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(54) **INSTANT MESSAGING INTERFACE HAVING A TEAR-OFF ELEMENT**

Publication Classification

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(57) **ABSTRACT**

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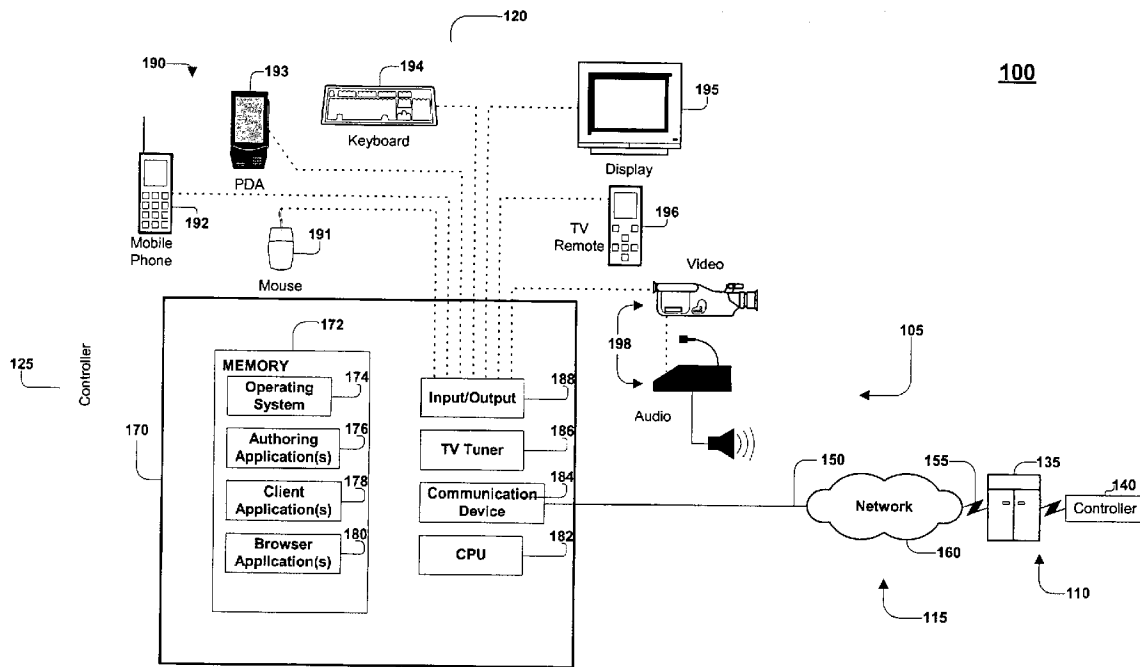
A user interface on a display enables user perception of information regarding a communications session that leverages an instant messaging platform. The user interface includes an instant messaging application user interface and one or more tear-off elements corresponding to ongoing instant messaging communications sessions. Each tear-off element is configured to enable perception and selection by a user of a corresponding instant messaging communications session. Also, each tear-off element is configured to be independently visually separated from other elements of the instant messaging application user interface and maintained as a separate entity on the instant messaging application user interface.

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

Related U.S. Application Data

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



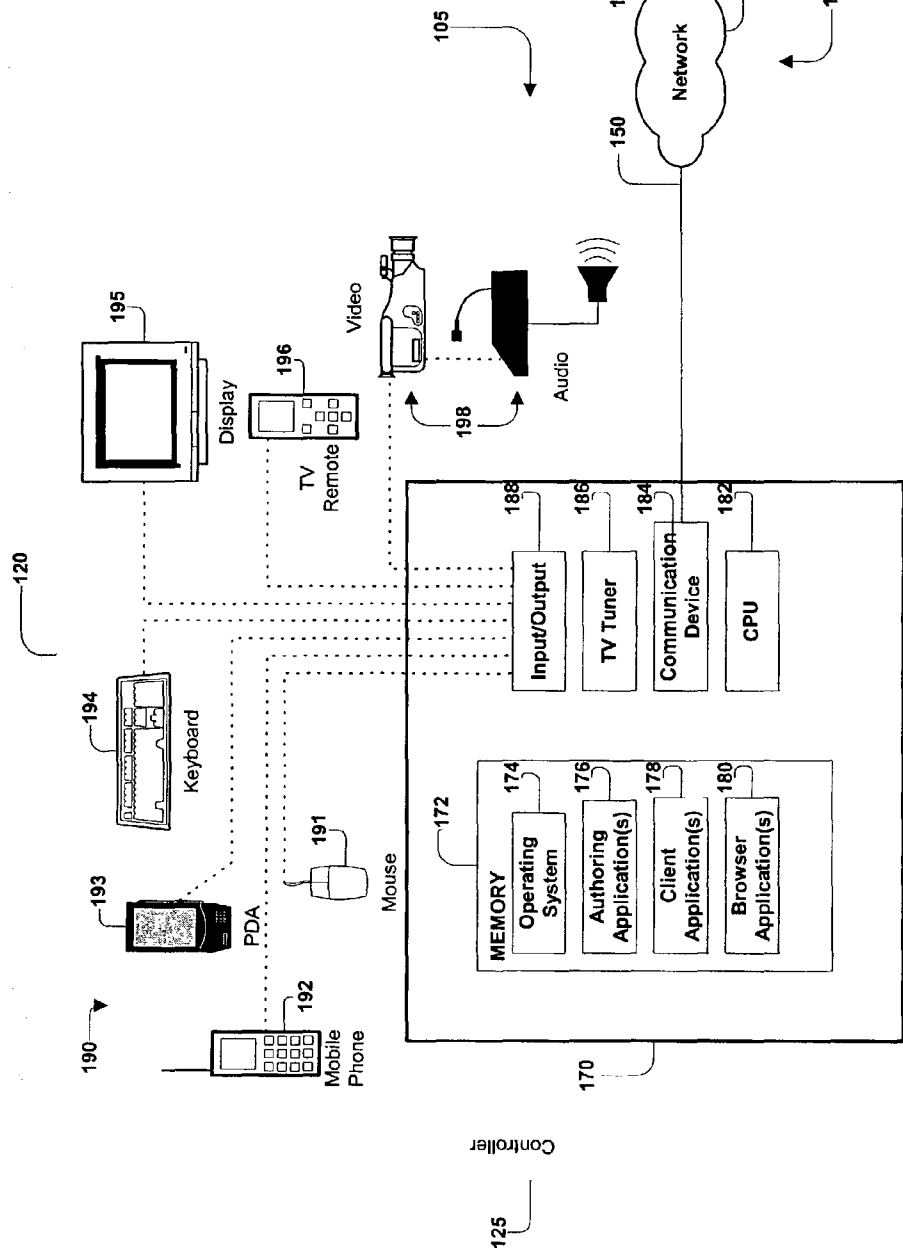


Fig. 1

200

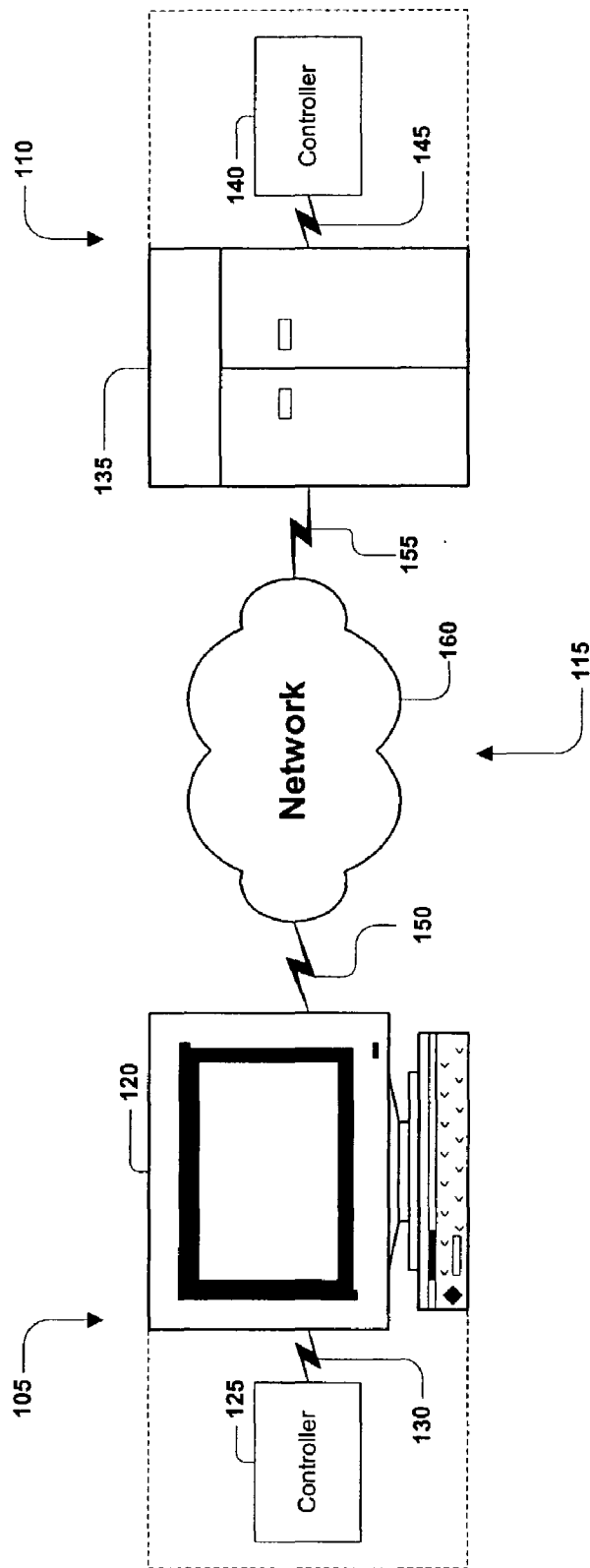


Fig. 2

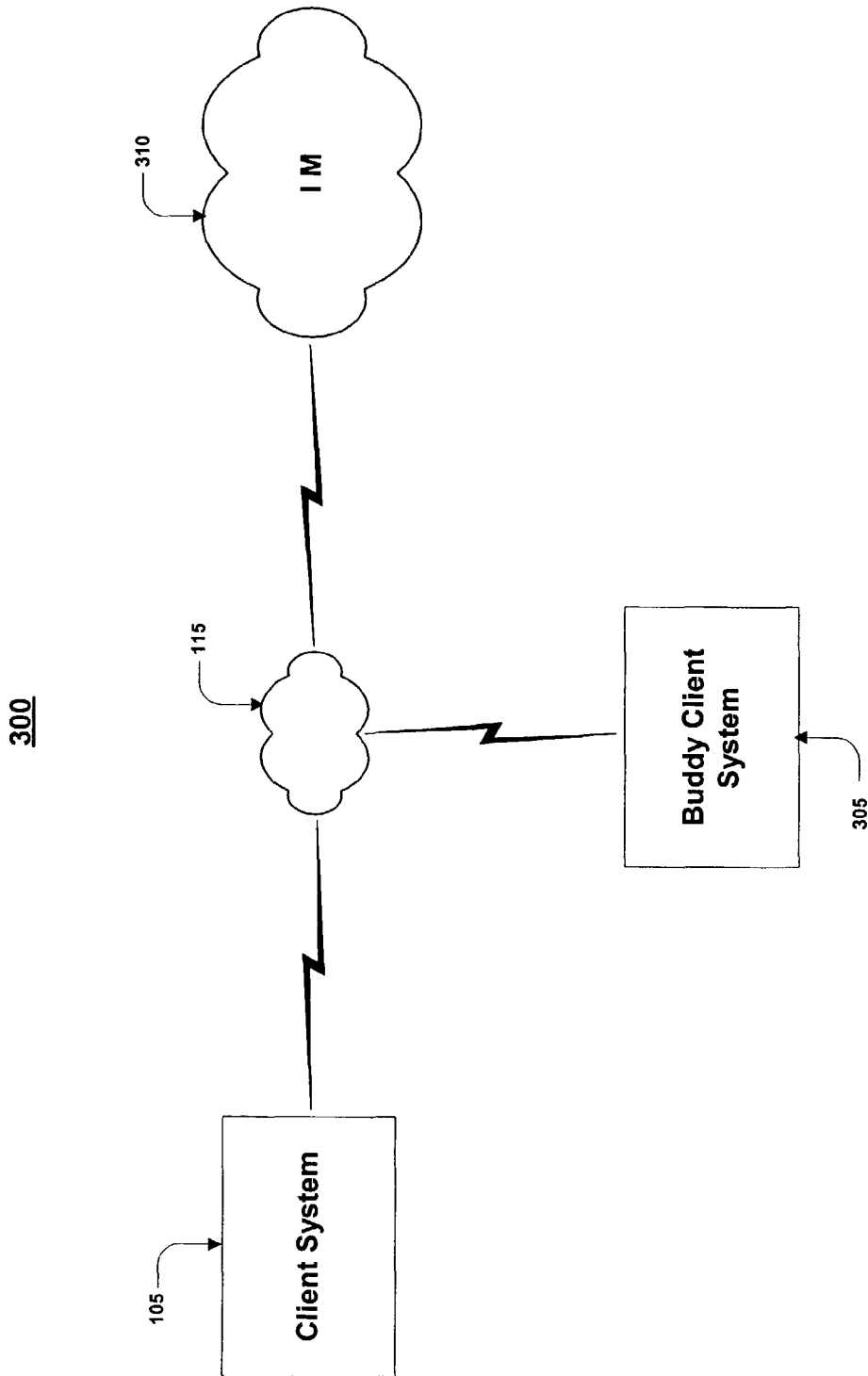


Fig. 3

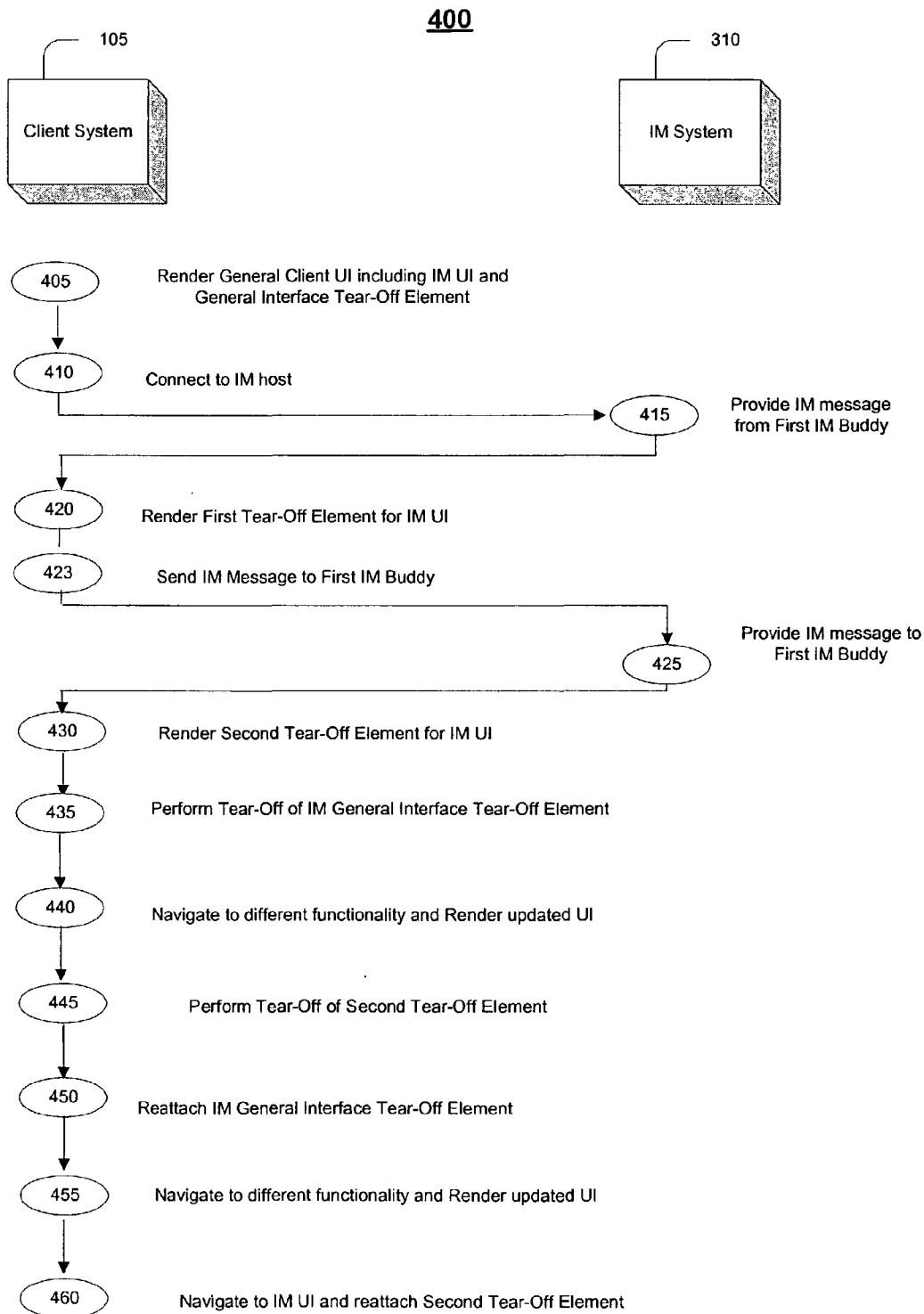


Fig. 4

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