



US007281215B1

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

(10) **Patent No.:** **US 7,281,215 B1**
(45) **Date of Patent:** **Oct. 9, 2007**

(54) **IM CONVERSATION COUNTER AND INDICATOR**

(75) Inventors: **James Andrew Canfield**, Arlington, VA (US); **Kenneth Carbone**, Annandale, VA (US); **David Fairlie Colburn**, Reston, VA (US); **Linda Nols Myers**, Purcellville, VA (US); **Thomas E. Van Lenten**, Ashburn, VA (US); **Gregory Alan Willis**, Arlington, VA (US)

5,588,107 A	12/1996	Bowden et al.
5,617,114 A	4/1997	Bier et al.
5,617,526 A	4/1997	Oran et al.
5,627,960 A	5/1997	Clifford et al.
5,644,737 A	7/1997	Tuniman et al.
5,664,133 A	9/1997	Malamud et al.
5,692,142 A	11/1997	Craycroft et al.
5,712,995 A	1/1998	Cohn
5,721,852 A *	2/1998	Porter 715/777
5,742,813 A	4/1998	Kavanagh et al.
5,754,176 A	5/1998	Crawford
5,760,768 A	6/1998	Gram
5,798,752 A	8/1998	Buxton et al.
5,801,703 A	9/1998	Bowden et al.
5,832,494 A	11/1998	Egger et al.
5,838,315 A	11/1998	Craycroft et al.
5,877,758 A	3/1999	Seybold

(73) Assignee: **AOL LLC**, Dulles, VA (US)

(*) Notice: Subject to any disclaimer, the term of this patent is extended or adjusted under 35 U.S.C. 154(b) by 689 days.

(21) Appl. No.: **10/208,187**

(22) Filed: **Jul. 31, 2002**

Related U.S. Application Data

(60) Provisional application No. 60/376,181, filed on Apr. 30, 2002.

(51) **Int. Cl.**
G06F 3/00 (2006.01)

(52) **U.S. Cl.** **715/752; 715/758**

(58) **Field of Classification Search** **715/752, 715/753, 754, 755, 756, 757, 758**

See application file for complete search history.

(56) **References Cited**

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

5,283,560 A	2/1994	Bartlett
5,287,514 A	2/1994	Gram
5,416,895 A	5/1995	Anderson et al.
5,544,352 A	8/1996	Egger
5,546,528 A	8/1996	Johnston
5,581,670 A	12/1996	Bier et al.

(Continued)

OTHER PUBLICATIONS

Amanda Matthiesen, "Hotmail Help: A Brief Introduction to the Free E-mail Service", May 2000, Internet: <http://www.town.brookline.ma.us/library/computer/hotmail.htm>.*

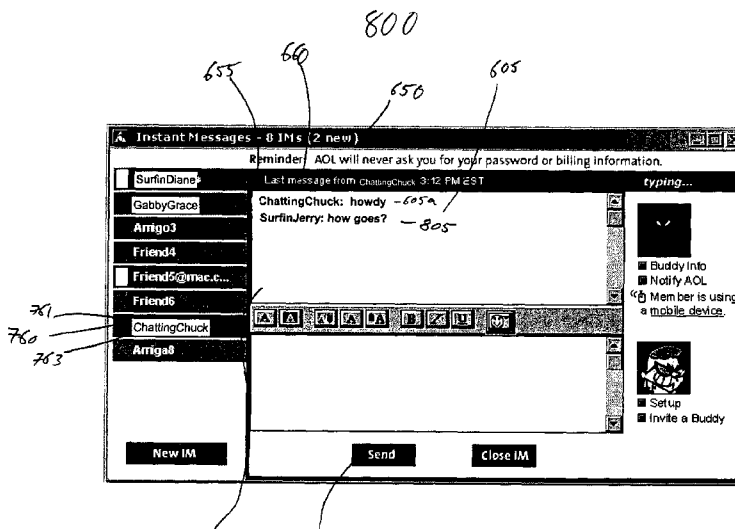
(Continued)

Primary Examiner—Kristine Kincaid
Assistant Examiner—Ryan Pitaro
(74) *Attorney, Agent, or Firm*—Fish & Richardson P.C.

(57) **ABSTRACT**

A user interface that enables user perception of status regarding communications that leverage an instant messaging platform may be rendered on a display. The user interface includes an instant messaging application user interface that enables perception and selection of instant messages for an instant messaging user, and a status indicator that provides a perceivable indication to the user of statistics regarding concurrent instant messaging sessions.

54 Claims, 13 Drawing Sheets



U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

5,877,765	A	3/1999	Dickman et al.	
5,884,306	A	3/1999	Bliss et al.	
5,929,851	A	7/1999	Donnelly	
5,937,417	A	8/1999	Nielsen	
5,974,413	A	10/1999	Beauregard et al.	
5,990,905	A	11/1999	Chew et al.	
5,995,101	A	11/1999	Clark et al.	
6,002,398	A	12/1999	Wilson	
6,002,400	A	12/1999	Loring et al.	
6,018,571	A	1/2000	Langlois et al.	
6,057,844	A	5/2000	Strauss	
6,078,935	A	6/2000	Nielsen	
6,091,409	A	7/2000	Dickman et al.	
6,092,068	A	7/2000	Dinkelacker	
6,097,389	A	8/2000	Morris et al.	
6,118,427	A	9/2000	Buxton et al.	
6,144,375	A	11/2000	Jain et al.	
6,147,685	A	11/2000	Bliss et al.	
6,173,316	B1*	1/2001	De Boor et al.	709/227
6,188,403	B1	2/2001	Sacerdoti et al.	
6,229,539	B1	5/2001	Morcos et al.	
6,233,571	B1	5/2001	Egger et al.	
6,233,726	B1	5/2001	Bowman et al.	
6,237,135	B1	5/2001	Timbol	
6,246,411	B1	6/2001	Strauss	
6,248,946	B1	6/2001	Dwek	
6,252,594	B1	6/2001	Xia et al.	
6,260,148	B1	7/2001	Aggarwal et al.	
6,275,790	B1	8/2001	Yamamoto et al.	
6,281,879	B1	8/2001	Graham	
6,301,609	B1	10/2001	Aravamudan et al.	
6,304,879	B1	10/2001	Sobeski et al.	
6,317,128	B1	11/2001	Harrison et al.	
6,346,952	B1	2/2002	Shtivelman	
6,362,842	B1	3/2002	Tahara et al.	
6,369,837	B1	4/2002	Schirmer	
6,377,944	B1	4/2002	Busey et al.	
6,381,735	B1	4/2002	Hunt	
6,384,849	B1	5/2002	Morcos et al.	
6,407,757	B1	6/2002	Ho	
6,434,599	B1	8/2002	Porter	
6,519,629	B2	2/2003	Harvey et al.	
6,539,421	B1	3/2003	Appelman et al.	
6,731,308	B1*	5/2004	Tang et al.	715/751
6,784,901	B1	8/2004	Harvey et al.	
6,907,447	B1*	6/2005	Cooperman et al.	709/203
6,981,223	B2	12/2005	Becker	
2002/0073207	A1*	6/2002	Widger et al.	709/227
2002/0097277	A1*	7/2002	Pitroda	345/854

2002/0101446	A1	8/2002	Tang	
2002/0130904	A1*	9/2002	Becker et al.	345/753
2002/0160819	A1*	10/2002	Dauresan	455/567
2003/0030670	A1*	2/2003	Duarte et al.	345/758
2003/0052915	A1*	3/2003	Brown et al.	345/752
2003/0142141	A1*	7/2003	Brown et al.	345/805
2003/0164862	A1	9/2003	Cadiz et al.	
2003/0210265	A1*	11/2003	Haimberg	345/758

OTHER PUBLICATIONS

Tricon Software, "Tricon Software & Development", Apr. 20, 2001, Internet: <http://www.triconsoft.com>.*

Microsoft, Microsoft Outlook 2000, Software, SP-3, Figures 12-16.*

"Design Requirements Document (DRD)," Instant AOL, Instant AOL Refresh v1.1, Document Version 8.0, Oct. 23, 2001, 8 pages.

"Design Requirements Document (DRD)," Gamera, Revision 18, Apr. 10, 2001, 110 pages.

Anonymous "GameSpy Arcade—Play Hundreds of Online Multiplayer Games", Internet Document, [Online], pp. 1-3, retrieved from the internet, <http://www.gamespyarcade.com/support/help/communicate.shtml> [retrieved on Apr. 12, 2004].

"AOL IM Companion", Tricon Software & Development, published Mar. 7, 2001. 7 total pages retrieved Jul. 16, 2003 from World Wide Web: <http://download.com.com/3000-2150-5056089.html?legacy=cnet> (1 page); <http://www.triconsoft.com/screenshots/mnuIMAnswer.jpg> (1 page); <http://www.triconsoft.com/screenshots/mnuOptions.jpg> (1 page); <http://www.triconsoft.com/screenshots/IMCompanionTabs.jpg> (1 page); <http://www.triconsoft.com/screenshots/IMCompanionListBox.jpg> (1 page); <http://www.triconsoft.com/IMCompanion.asp> (2 pages).

"Move or Cover Sheets", Microsoft Excel 2000 Help File. 8 total pages retrieved Jul. 21, 2003 from World Wide Web: <http://www.triconsoft.com/IMCompanionShots.asp> (4 pages); mk:@MSITStore:C:\Program%20Files\Microsoft%20Office\Office\1033\xlmain9.chm::htm . . . (1 page); About Microsoft Excel (3 pages).

"A.I.M Frames", BPS Software, latest version Jul. 3, 2003, first published version Jun. 1, 1998. 7 total pages retrieved Jul. 11, 2003 from World Wide Web: <http://www.bpssoft.com/AIMFrame/index.htm> (3 pages); <http://www.bpssoft.com/AIMFrame/history.htm> (4 pages).

"Power Tools Pro", BPS Software, first published release May 10, 2000. 24 total pages retrieved Jul. 16, 2003 from World Wide Web: <http://www.bpssoft.com/PowerTools/history.htm> (19 pages); <http://www.bpssoft.com/PowerTools/images/shots/9pwrimg.gif> (1 page); <http://www.bpssoft.com/PowerTools/ptshots.htm> (4 pages).

International Search Report (6 pages).

* cited by examiner

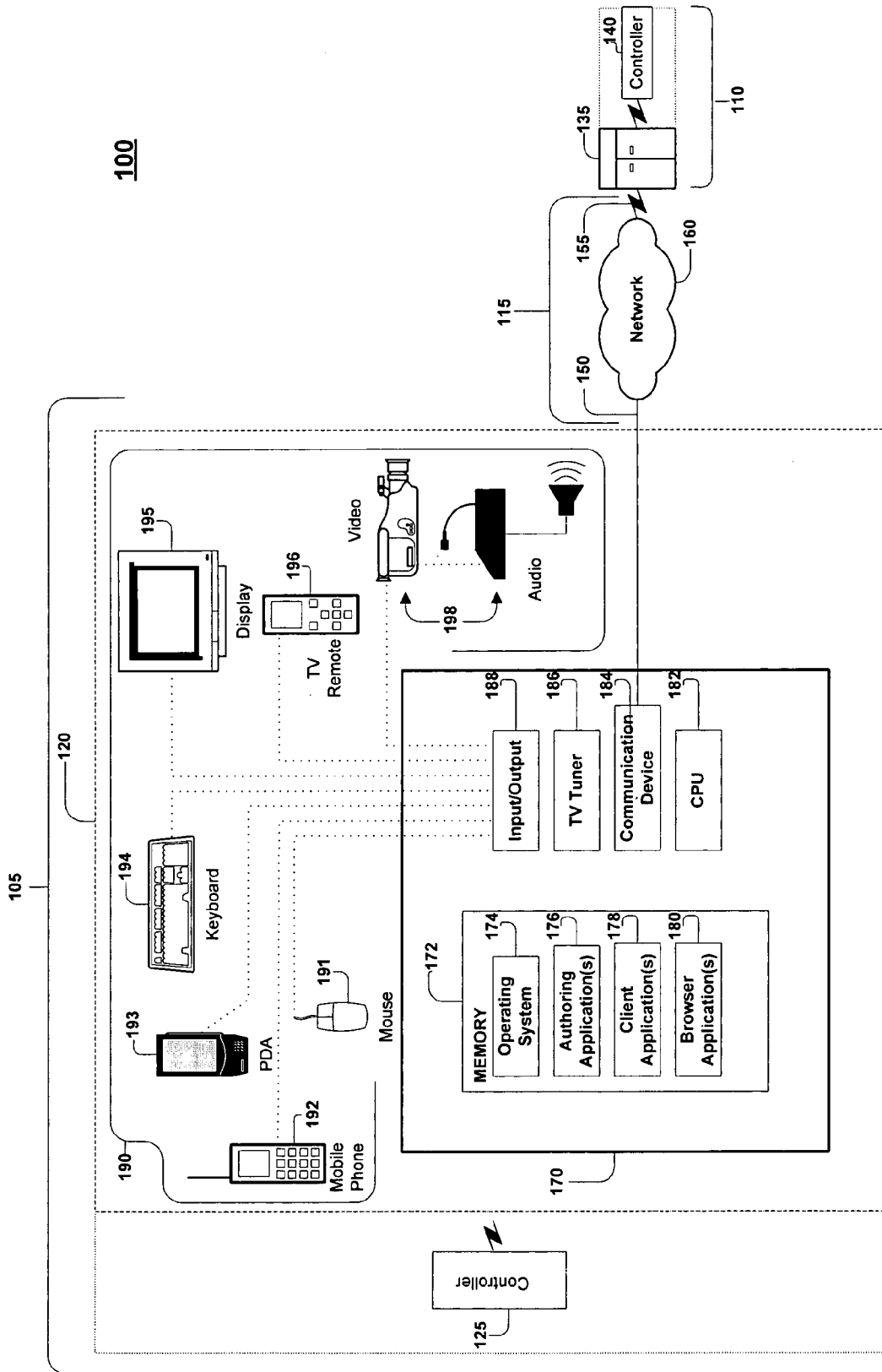


Fig. 1

200

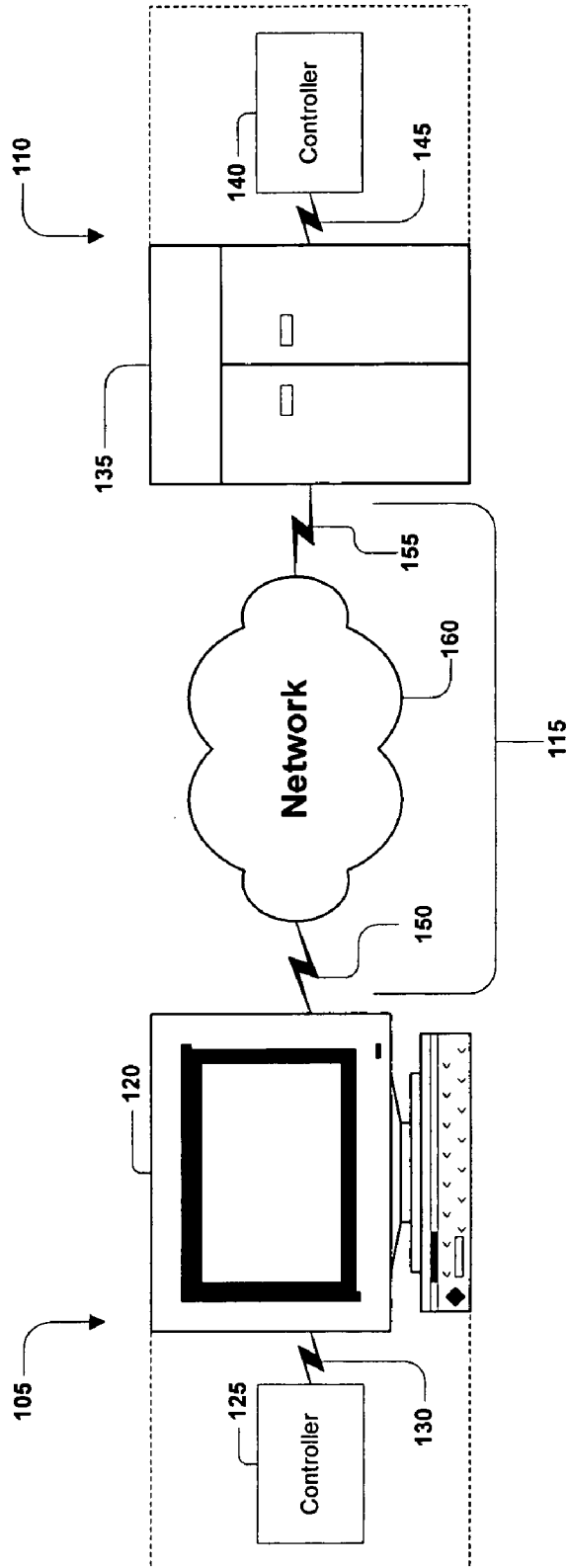


Fig. 2

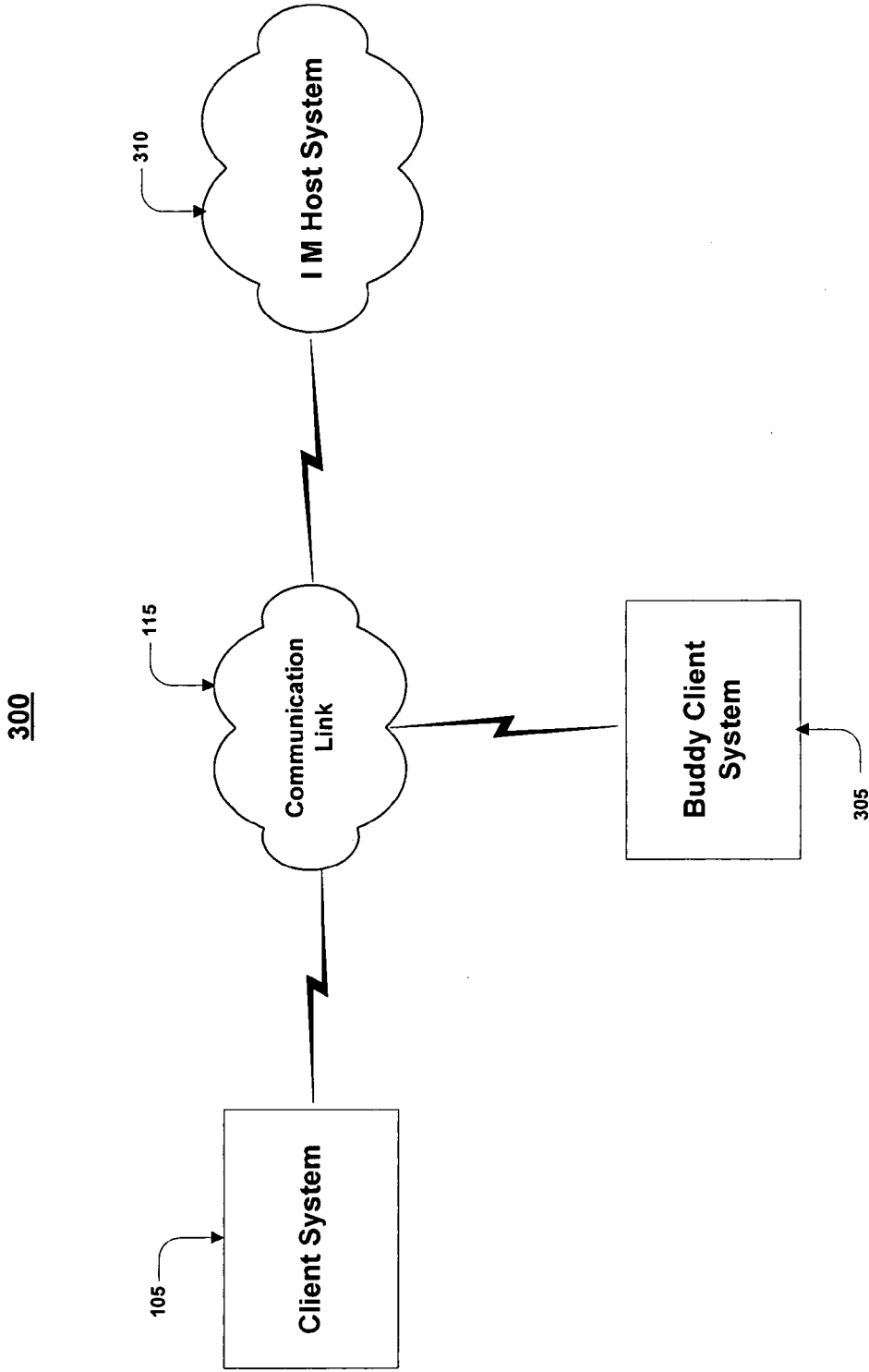


Fig. 3

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.