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(12) United States Patent

Lunsford et al.

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

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

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Primary Examiner-Man U. Phan

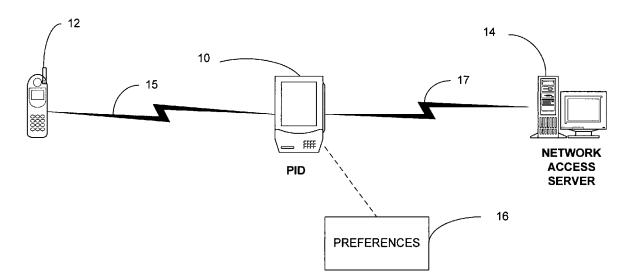
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ABSTRACT (57)

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.

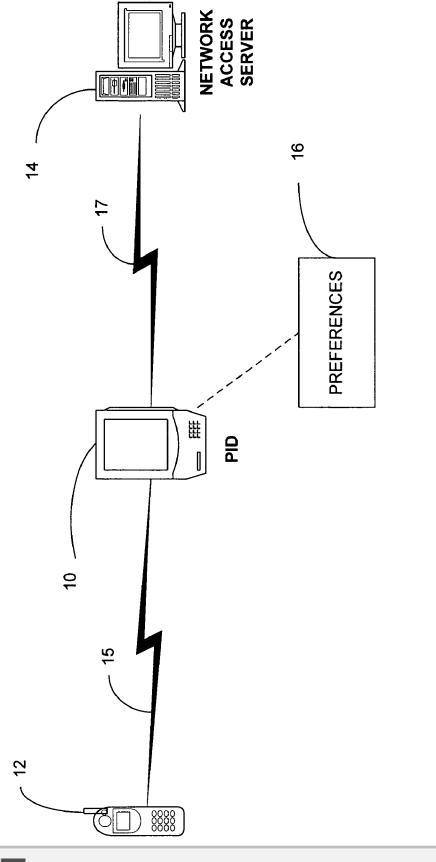
5 Claims, 7 Drawing Sheets



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FIG. 1

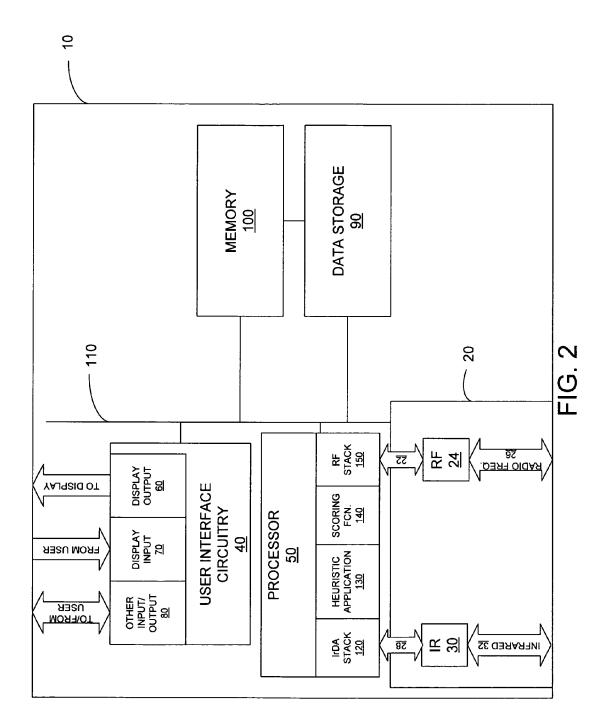


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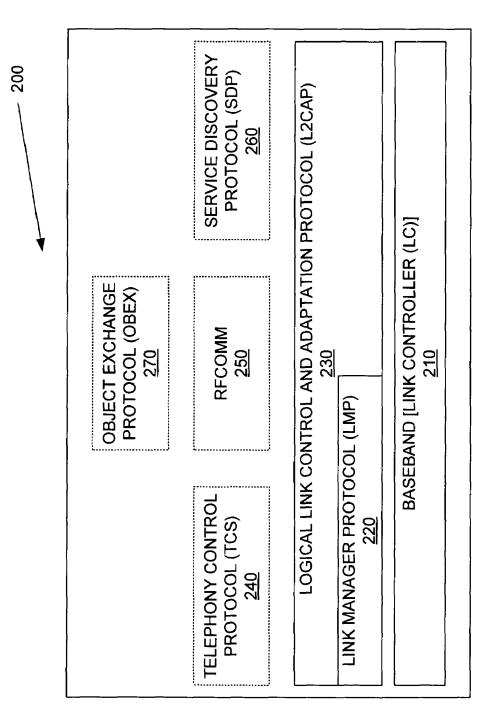


FIG. 3

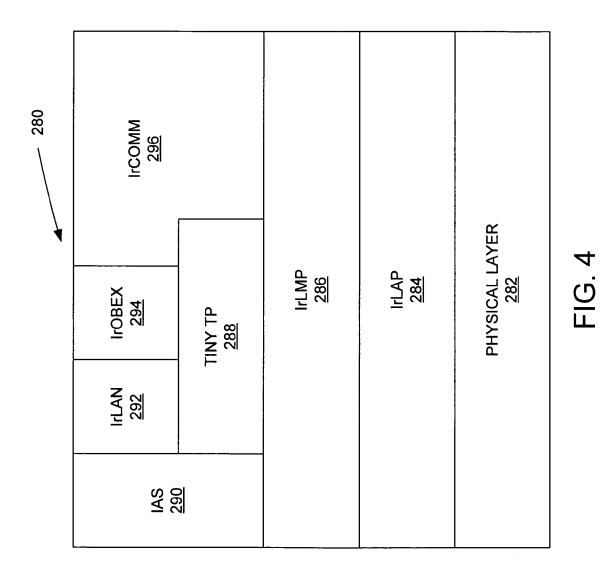
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