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(54) **INTERACTIVE DISPLAY INTERFACE FOR INFORMATION OBJECTS**

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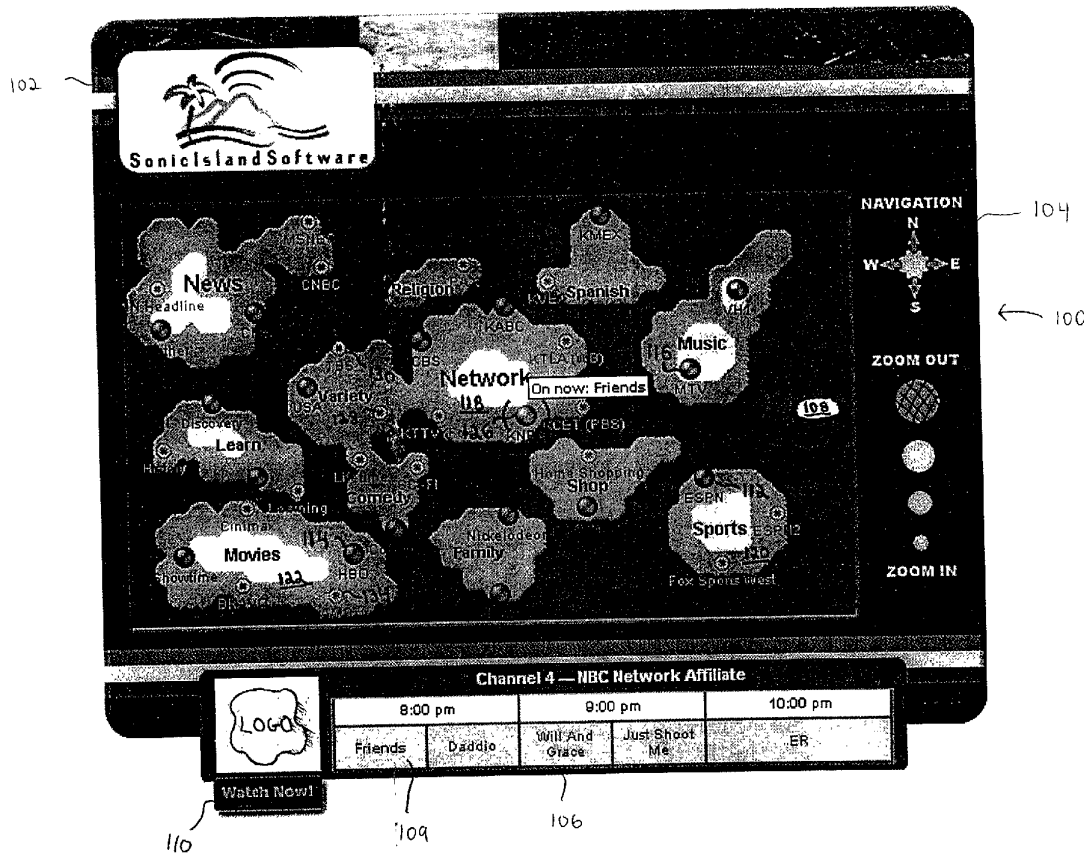
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(57) **ABSTRACT**

A navigation interface display system generates a navigation map that organizes a plurality of information sources in an easy-to-use manner. In practical embodiments, the informa-tion sources are cable or satellite television stations, online music or video files, or the like. The navigation map employs a hierarchical display protocol for a plurality of map items that serve as links to the various content sources. The hierarchical display scheme displays a limited number of active map items at a first magnification level and additional active map items at a second magnification level. In addition, the map items are displayed on distinctive areas or features of the map, where such features represent dif-ferent content genres or categories. Subcategories can also be displayed in a hierarchical manner, thus providing addi-tional information related to the content as the magnification level of the map changes. The navigation interface display system is deployed in a layered architecture with centralized servers, centralized databases related to the map data and the content data, and different presentation layers associated with different presentation or display devices (such as tele-vision systems, personal computers, wireless telephones, personal digital assistants, etc.). The layered architecture allows a single deployment of the display system to service multiple users, where each user can utilize any number of different presentation devices.
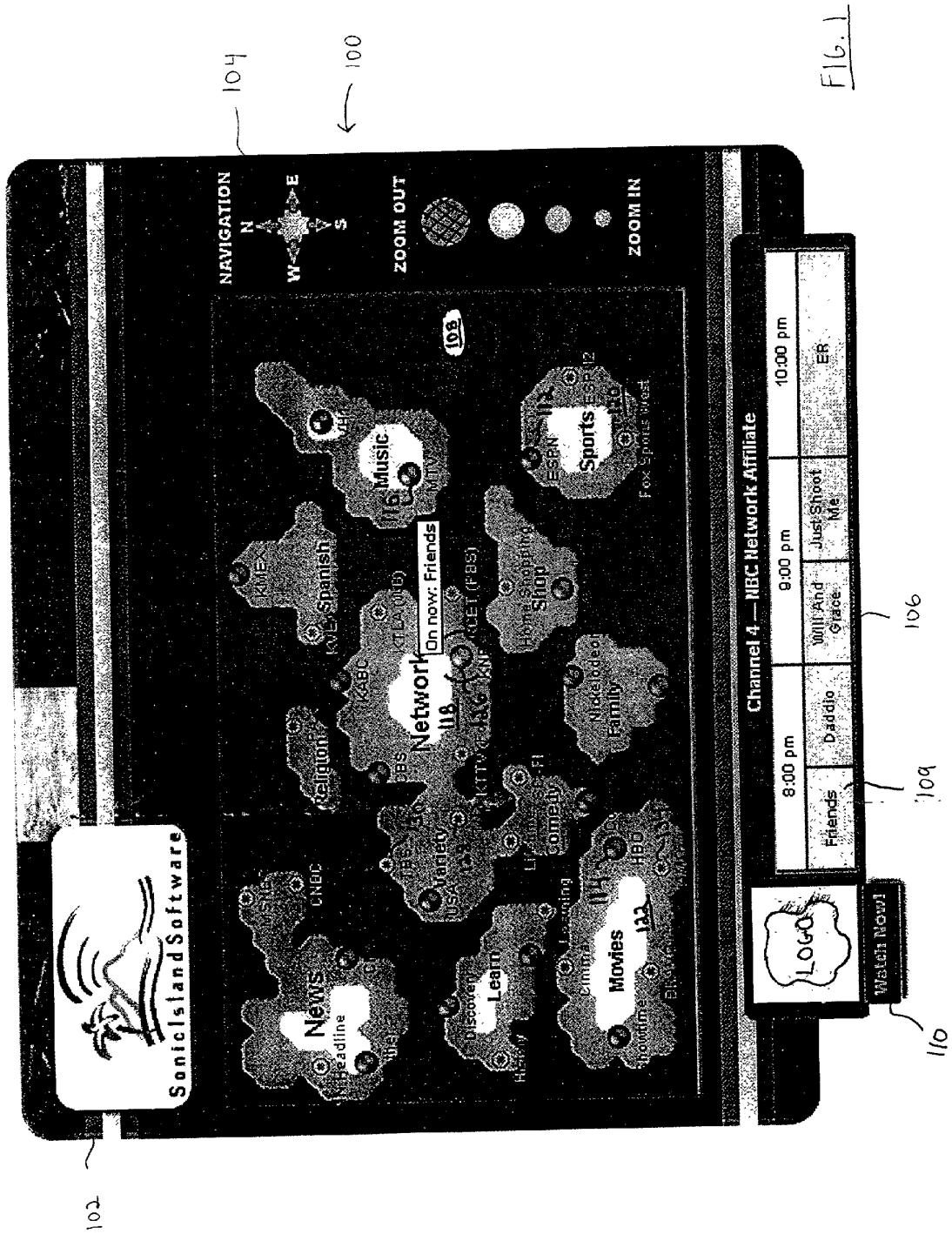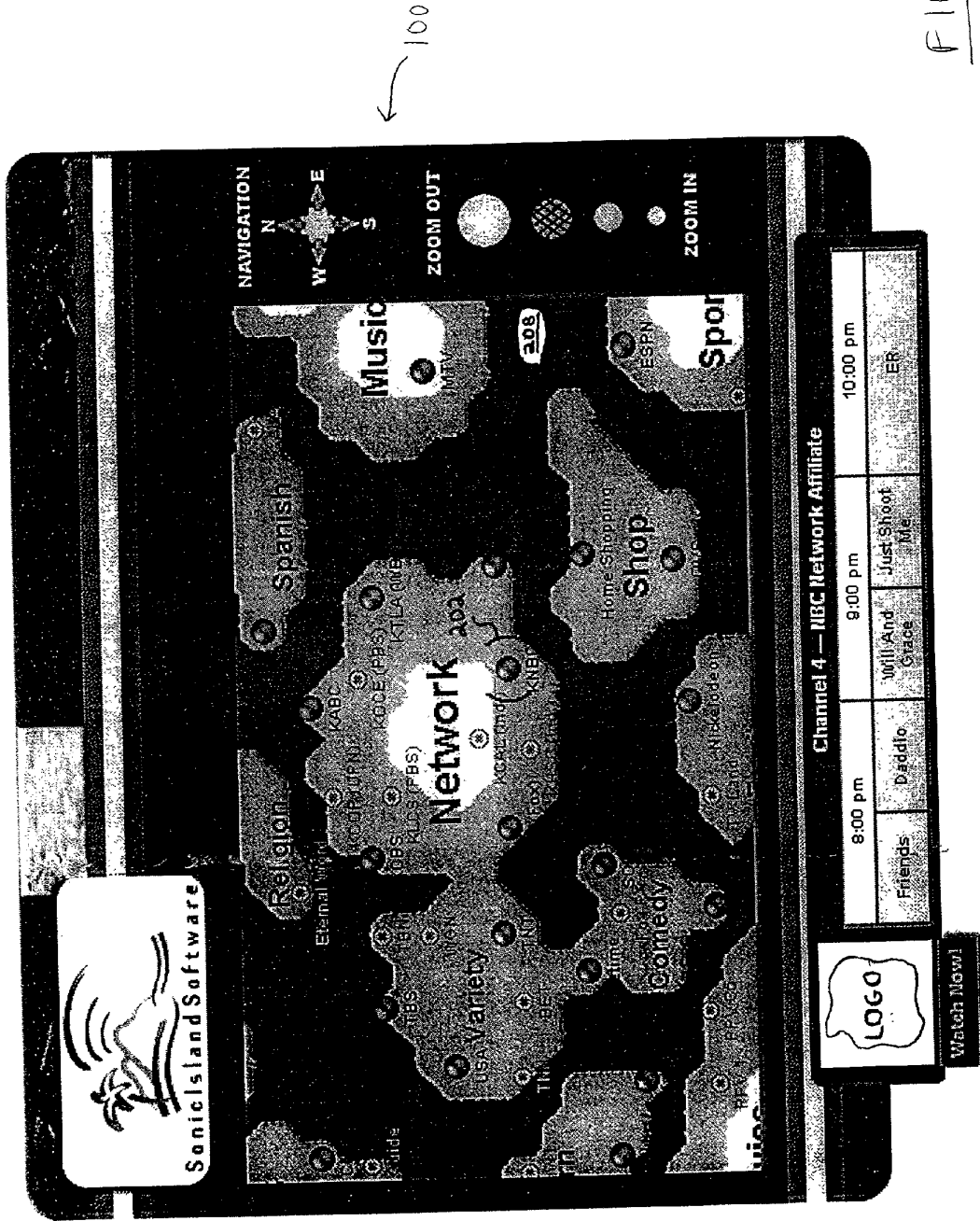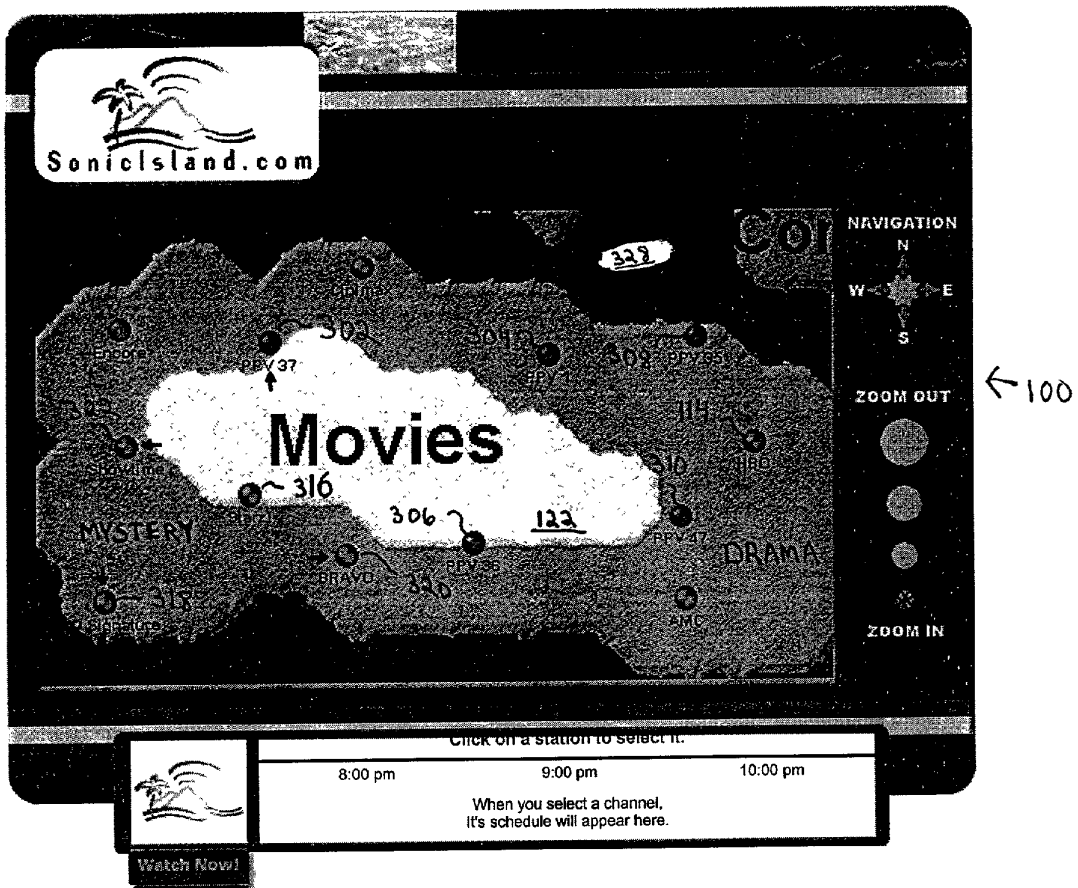
FIG. 1

FIG. 2

100

FIG. 3

Figure 4

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