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Burg et al.

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(54) **METHOD AND SYSTEM FOR GRAPHIC DISPLAY OF LINK ACTIONS**

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(58) Field of Search 345/145, 326, 345/336, 339, 347, 348, 349, 357, 978, 705, 708, 709, 764, 808, 812, 822, 835, 839, 854, 856, 859, 861; 707/501, 501.1

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(57) **ABSTRACT**

A method and system for presenting an icon on a computer graphic display, the icon being responsive to the type of link area on the computer graphic display. The link area on the computer graphic display is described by link instructions embedded in display format instructions, such as HTML format documents. The visually representative icon is displayed when a cursor, such as that controlled by a mouse, is positioned over the link area. The link instructions support services types such as telephone services, facsimile services, financial services, video services, help services and game services. The link instructions for the new services are described in new URL types or through scripting tools such as Active-X or JAVA scripts. The icons provide a visual representation of the service such as a telephone for telephone services; a dollar sign for financial services; or a video screen for video services. Text and sounds are also provided with the visually representative icon to further illustrate the service type.
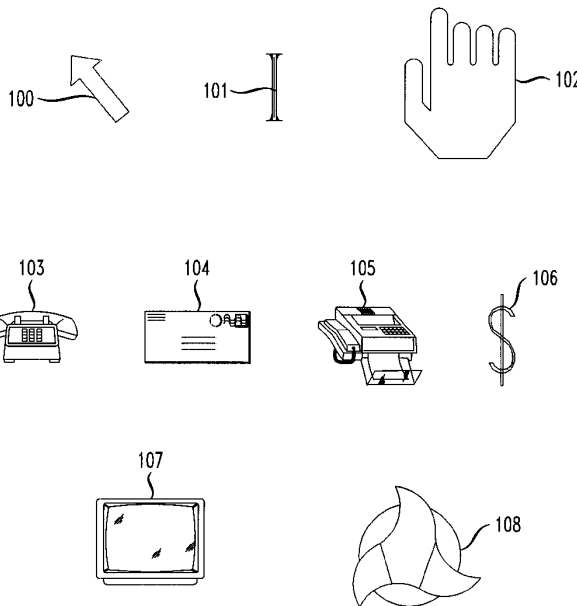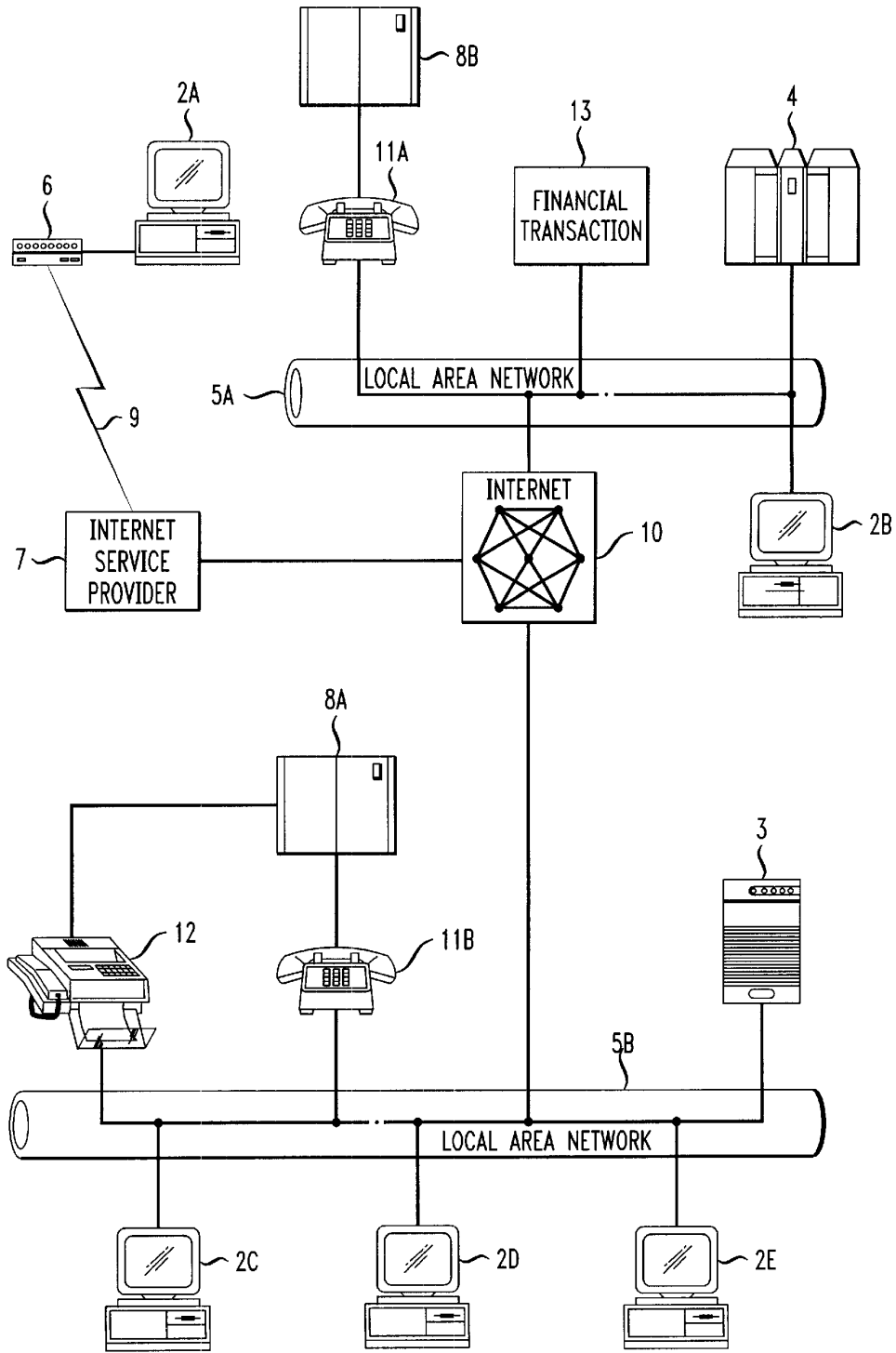
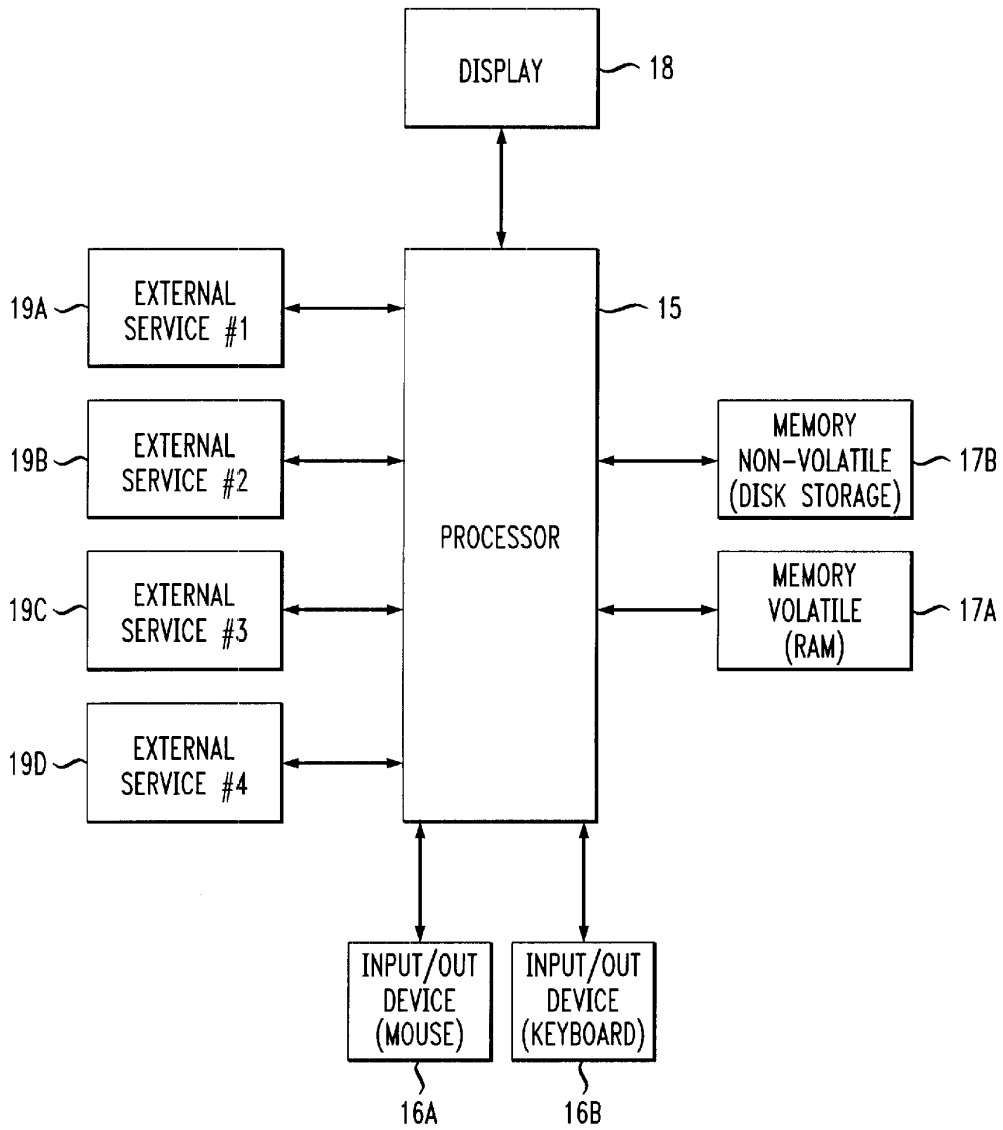**26 Claims, 10 Drawing Sheets**

FIG. 1

<u>1</u>

FIG. 2

<u>14</u>

FIG. 3

START

USER STARTS BROWSER
SOFTWARE ON COMPUTER — 20

BROWSER LOADS
HOMEPAGE — 21

BROWSER INTERPRETS
CURSOR LOCATION AND
ACTIONS — 22

END

FIG. 4

22

START

23 — IS THE CURSOR OVER BACKGROUND AREA ?

YES → 24 — DISPLAY CURSOR AS AN ARROW → 25 — HAS CURSOR MOVED FROM BACKGROUND AREA ? — YES

NO

26 — IS THE CURSOR OVER TEXT AREA ?

YES → 27 — DISPLAY CURSOR AS AN "I" → 28 — HAS CURSOR MOVED TEXT AREA ? — YES

NO

29 — IS THE CURSOR OVER LINK AREA ?

YES → 27 — DISPLAY CURSOR AS A FIST → 31 — HAS CURSOR MOVED FROM LINK AREA ? — YES

NO

NO ← HAS USER SELECTED THE LINK ?

32

YES

33 — EXECUTE LINK INSTRUCTIONS

END

DOCKET ALARM
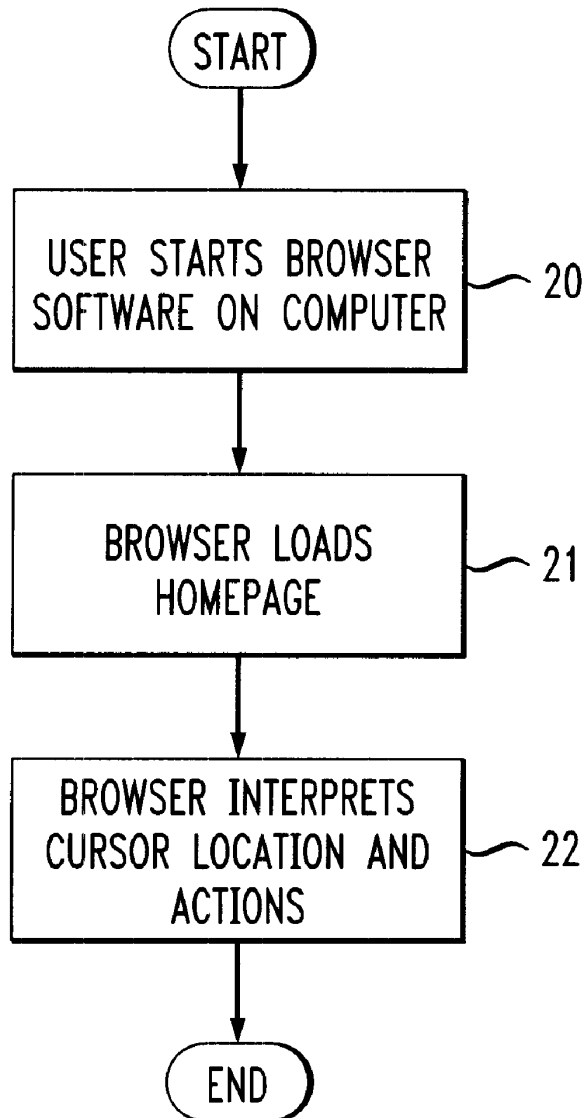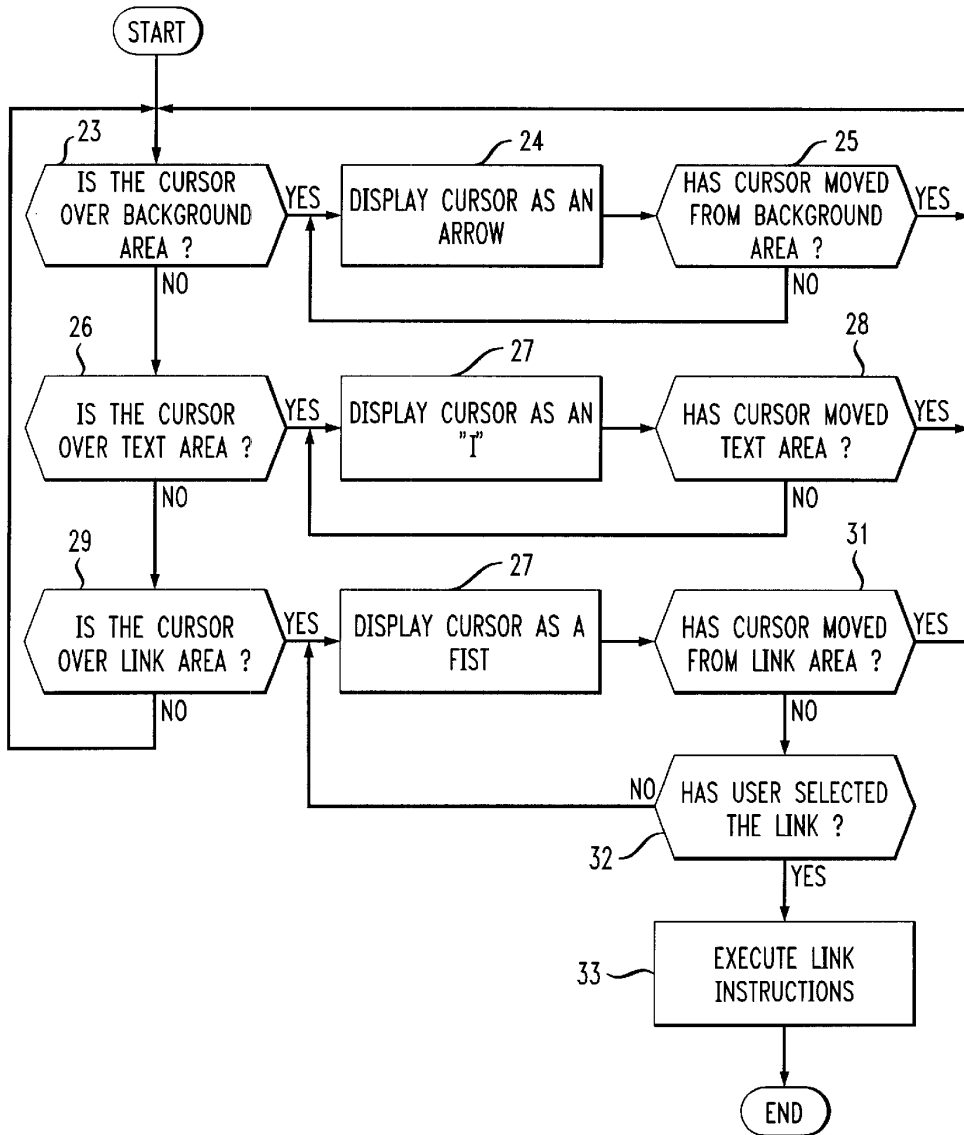
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