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Dawson

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[54] METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR DYNAMICALLY SELECTING AN IMAGE COMPRESSION PROCESS BASED ON IMAGE SIZE AND COLOR RESOLUTION

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[57] ABSTRACT

A method and apparatus which dynamically selects an image compression process for an image to be transferred from a first agent to a second agent. The image being compressed has a particular size associated with it, which indicates the amount of storage space required to store the image, such as in the system memory or a mass storage device. The image also has a particular color resolution associated with it, which indicates the number of different colors which the image may contain. A particular image compression process is selected for the image based on its size and color resolution. In one embodiment, the present invention produces one of three possible outcomes. First, the image may remain uncompressed. Second, the image may be compressed using a lossless compression process, which reduces the size of the image while retaining all data for the image. Third, the image may be compressed using a lossy compression process, which reduces the size of the image by losing a small amount of data for the image.

[51] Int. Cl.⁶ G06K 9/00
[52] U.S. Cl. 382/166; 382/239; 358/430
[58] Field of Search 382/166, 232, 382/239, 244, 286; 358/261.2, 430, 449, 539; 348/404; H04N 1/41, 11/02

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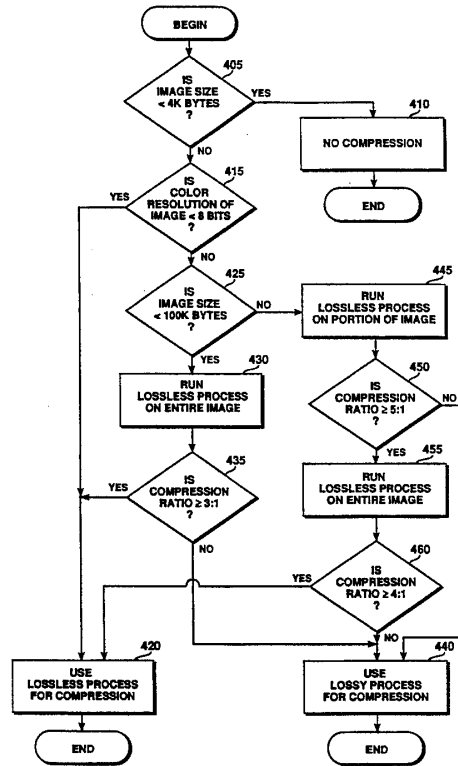
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25 Claims, 6 Drawing Sheets



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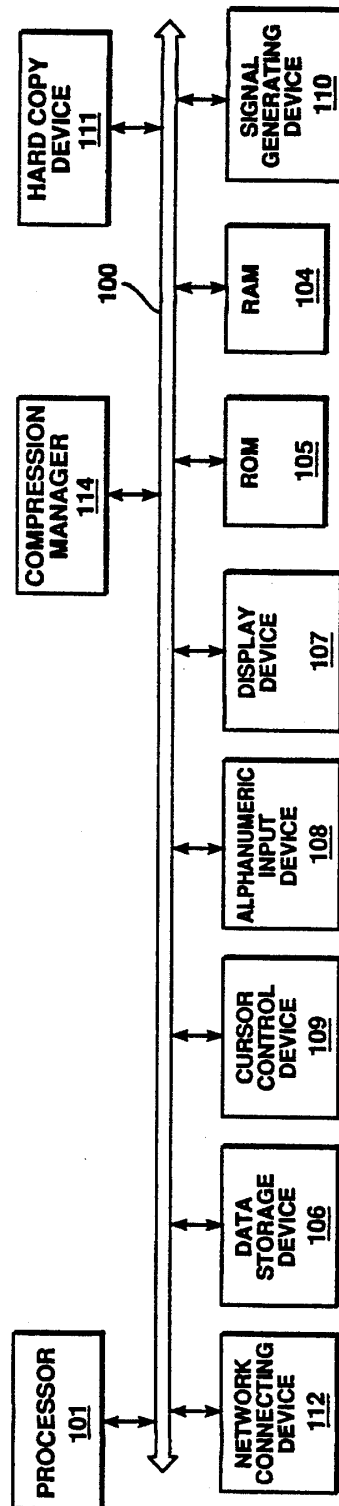


FIGURE 1A

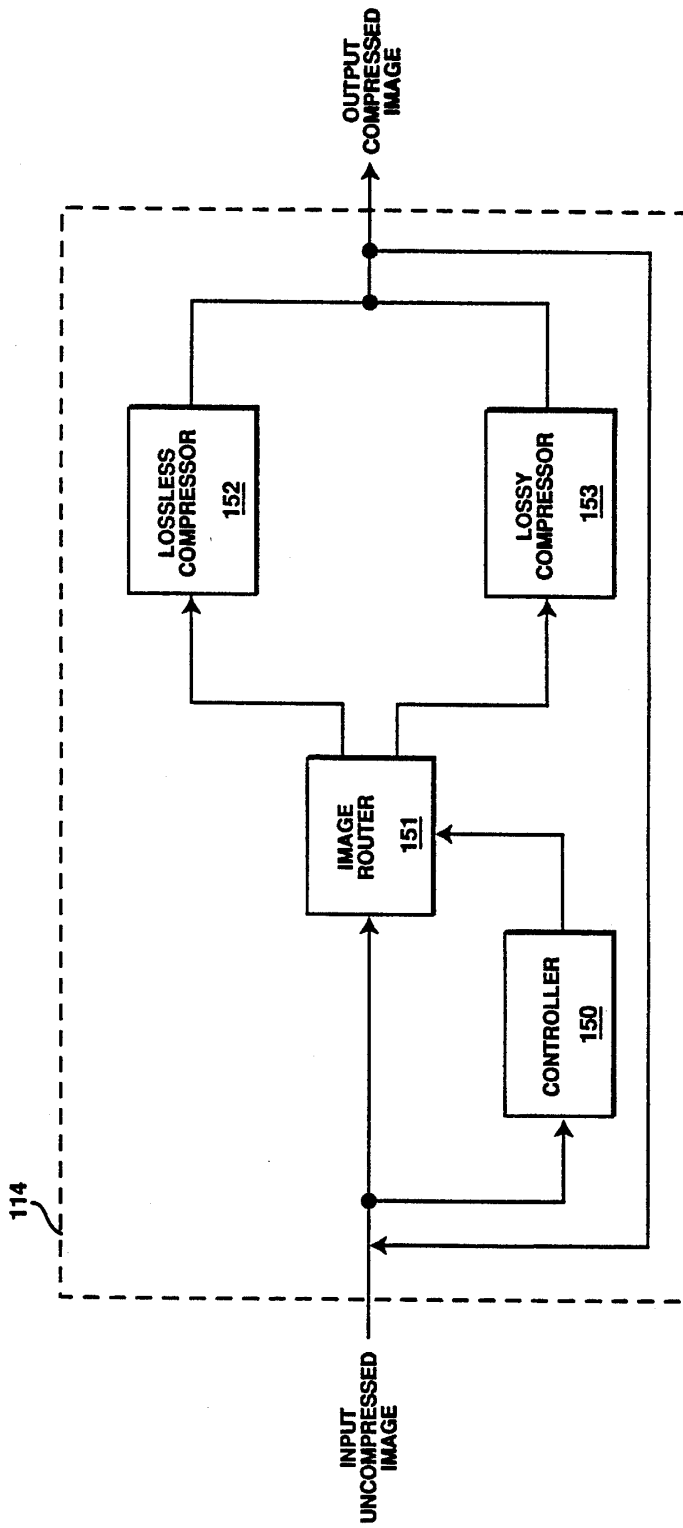


FIGURE 1B

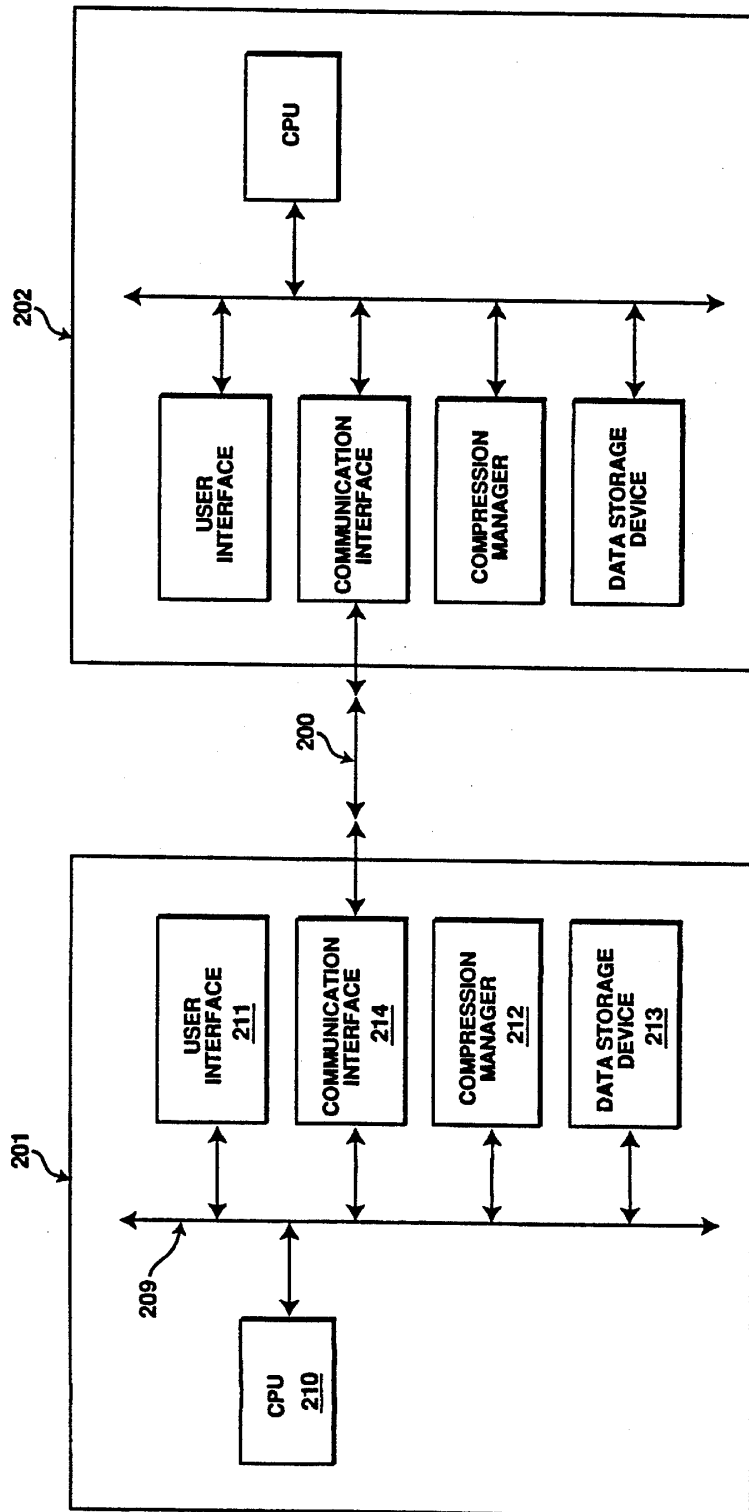


FIGURE 2

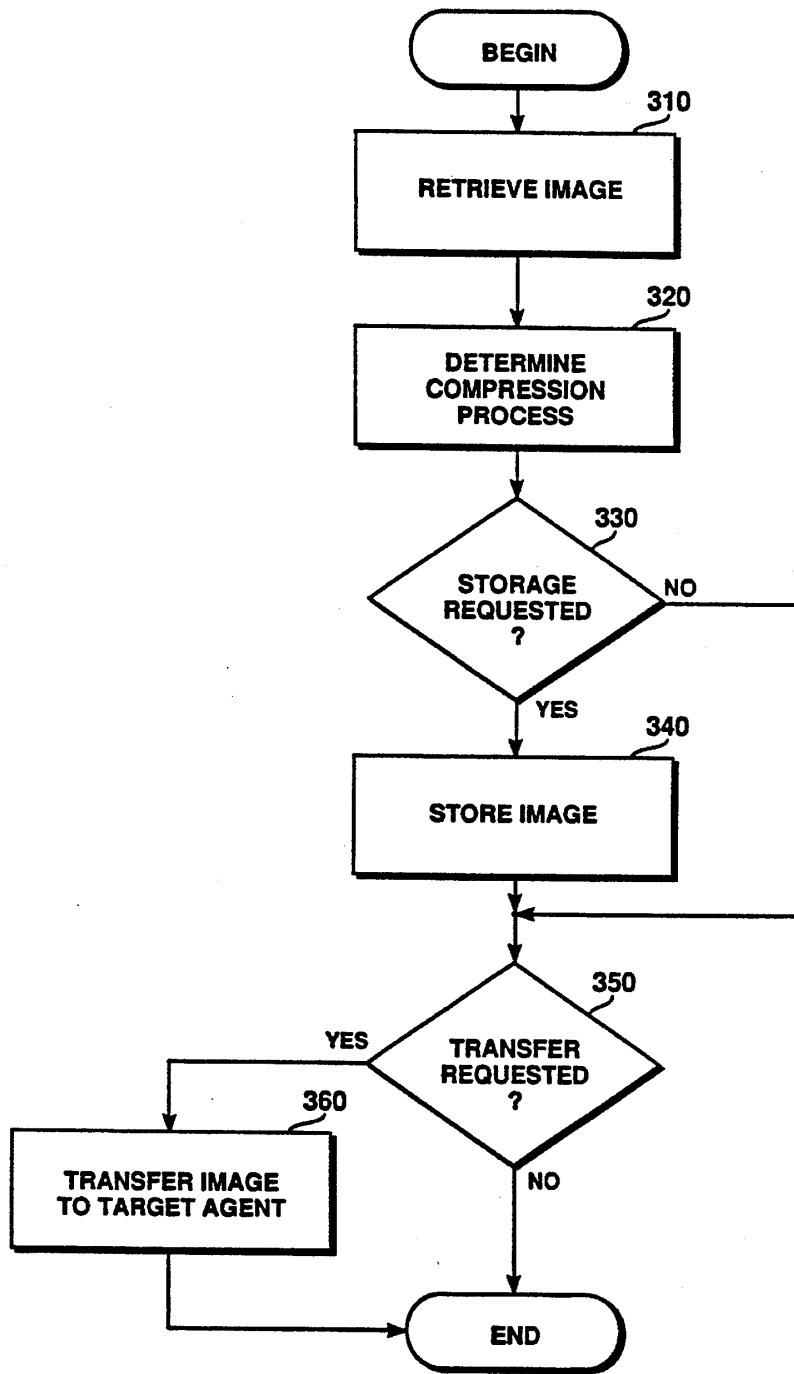


FIGURE 3

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