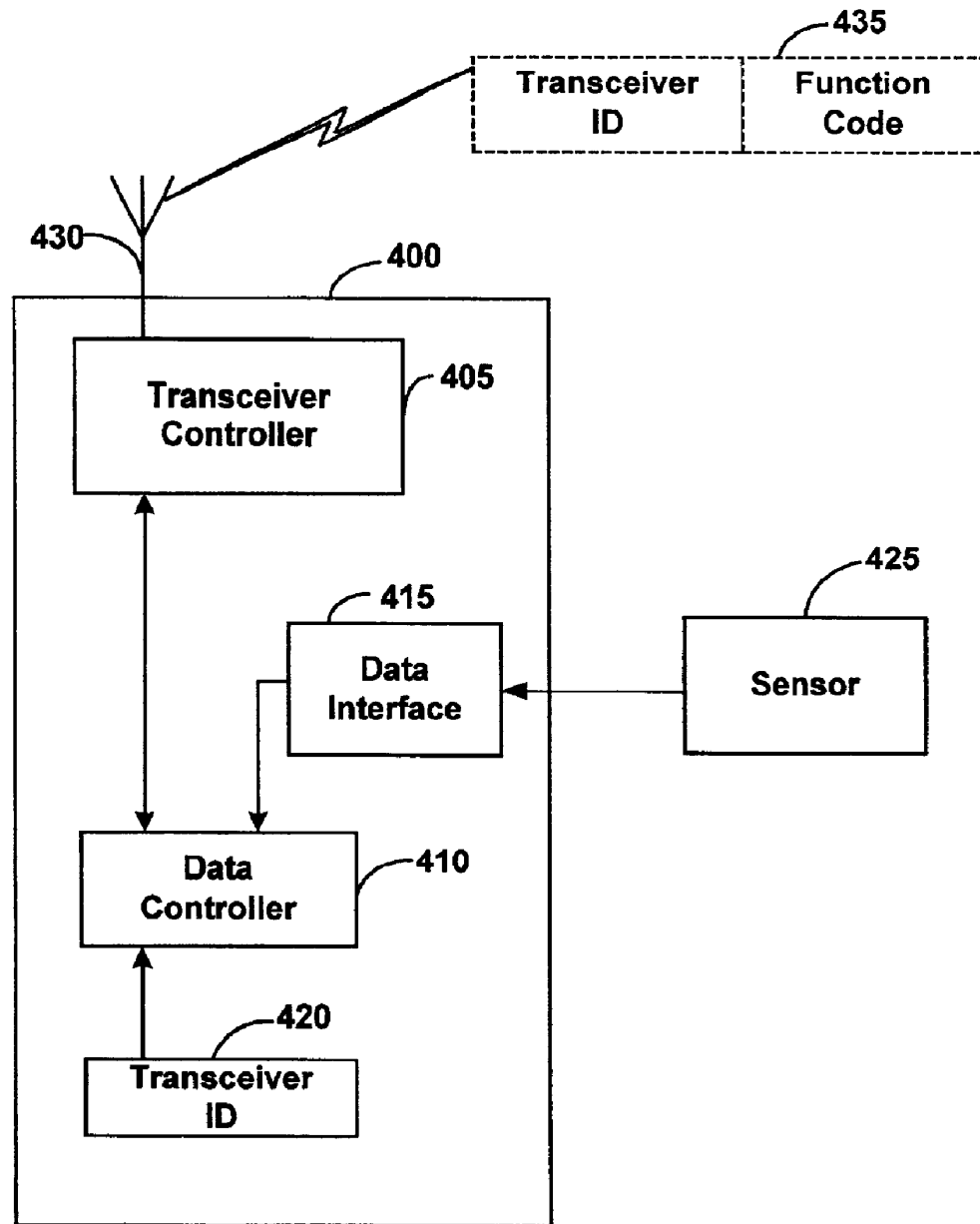


FIG. 4

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