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(54) SERVER BASED VIRTUAL CONFERENCING

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- (58) Field of Search 379/53

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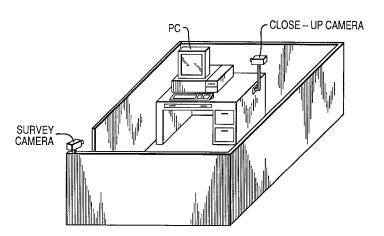
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(57) ABSTRACT

The invention concerns remote conferencing systems of the multi-media type. An example of a "single-medium" conference system can be found in presently available telephone conferencing systems. The single medium is sound, or voice. In the conference, multiple parties, at different locations, are linked together by the telephone system and can speak to each other.

With "multi-media" conferencing, multiple parties are linked by both video and audio media: the parties can see, as well as hear, each other. Further, the invention shows the parties a common display, which functions as a "conference table." Still further, any party can modify the display, by "writing" on it, or by pointing to different parts of it; the other parties can see the modifications. Further still, the invention allows parties to "whisper" to each other, without the knowledge of other parties, as in an actual conference.

8 Claims, 22 Drawing Sheets



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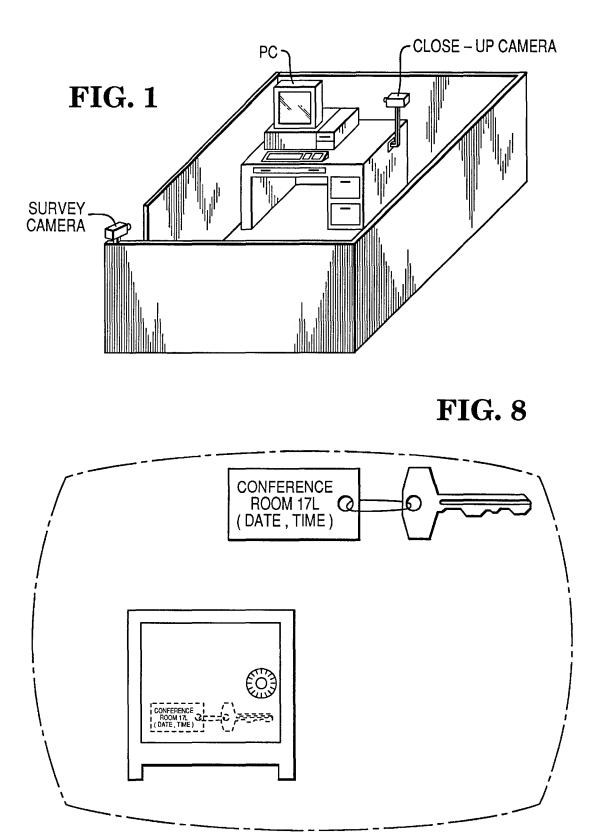
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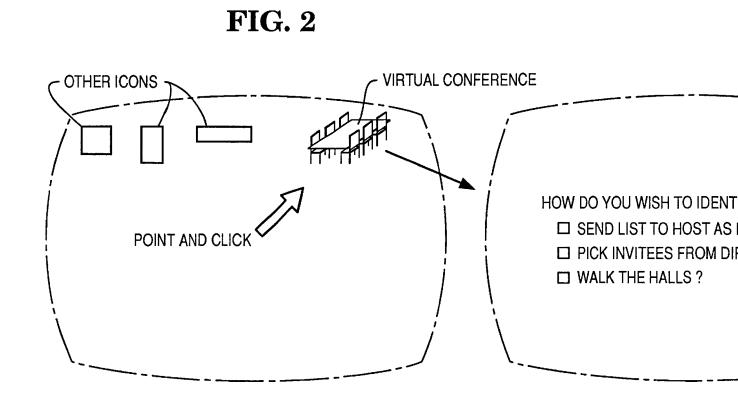
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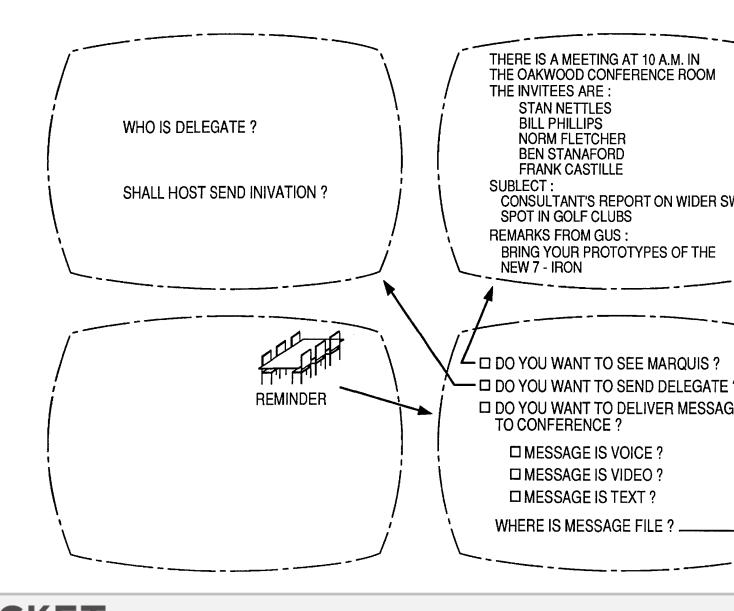


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