



US006982962B1

(12) **United States Patent**
Lunsford et al.

(10) **Patent No.:** **US 6,982,962 B1**
(45) **Date of Patent:** **Jan. 3, 2006**

(54) **SYSTEM AND METHOD FOR SELECTING A NETWORK ACCESS PROVIDER USING A PORTABLE INFORMATION DEVICE**

6,259,405 B1 * 7/2001 Stewart et al. 342/457
6,553,345 B1 * 4/2003 Kuhn et al. 704/275
6,571,221 B1 * 5/2003 Stewart et al. 705/52

(75) Inventors: **Eric Michael Lunsford**, San Carlos, CA (US); **Steve Parker**, Centerville, UT (US); **David Kammer**, Seattle, WA (US); **David Moore**, Riverton, UT (US)

(73) Assignee: **3Com Corporation**, Marlborough, MA (US)

(*) Notice: Subject to any disclaimer, the term of this patent is extended or adjusted under 35 U.S.C. 154(b) by 0 days.

(21) Appl. No.: **09/546,887**

(22) Filed: **Apr. 10, 2000**

(51) **Int. Cl.**
H04B 7/005 (2006.01)

(52) **U.S. Cl.** **370/278; 455/557**

(58) **Field of Classification Search** **370/278, 370/282, 461, 463; 455/426, 556, 557, 575**
See application file for complete search history.

(56) **References Cited**

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

6,016,476 A * 1/2000 Maes et al. 705/1
6,134,453 A * 10/2000 Sinton et al. 455/553
6,208,857 B1 * 3/2001 Agre et al. 455/428
6,232,970 B1 * 5/2001 Bodnar et al. 715/708

OTHER PUBLICATIONS

Specification of the Bluetooth System, "Wireless Connections Made Easy", Specification vol. 1, Dec. 1, 1999, pp. 1-1082.

Specification of the Bluetooth System, "Wireless Connections Made Easy", Specification vol. 2, Dec. 1, 1999, pp. 1-440.

* cited by examiner

Primary Examiner—Man U. Phan

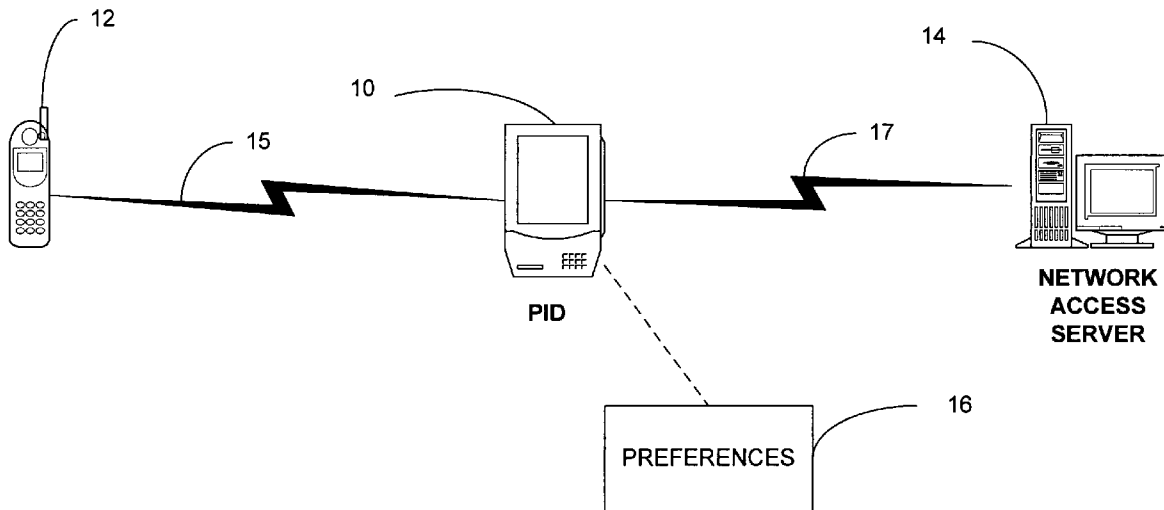
Assistant Examiner—Toan Nguyen

(74) *Attorney, Agent, or Firm*—McDonnell Boehnen Hulbert & Berghoff LLP

(57) **ABSTRACT**

A system and method for selecting a network access provider using a portable information device (PID) includes considering the user's pre-stated preferences. The pre-stated preferences may include, but are not limited to, reliability, security, signal strength, cost or appropriateness of service provider. The network access providers may be chosen from, but not limited to, a network access server at a corporate office or a cellular telephone. A score is calculated for each available network access provider and a connection is made based on the optimum provider that fits with the preferences of the user.

5 Claims, 7 Drawing Sheets



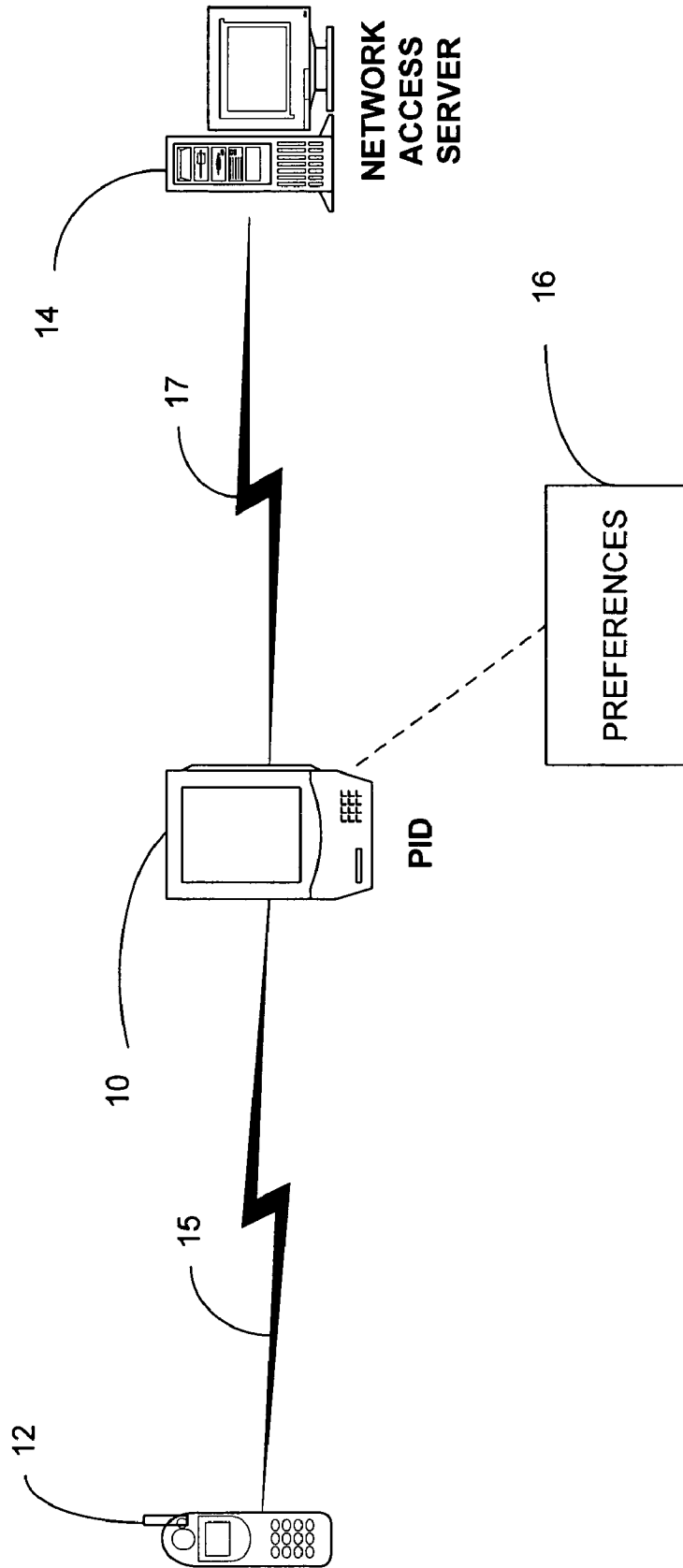


FIG. 1

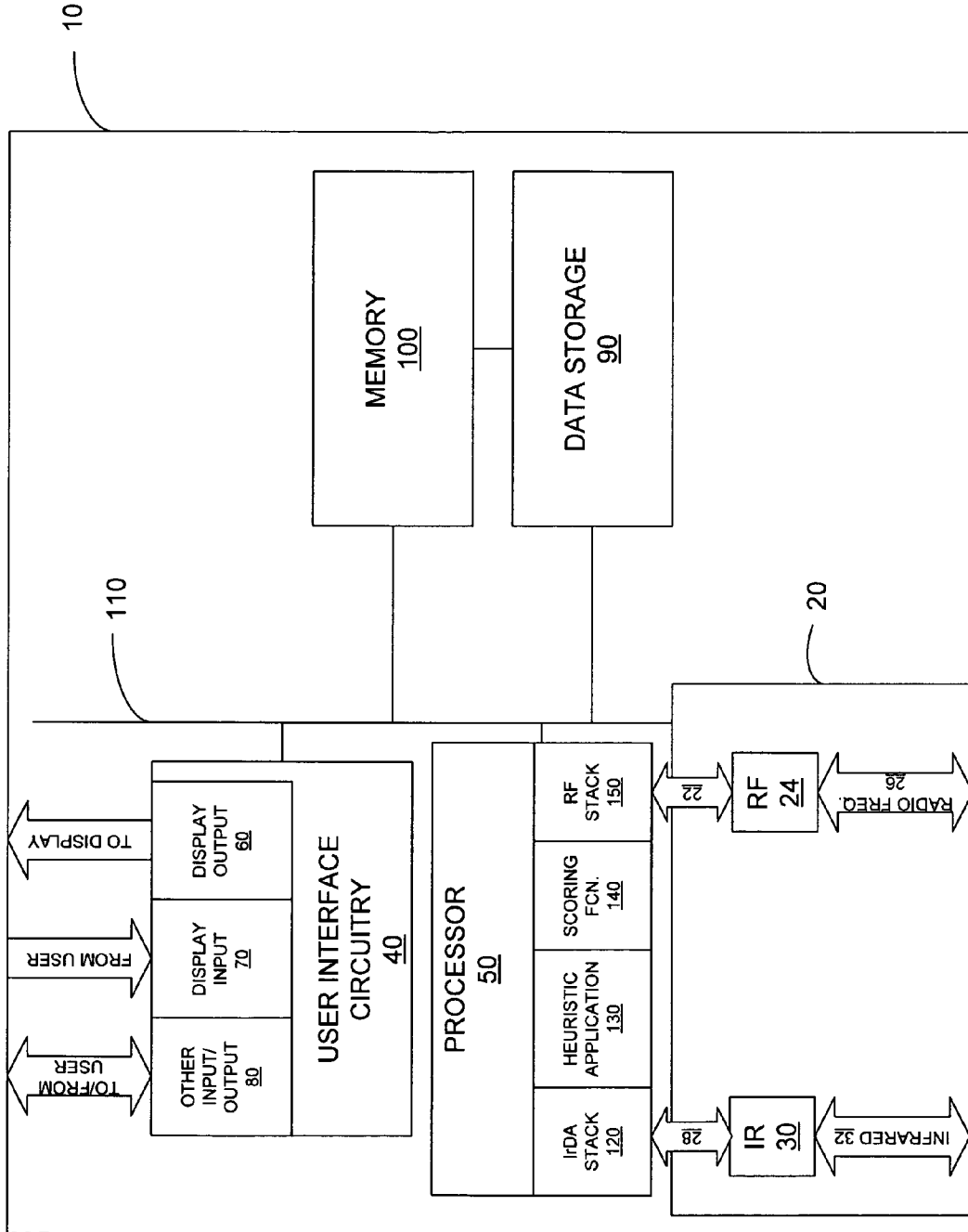


FIG. 2

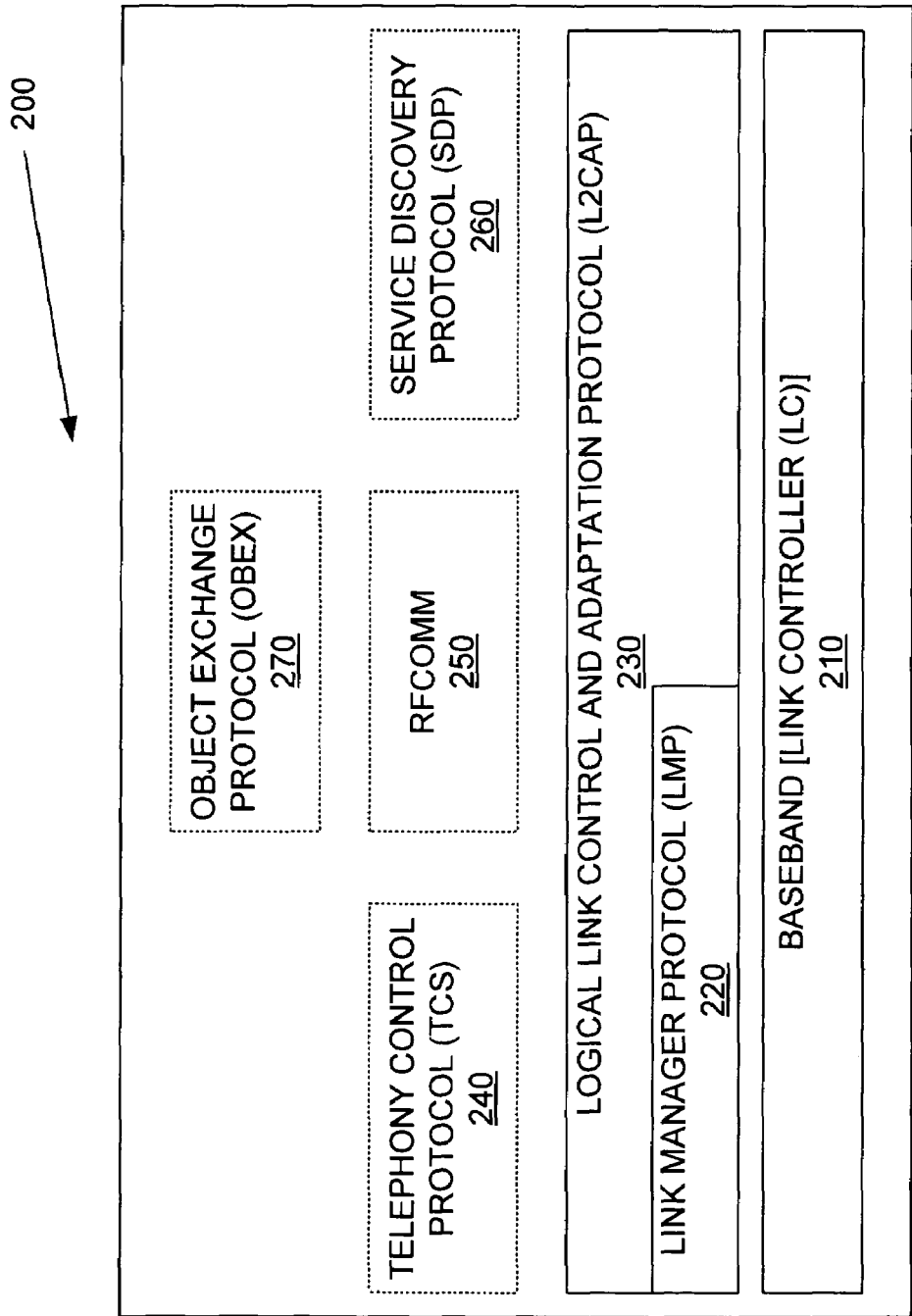


FIG. 3

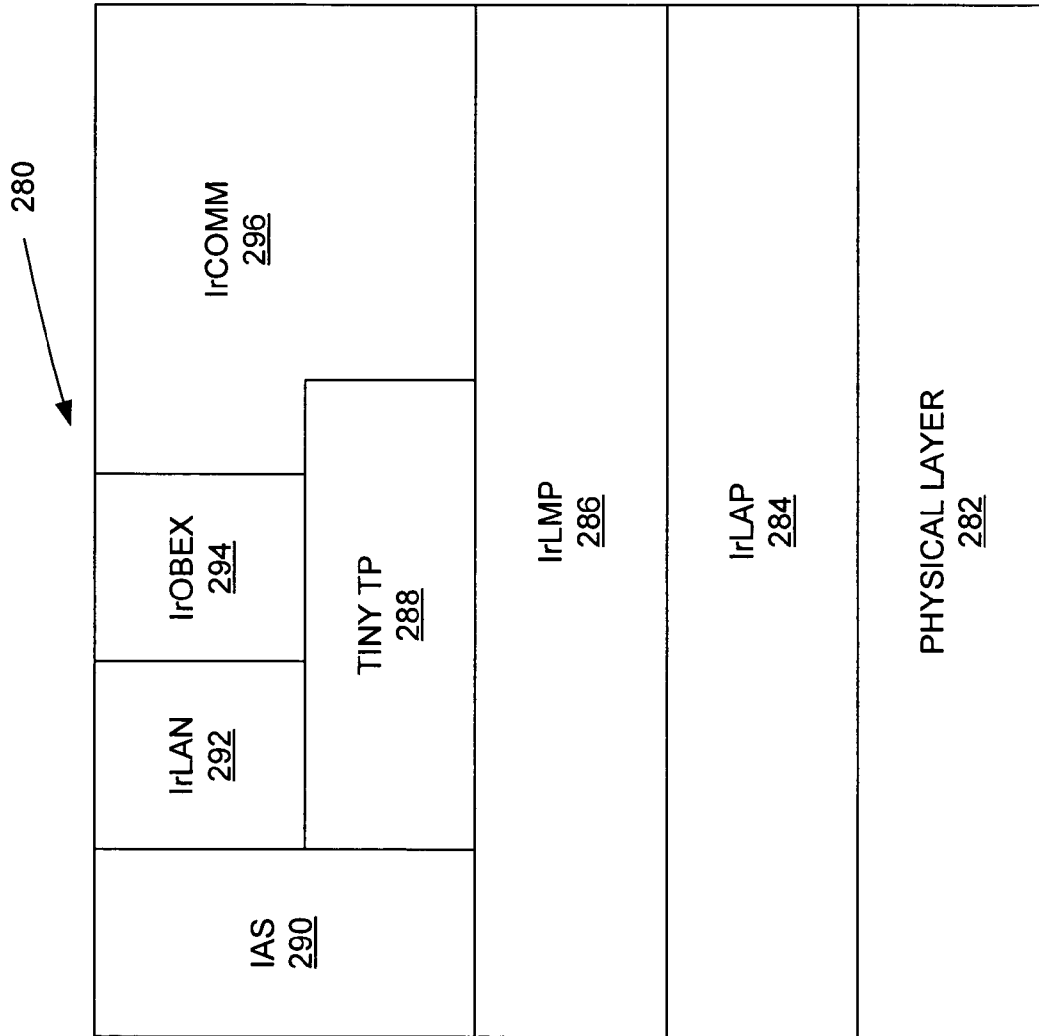


FIG. 4

Explore Litigation Insights

Docket Alarm provides insights to develop a more informed litigation strategy and the peace of mind of knowing you're on top of things.

Real-Time Litigation Alerts



Keep your litigation team up-to-date with **real-time alerts** and advanced team management tools built for the enterprise, all while greatly reducing PACER spend.

Our comprehensive service means we can handle Federal, State, and Administrative courts across the country.

Advanced Docket Research



With over 230 million records, Docket Alarm's cloud-native docket research platform finds what other services can't. Coverage includes Federal, State, plus PTAB, TTAB, ITC and NLRB decisions, all in one place.

Identify arguments that have been successful in the past with full text, pinpoint searching. Link to case law cited within any court document via Fastcase.

Analytics At Your Fingertips



Learn what happened the last time a particular judge, opposing counsel or company faced cases similar to yours.

Advanced out-of-the-box PTAB and TTAB analytics are always at your fingertips.

API

Docket Alarm offers a powerful API (application programming interface) to developers that want to integrate case filings into their apps.

LAW FIRMS

Build custom dashboards for your attorneys and clients with live data direct from the court.

Automate many repetitive legal tasks like conflict checks, document management, and marketing.

FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS

Litigation and bankruptcy checks for companies and debtors.

E-DISCOVERY AND LEGAL VENDORS

Sync your system to PACER to automate legal marketing.