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(12) **United States Patent**  
**Burke, II et al.**

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(54) **SYSTEM FOR REGULATING ACCESS TO AND DISTRIBUTING CONTENT IN A NETWORK**

**G06Q 50/18** (2012.01)  
**G06Q 50/26** (2012.01)

(52) **U.S. CI.**  
CPC ..... **G06F 21/10** (2013.01); **G06Q 30/0251** (2013.01); **G06Q 50/184** (2013.01); **G06Q 50/26** (2013.01); **H04L 63/02** (2013.01); **H04L 63/10** (2013.01); **H04L 63/1458** (2013.01); **H04L 63/30** (2013.01); **H04L 2463/101** (2013.01)

(71) Applicants: **Robert M. Burke, II**, Los Gatos, CA (US); **David Z. Carman**, Tulsa, OK (US)

(72) Inventors: **Robert M. Burke, II**, Los Gatos, CA (US); **David Z. Carman**, Tulsa, OK (US)

(58) **Field of Classification Search**  
USPC ..... 709/225  
See application file for complete search history.

(\*) Notice: Subject to any disclaimer, the term of this patent is extended or adjusted under 35 U.S.C. 154(b) by 90 days.

This patent is subject to a terminal disclaimer.

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Primary Examiner — Shripal Khajuria

(21) Appl. No.: **14/338,240**

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(65) **Prior Publication Data**

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**Related U.S. Application Data**

(63) Continuation of application No. 13/369,174, filed on Feb. 8, 2012, now Pat. No. 8,799,468, which is a continuation of application No. 10/989,023, filed on Nov. 16, 2004, now Pat. No. 8,122,128.

(60) Provisional application No. 60/563,064, filed on Apr. 16, 2004, provisional application No. 60/538,370, filed on Jan. 22, 2004, provisional application No. 60/523,057, filed on Nov. 18, 2003.

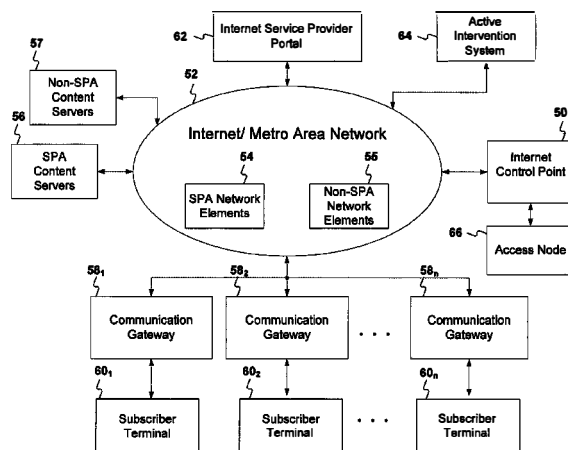
(51) **Int. Cl.**

- H04L 15/16** (2006.01)
- G06F 21/10** (2013.01)
- H04L 29/06** (2006.01)
- G06Q 30/02** (2012.01)

(57) **ABSTRACT**

There is provided a system for regulating access and managing distribution of content in a network, such as the Internet. The system includes communication gateways, installed at a subscriber site, internet control points, installed remotely, and various network elements installed throughout the network. The communication gateways and network elements operate in conjunction with the internet control points to restrict or allow access to specified Internet sites and to manage efficient distribution of content such as music, video, games, broadband data, real-time audio and voice applications, and software to subscribers.

**48 Claims, 7 Drawing Sheets**



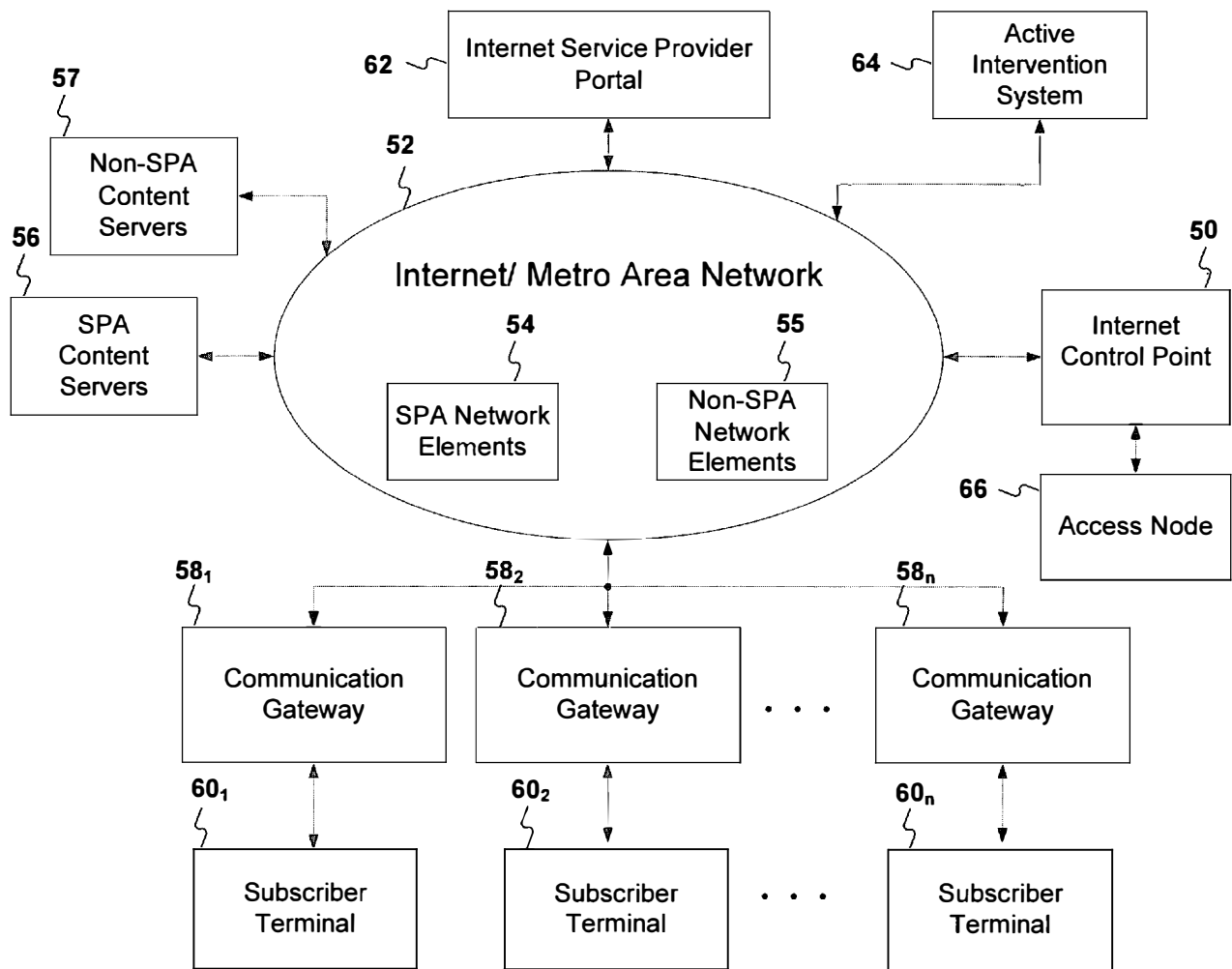


Figure 1

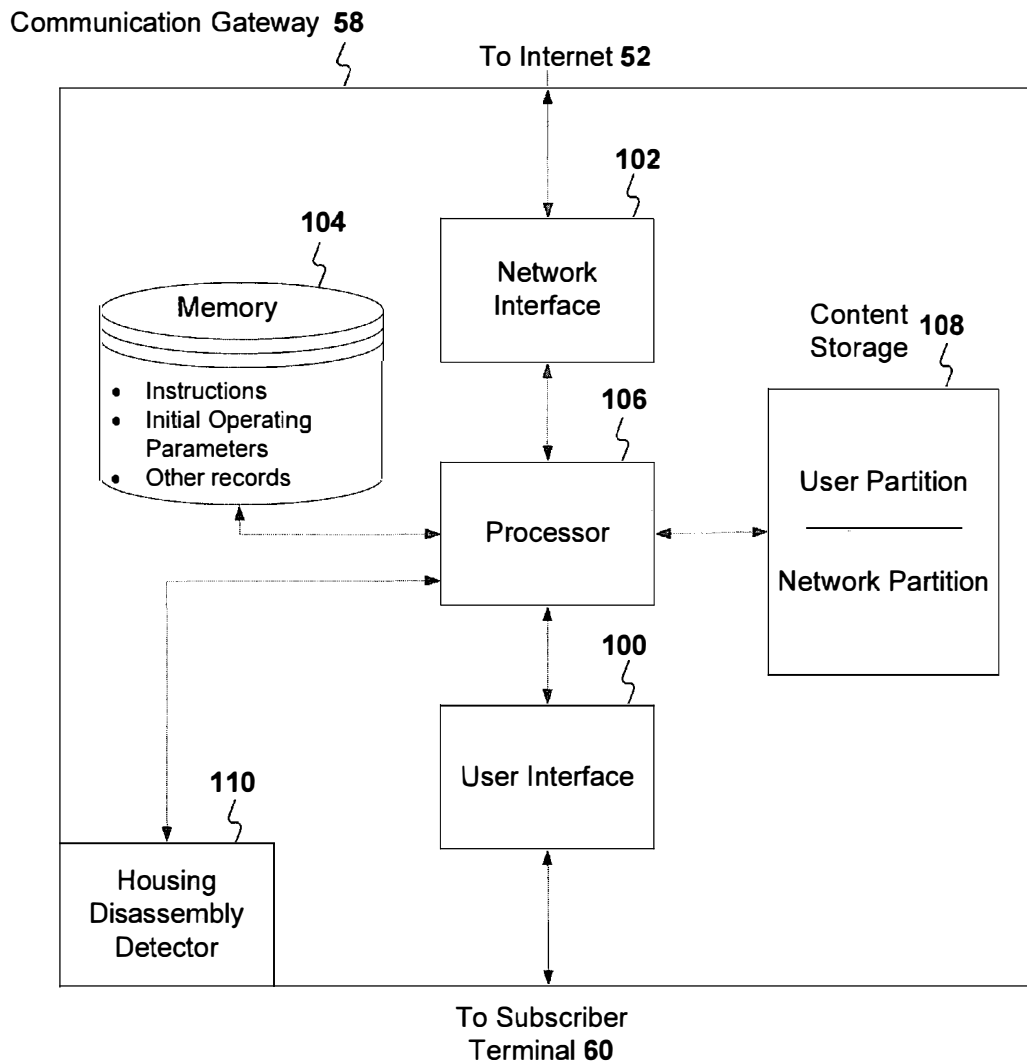


Figure 2

Internet Control Point 50

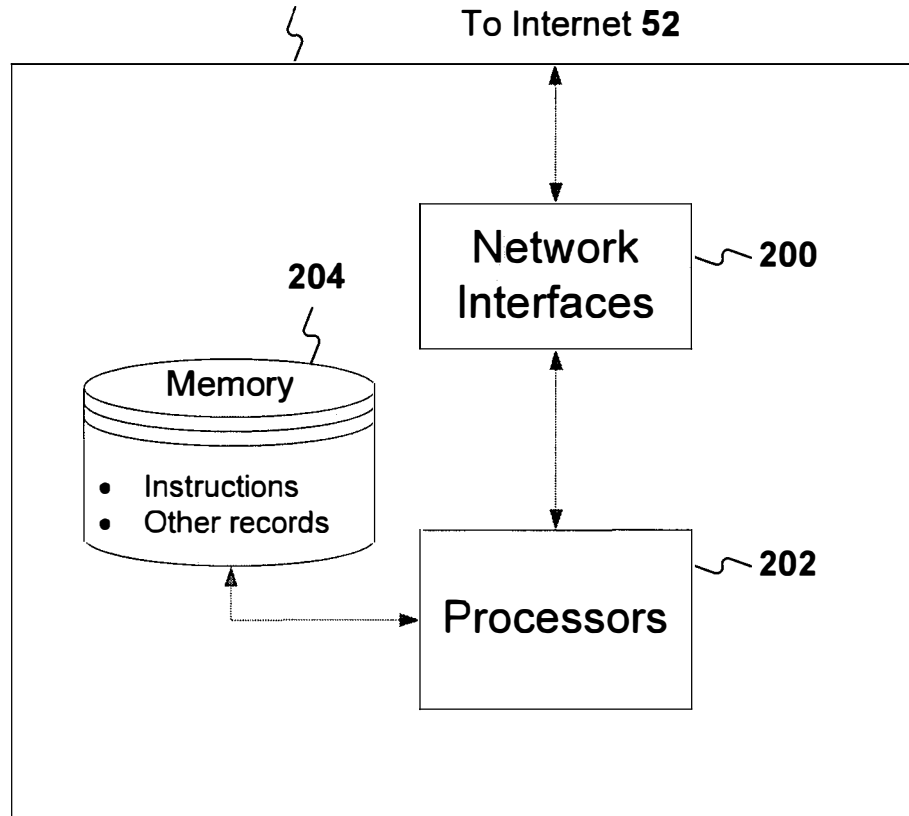


Figure 3

SPA Network Element 54

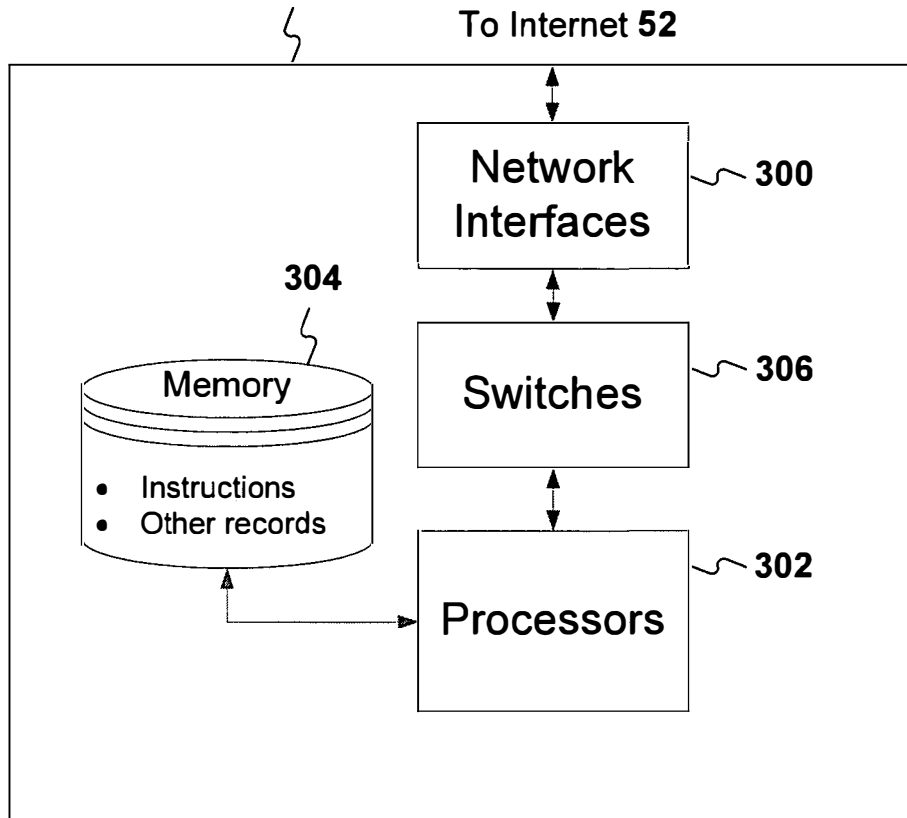


Figure 4

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