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Armstrong et al.

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(54) **METHOD AND SYSTEM FOR PROVIDING RICH MEDIA CONTENT OVER A COMPUTER NETWORK**

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(*) Notice: Subject to any disclaimer, the term of this patent is extended or adjusted under 35 U.S.C. 154(b) by 520 days.

(21) Appl. No.: **09/693,867**

(57) **ABSTRACT**

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The invention presented here is a method and system for providing rich media content over a computer network. In accordance with the invention, a server on a physical or wireless computer network polls the software, hardware, or appliance of an end user on the network, for the availability of software and/or hardware necessary for the display of rich media content. This polling is transparent to the end user and requires no action on the part of the end user. Based on the client’s response, the server sends an appropriately formatted version of the rich media file. The user is not necessarily aware that this transfer is taking place, as it is taking place in the background, while the user is performing other tasks or viewing content other than that which is being transferred. Once the rich media has been transferred in its entirety and stored, or cached, in the local memory of the client, the rich media content is displayed automatically in a designated display area. The user may then be able to manipulate the rich media content without affecting the other content or tasks that were being displayed prior to the display of the rich media content.

(51) **Int. Cl.**
G06F 13/00 (2006.01)

(52) **U.S. Cl.** **709/219**; 709/231; 719/328

(58) **Field of Classification Search** 709/217, 709/219, 224, 225, 226, 227, 231, 232, 328, 709/329; 719/328, 329

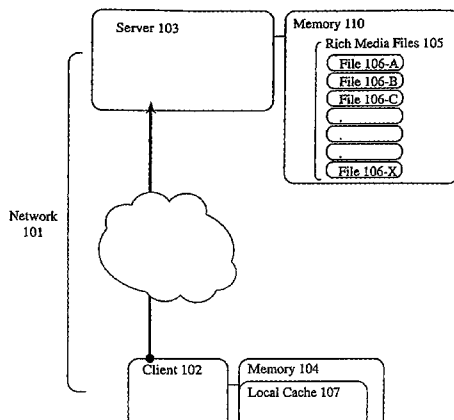
See application file for complete search history.

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32 Claims, 8 Drawing Sheets



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Figure 1A

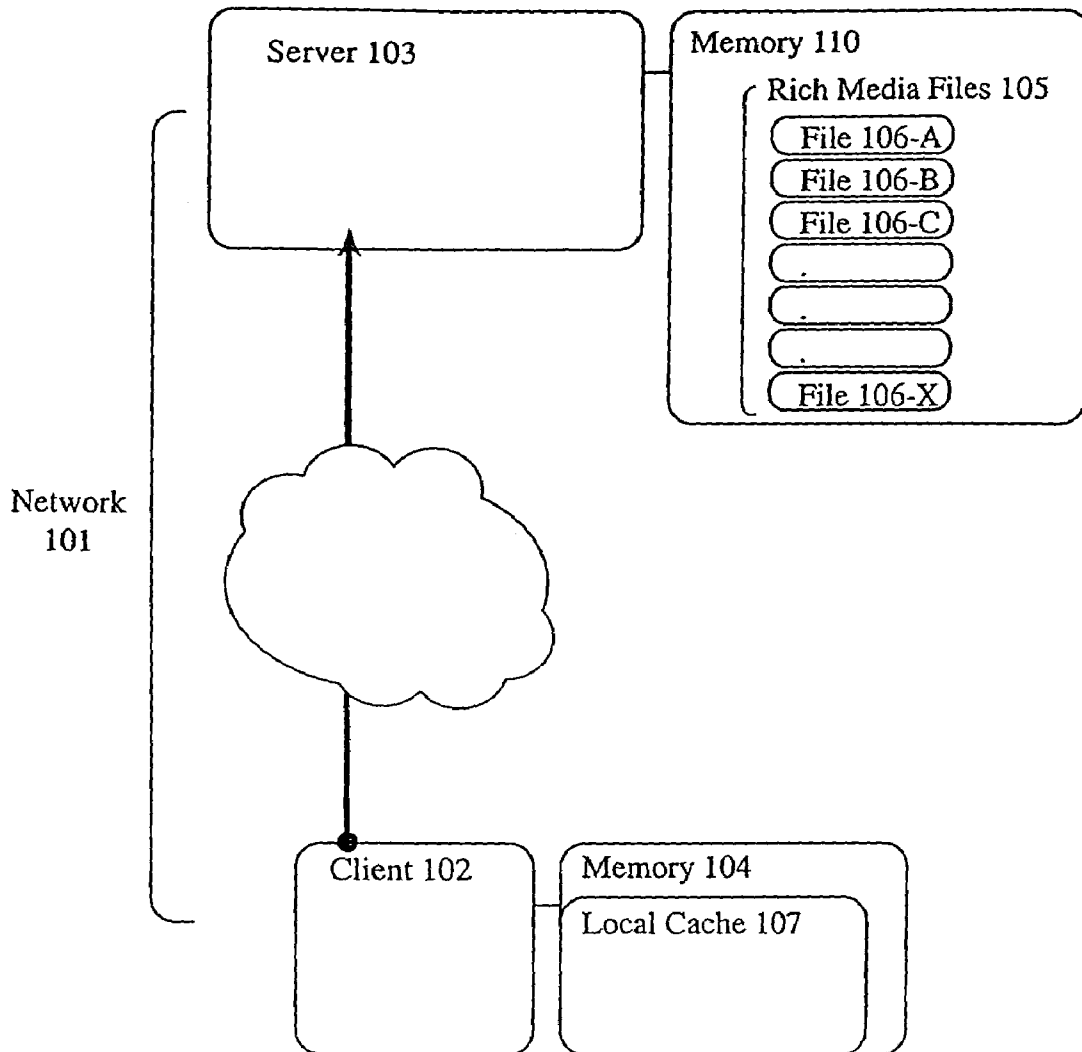


Figure 1B

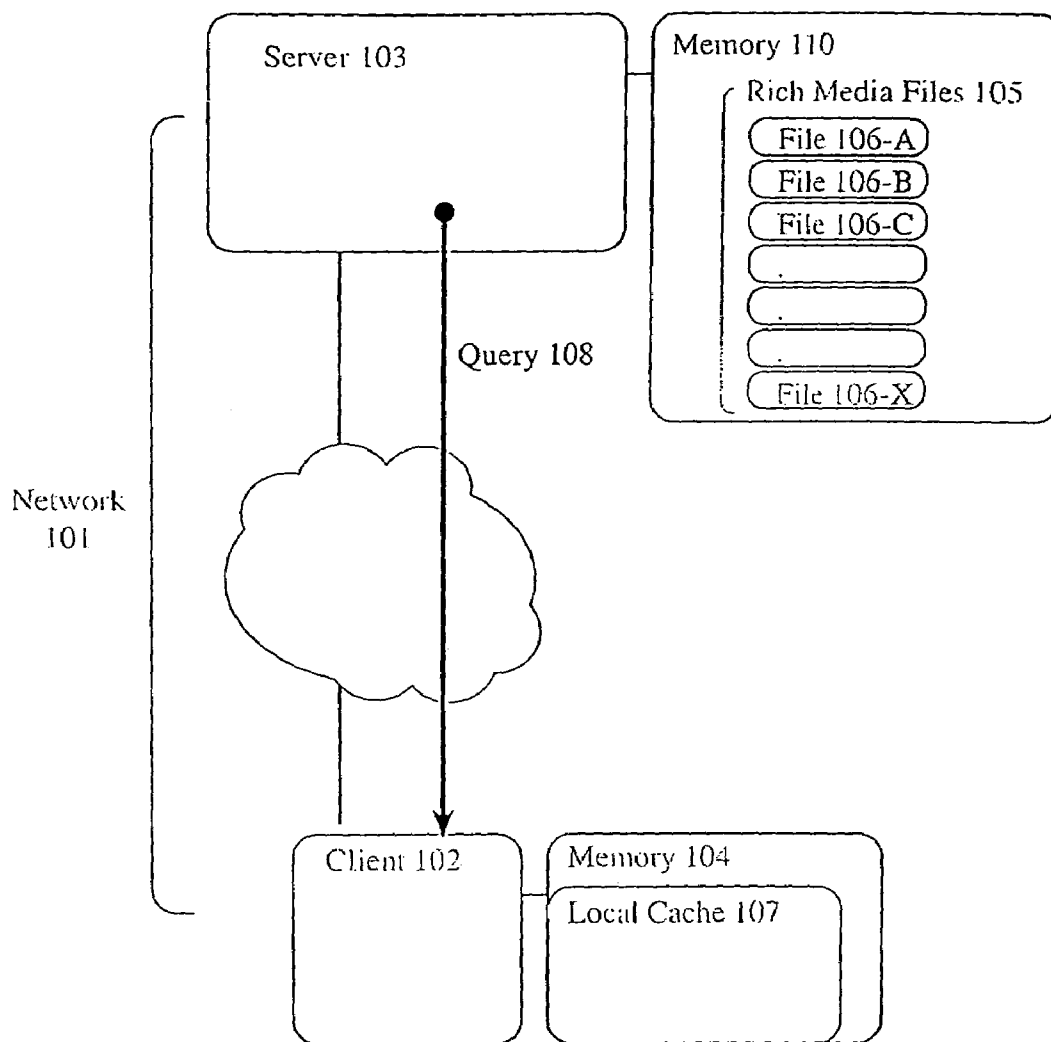
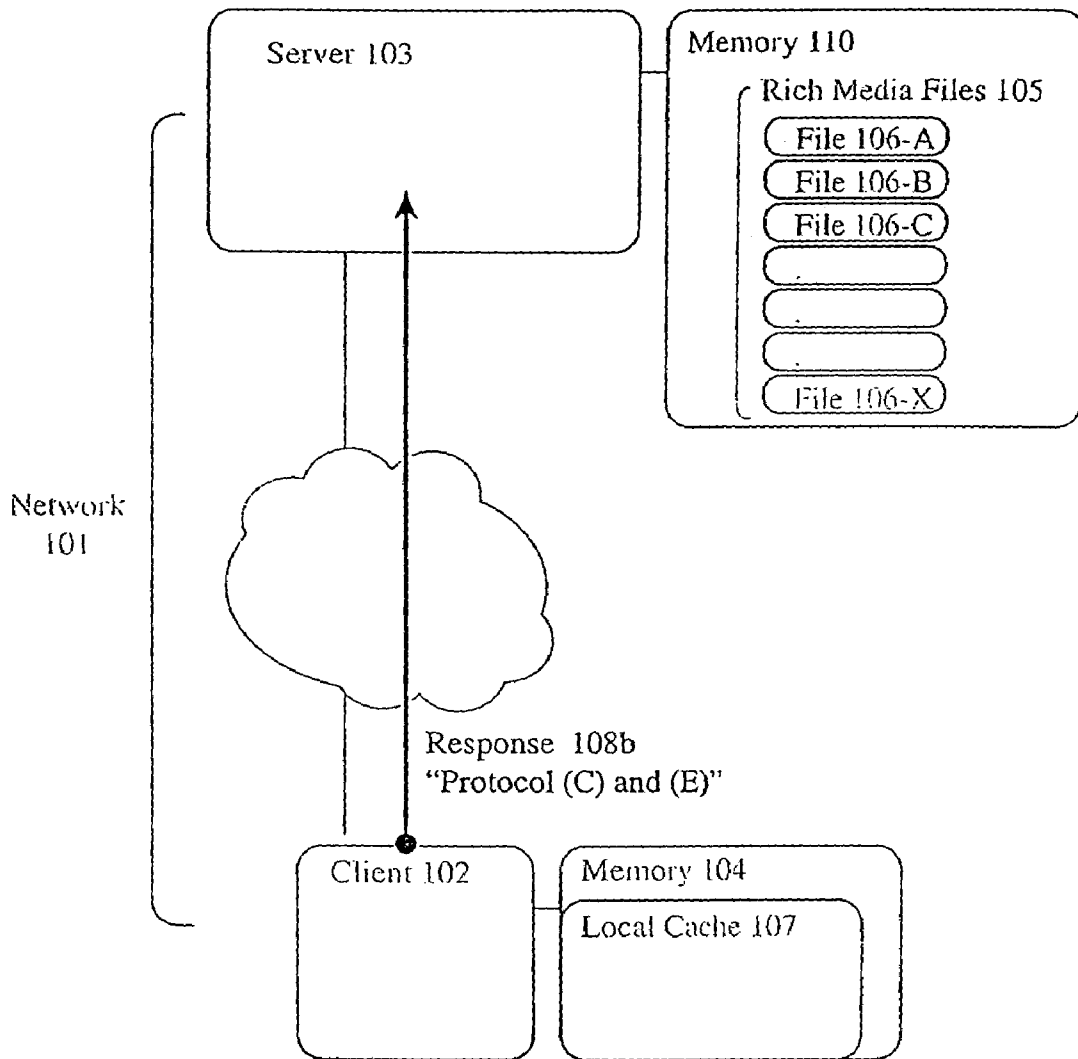


Figure 1C



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