

[54] COMPUTING AND COMMUNICATIONS TRANSMITTING, RECEIVING SYSTEM, WITH A PUSH BUTTON INTERFACE, THAT IS CONTINUOUSLY ON, THAT PAIRS UP WITH A PERSONAL COMPUTER AND CARRIES OUT MAINLY COMMUNICATIONS RELATED ROUTINE TASKS

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[21] Appl. No.: 569,846

[22] Filed: Dec. 8, 1995

[51] Int. Cl.⁶ G06F 1/32

[52] U.S. Cl. 395/200.41; 395/821

[58] Field of Search 395/871, 474, 395/200.01, 200.05, 281, 306, 309, 802, 892, 882, 285, 500, 200.41; 345/156

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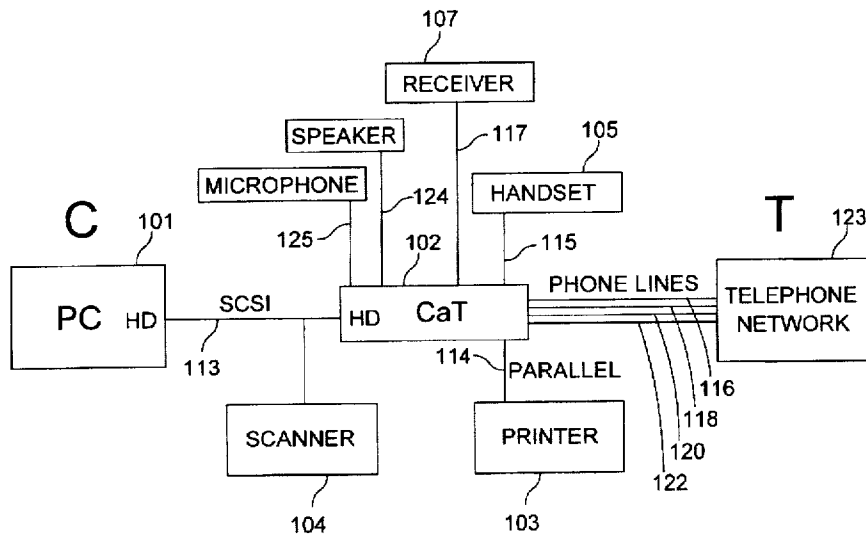
Brooktrout Quadrafax 2.0 Fax on Demand System.
Conon Multipass 1000 Multifunction Peripheral.
Lumina Series 2000 Multifunction Peripheral w/o Printer.
Pacific Image Electronics Scon Media Multifunction Peripheral without a Printer.

Primary Examiner—Dinh C. Dung

[57] ABSTRACT

An embedded computer, CaTbox, is connected to a PC via SCSI cable, and to a telecommunications switch. CaTbox runs an operating system, CaTOS, and contains a hard disk accessible to PC as a SCSI disk called CaTdisc. Print jobs issued from PC are transferred as files to CaTdisc, queued by CaTOS and driven in the foreground to a printer attached to CaTbox. CaTbox has an LCD screen, keypad, and is connected to telephone handsets. While PC and printer are off, CaTbox receives faxes, voicemail, email and stores them on CaTdisc. It delivers HTML pages stored on CaTdisc. Keypad directed, CaTbox plays voicemail and prints faxes or email. Modems on CaTbox, CaTmodems, are available for data, voice, fax communications from PC. A scanner on SCSI bus may be driven by CaTbox via keypad to scan documents to store on CaTdisc, print or send as faxes. CaTOS has step tables for each modem, actions, foreground programs, configuration files, and queues. Steps hold actions that execute within a time slice for a modem during timer tick. Actions emit, record messages, queue foreground program requests, queue requests for another step, call other actions, idle, answer a call etc. Steppers within each time slice move execution from step to step based on keypad inputs, events, conditions, and contents of step tables. Foreground programs move files to, from memory, print, scan etc. Idle actions check a queue for steps to execute. A scheduler runs after timer ticks to choose the next foreground program.

14 Claims, 16 Drawing Sheets



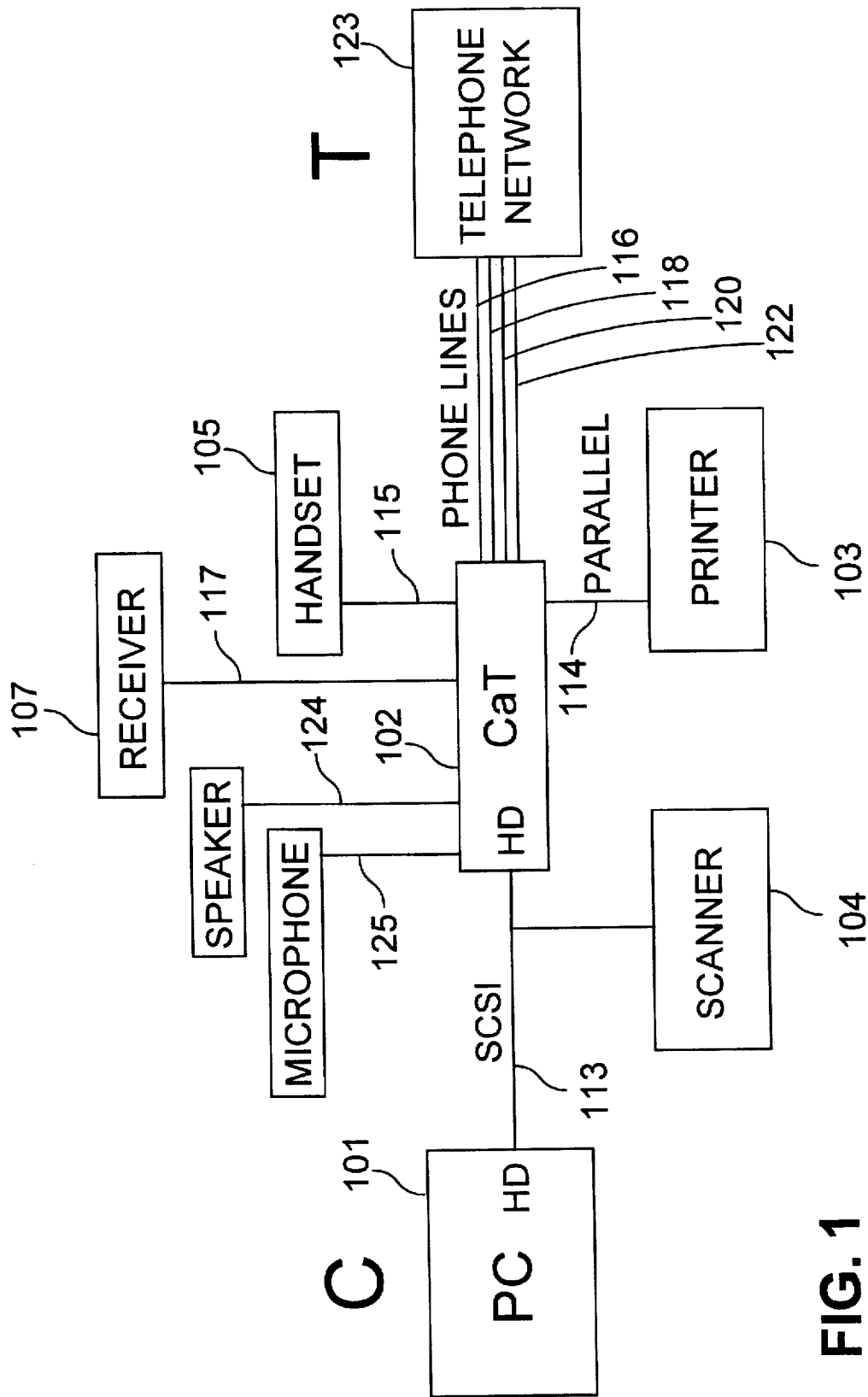


FIG. 1

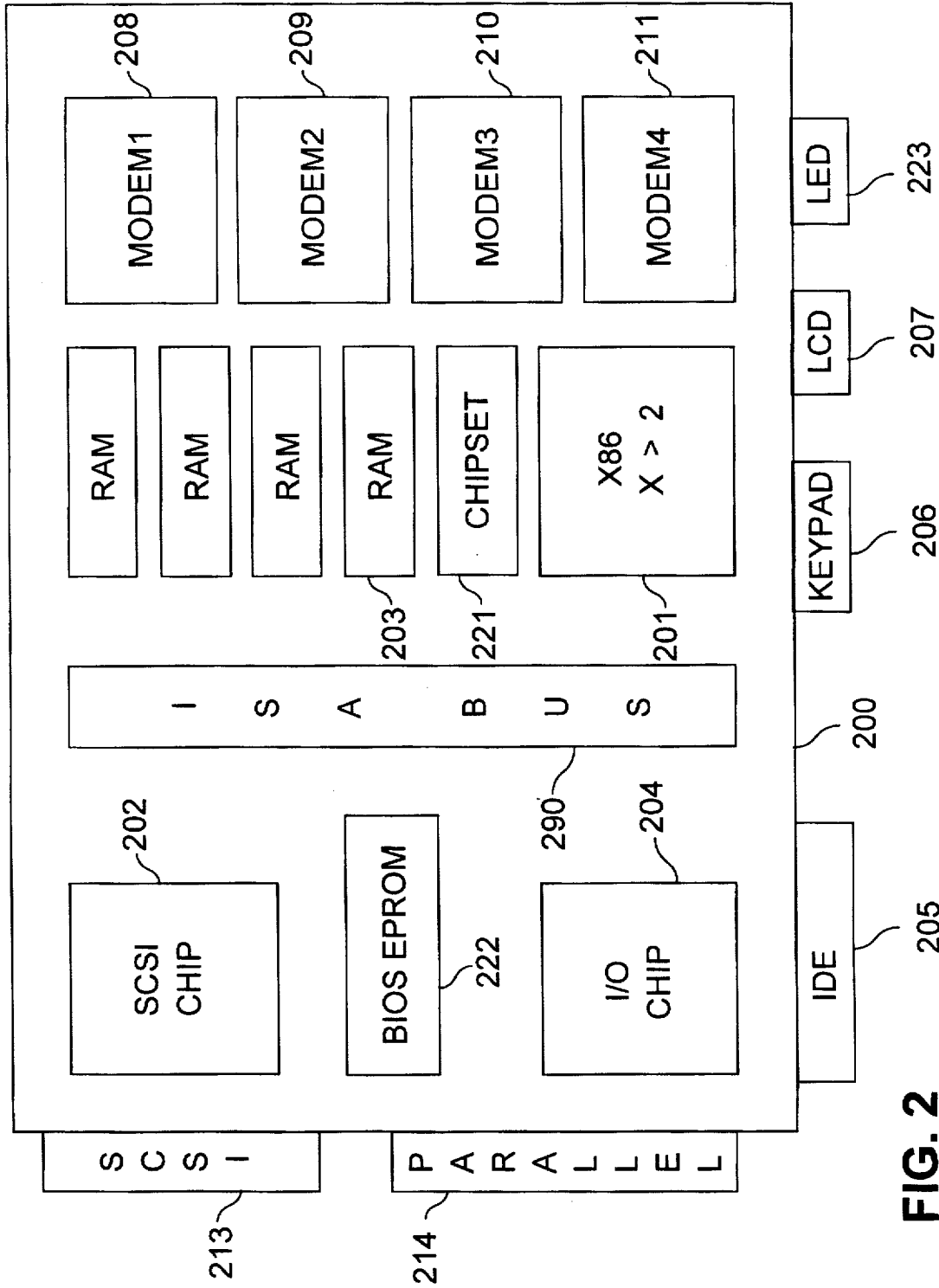


FIG. 2

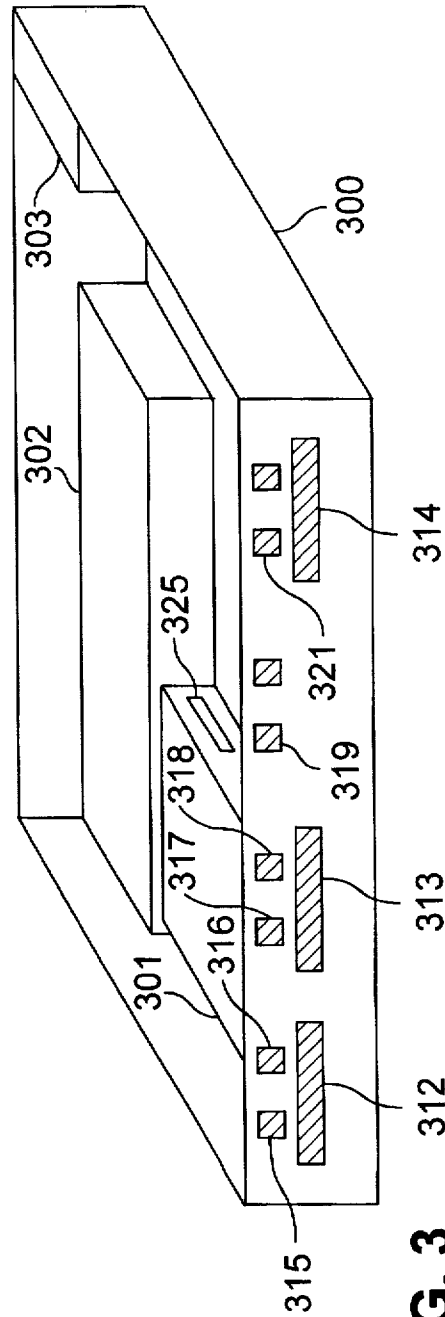
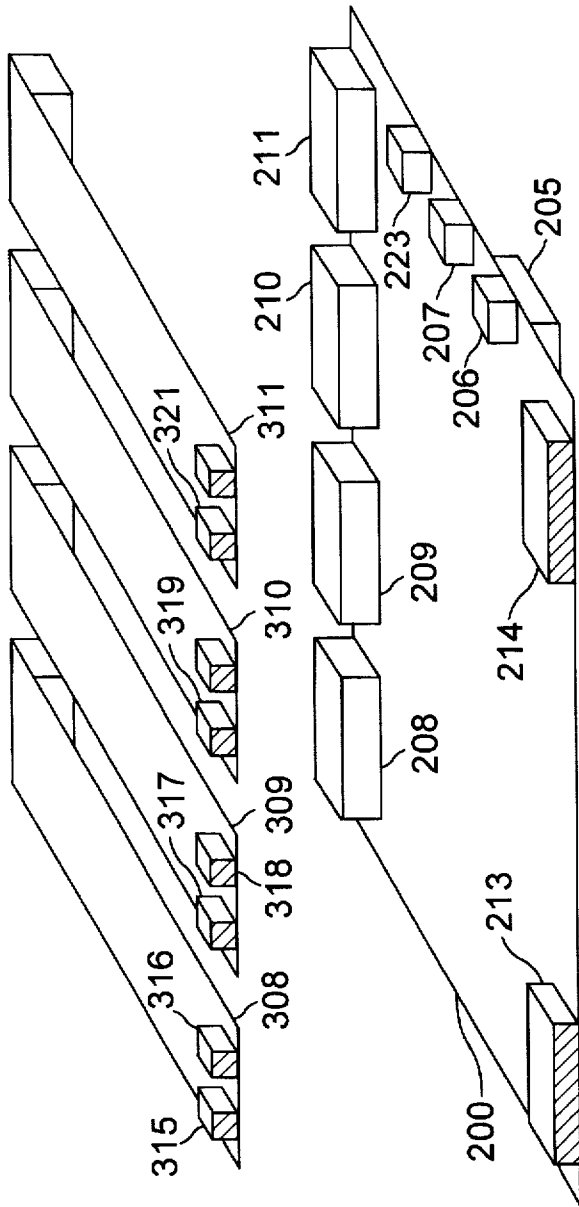


FIG. 3

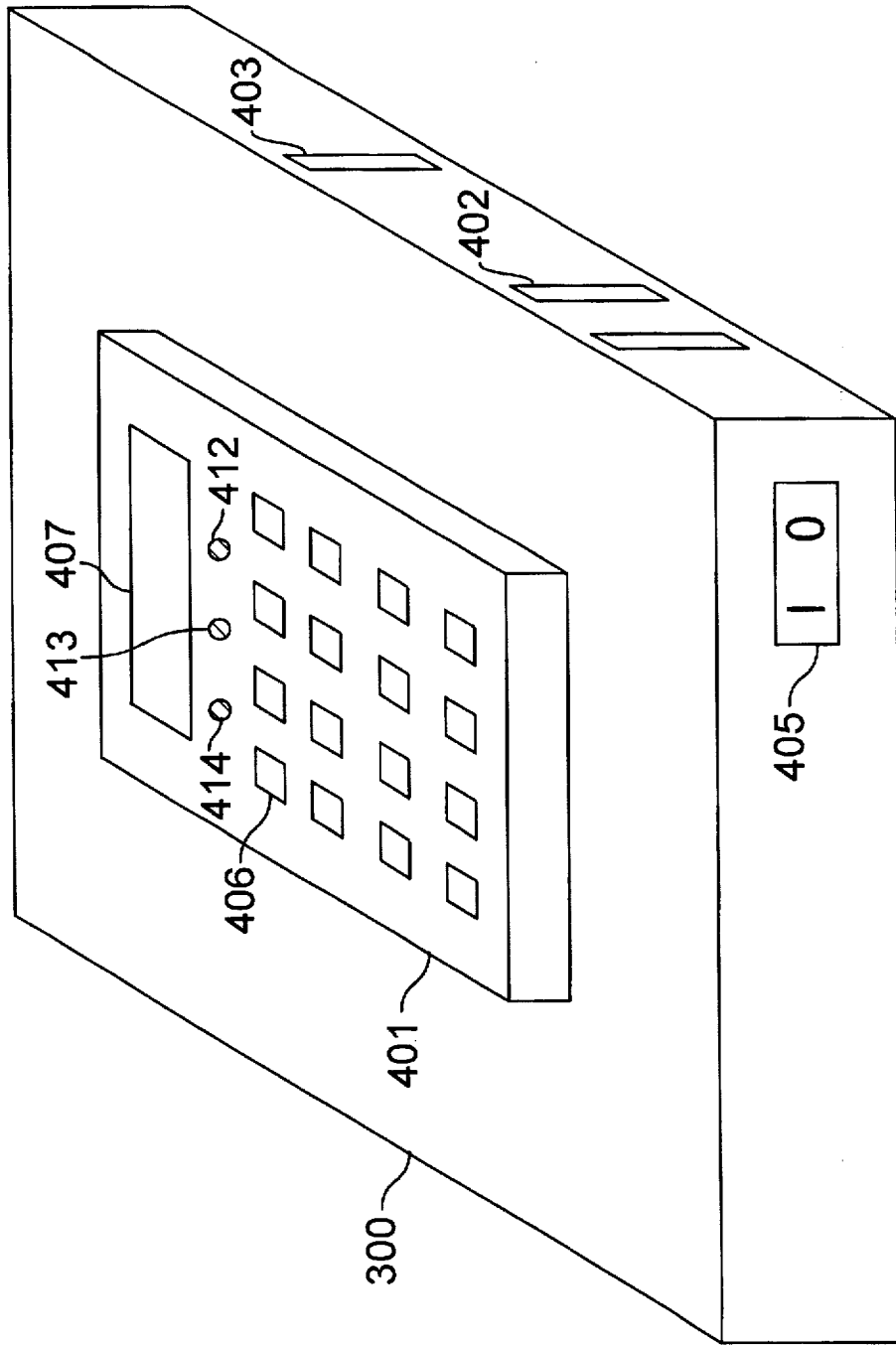


FIG. 4

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