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(54) **SYSTEM FOR COMMUNICATING THROUGH MAPS**

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(57) **ABSTRACT**

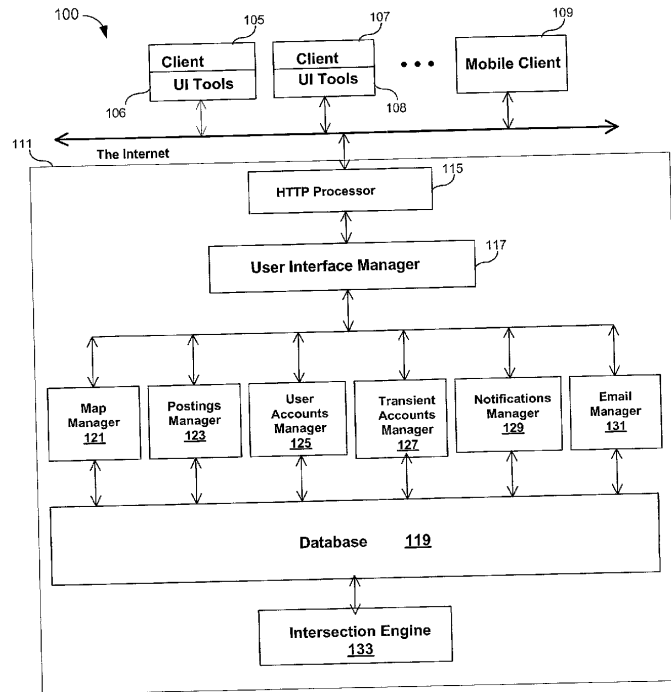
A communications system to post arbitrary information to any geographical region simply by outlining the region on a map in the system's user interface and attaching the information to the outlined region is provided. The outlined region can be of any size, e.g., a city block, a neighborhood, a county, and defines the information's "region of relevance". Any user of the system can also browse and receive these geographically relevant postings simply by identifying a point or region of interest on one of the system's maps. Uses of the system range from personal communication of questions and announcements to a geographically identified group, to governmental and commercial news and announcements aimed at a particular population, to "virtual billboards" for advertising.

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**Related U.S. Application Data**

(63) **Continuation-in-part of application No. 09/524,888, filed on Mar. 14, 2000.**



IBM EX. 1009

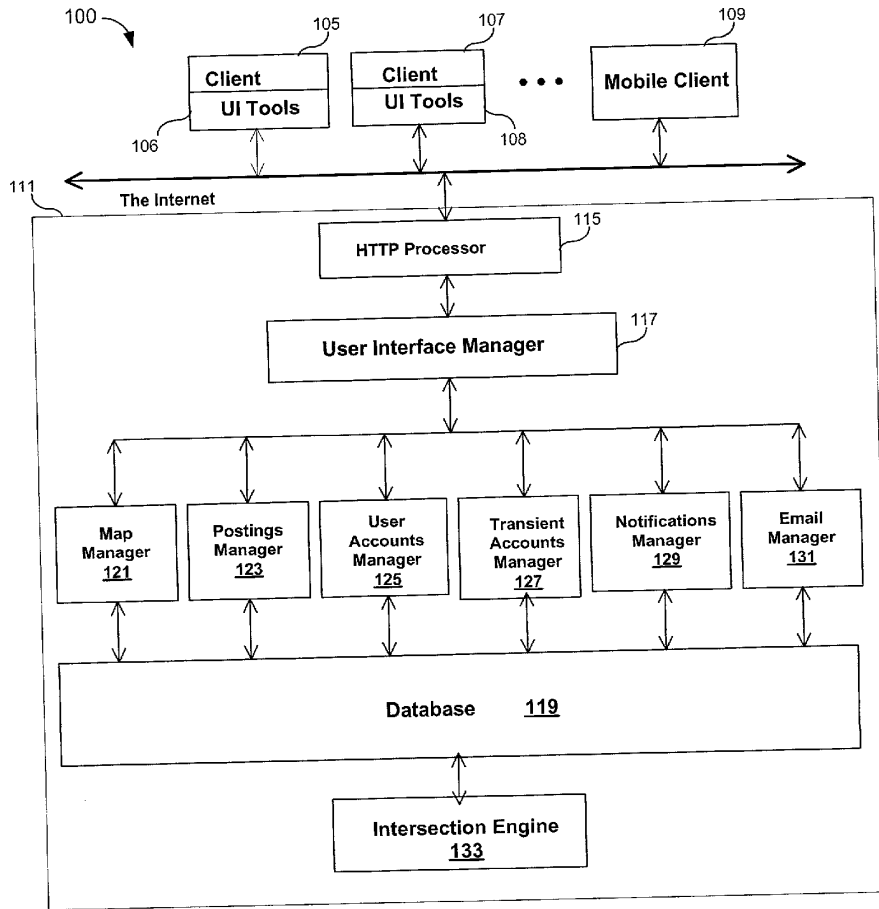


FIG. 1

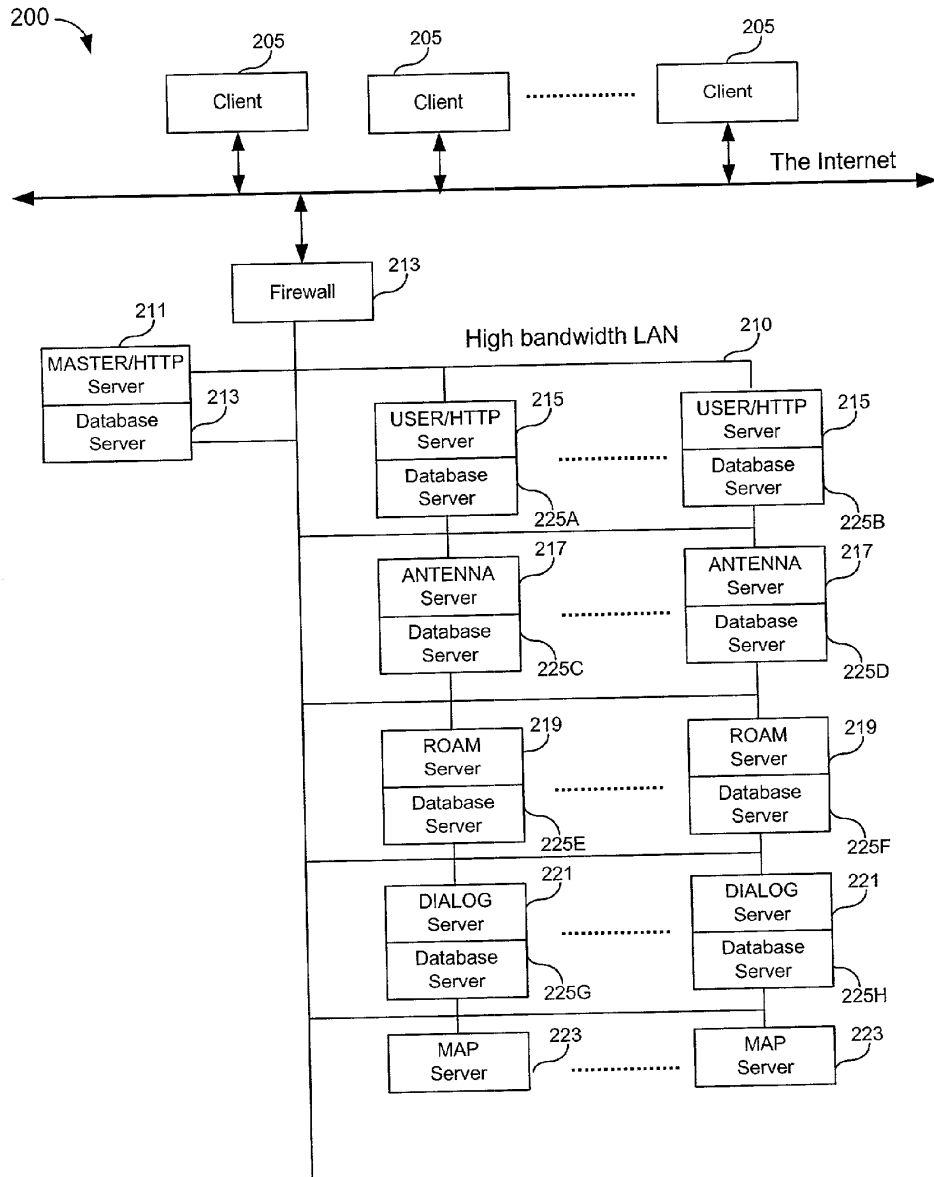


FIG. 2

Ping Topic 'Tennis' for Antenna 'HOME'

Update now Cancel

|     |                                     |   |
|-----|-------------------------------------|---|
| 301 | Topic name:                         | Tennis  |
| 303 | Respond to ping key words:          | tennis & partner  |
| 305 | Respond with message:               | Looking for a tennis partner? I play at level 4 (on good days!) |
| 307 | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Include my personal icon along with my ping responses           |
| 309 | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Allow responses to my ping response                             |
| 311 | <input type="checkbox"/>            | Allow user to link to my home antenna                           |

FIG. 3

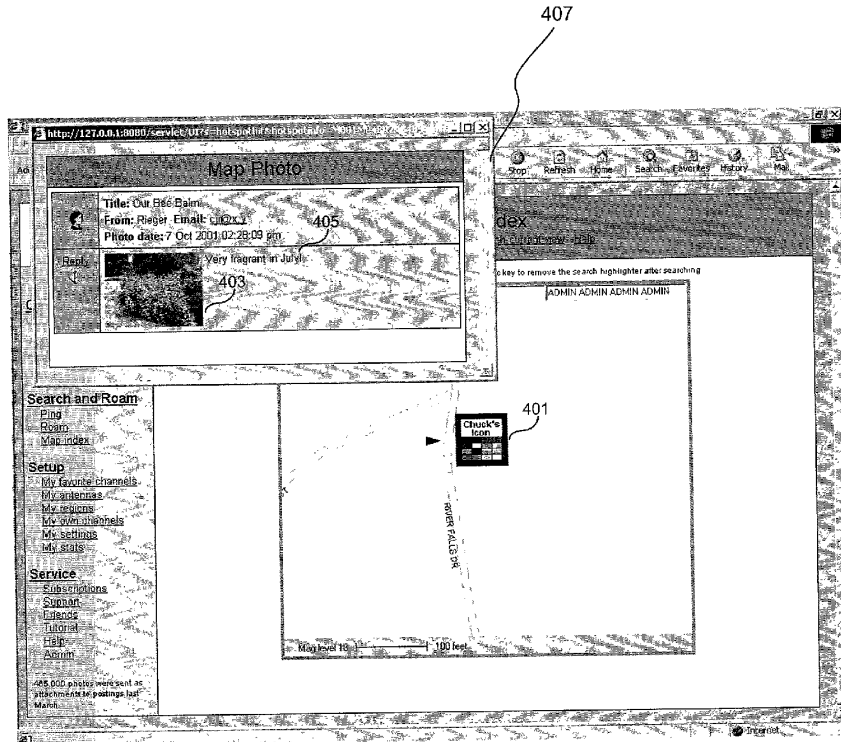


FIG. 4

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