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Tanigawa et al.(10) **Pub. No.: US 2004/0001480 A1**(43) **Pub. Date: Jan. 1, 2004**(54) **COMMUNICATION SYSTEM AND  
COMMUNICATION METHOD**(52) **U.S. Cl. .... 370/352**(76) **Inventors: Keiko Tanigawa, Kawasaki (JP);  
Kazuma Yumoto, Hachioji (JP);  
Kenta Shiga, Yokohama (JP); Toru  
Hoshi, Yokohama (JP)**(57) **ABSTRACT**

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The usage of communication systems is improved. An IM server 4 manages presence information regarding each of IM clients and usable media and user information such that each of the IM clients can obtain these kinds of information. In order to perform text chatting, the IM server 4 manages a connection between each of the IM clients participating the chat and the IM server 4, merges text from each of the participating IM clients and distributes the result to each of the participating IM clients. In order to perform voice chatting, an AP server 5 manages a connection between each of the IM clients participating the chat and an MD server 6, mixes voice from each of the participating IM clients except for a focused IM client and distributes the result to the focused participating IM clients. This processing is performed for each of the participating IM clients.

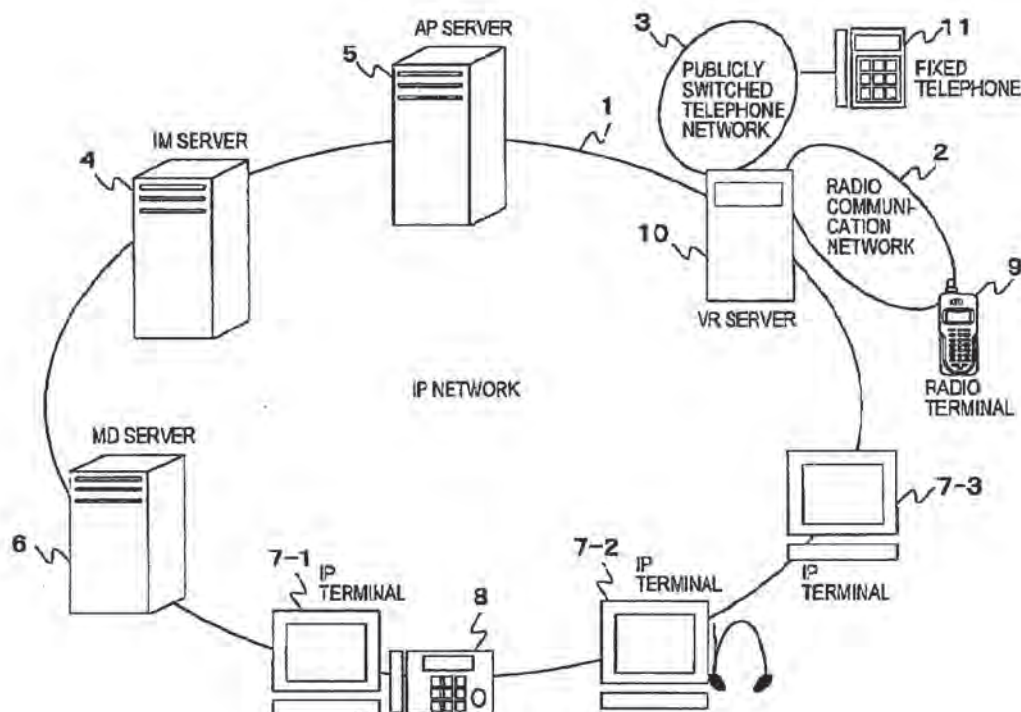


FIG.1

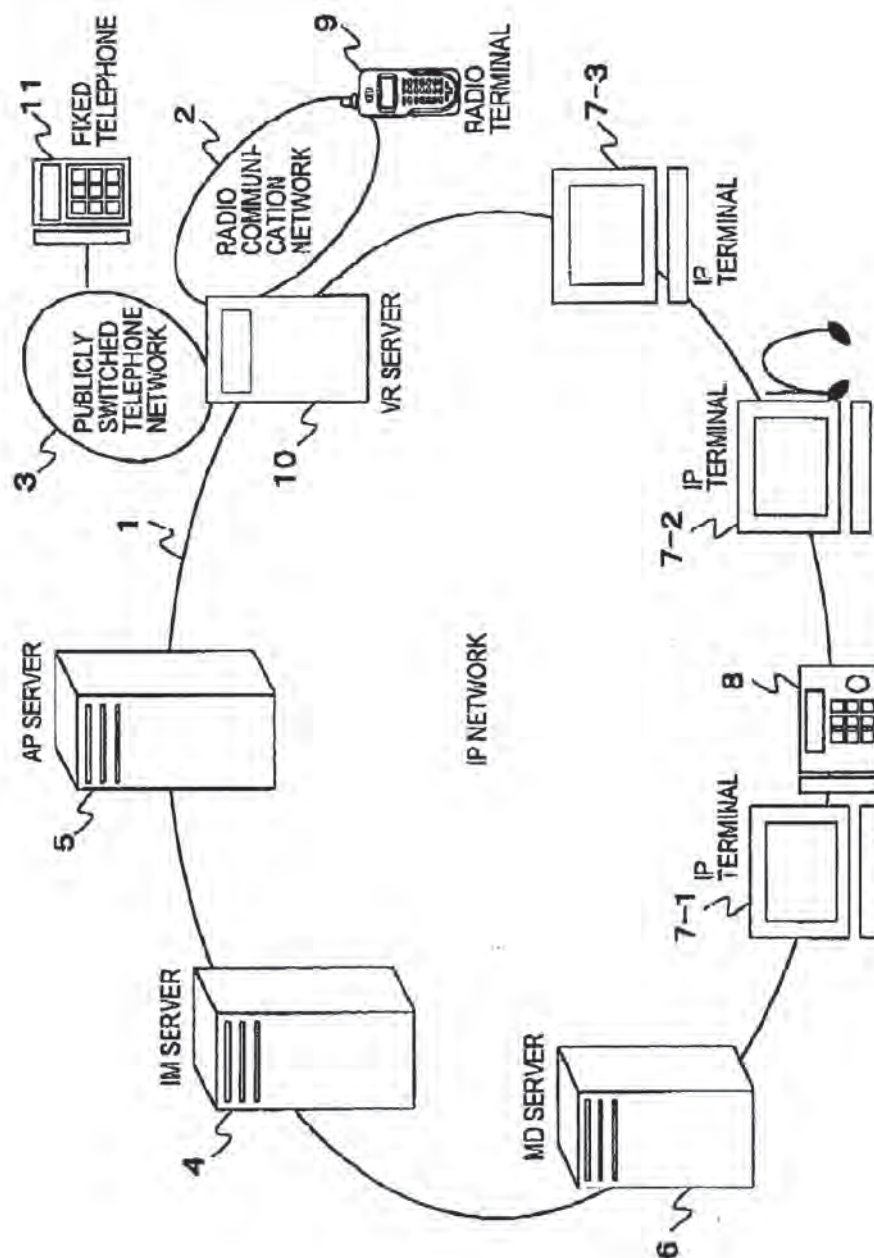


FIG. 2

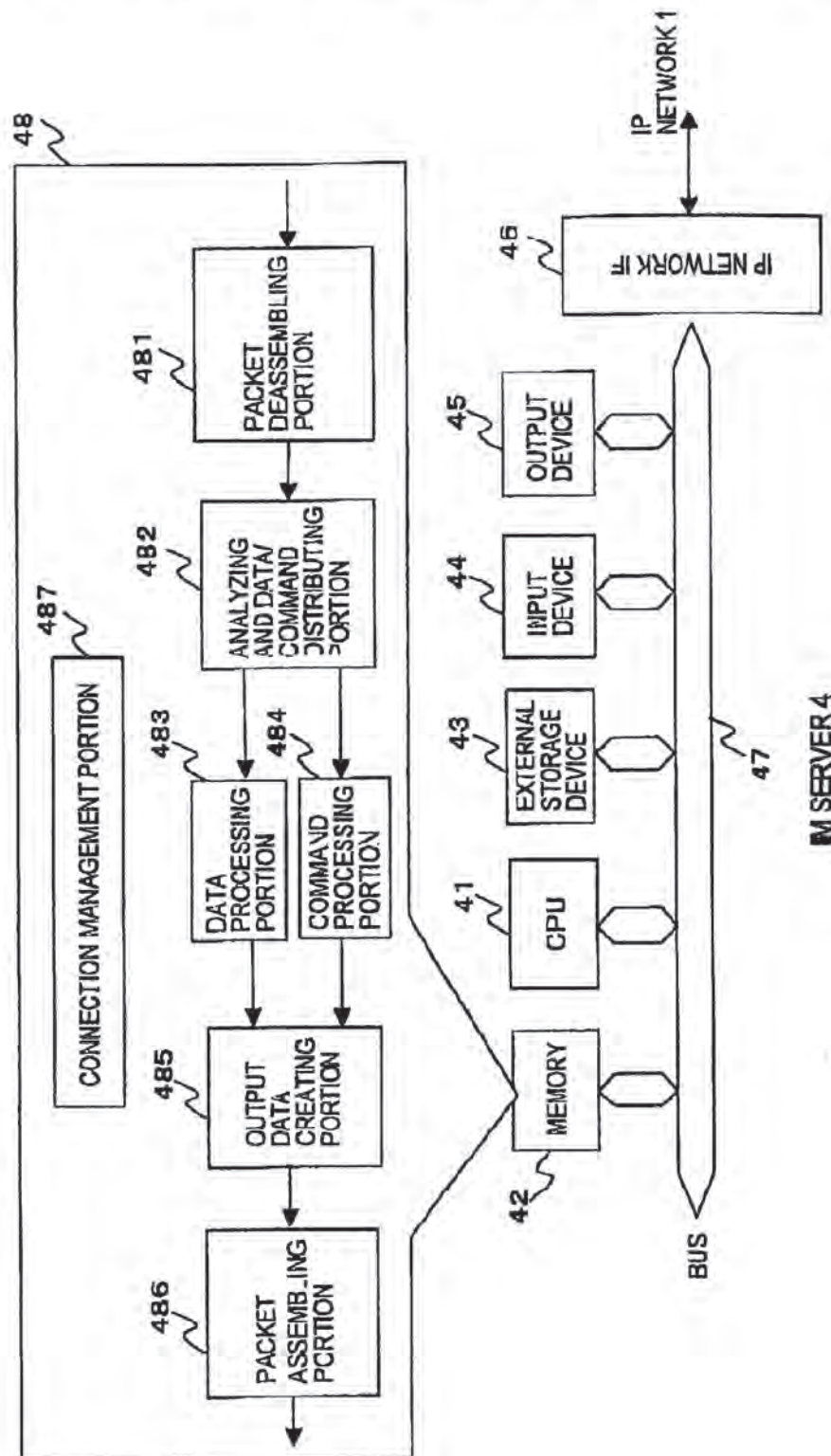


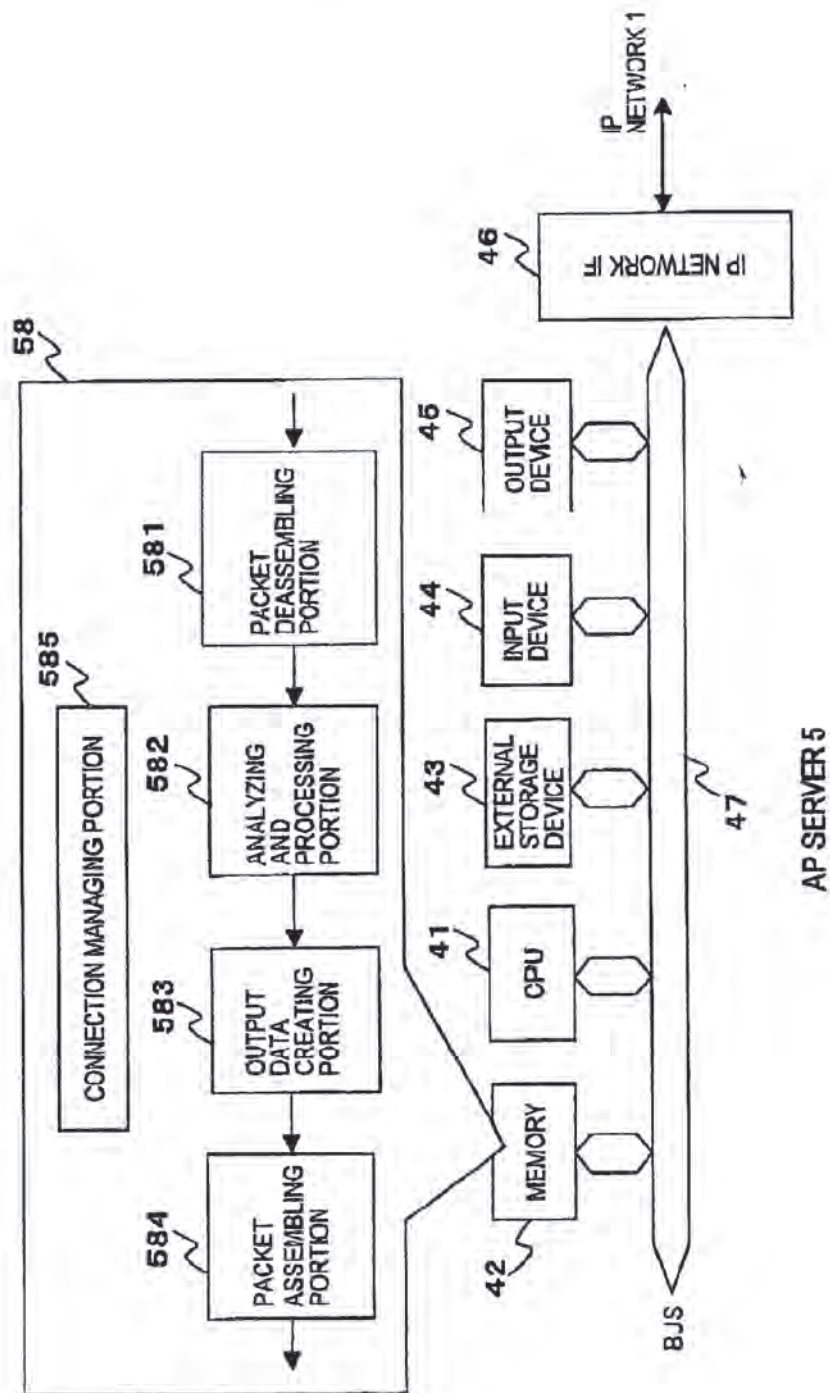


FIG.3

431	432	433	434	435	436	437	438	439	440
ACCOUNT NAMES	CLIENT ADDRESSES	CLIENT NICKNAMES	AUTHENTICATION KEYS	PRESENCE	USABLE MEDIA	CONFERENCE ADDRESSES	CONFERENCE NICKNAMES	BUDDY LIST	
Client A	***,***,***,***	taro	***	text/voice	text/voice	***,***,***,*** ***,***,***,***	room1	A,B,C,D,E,F,G...	
Client B	***,***,***,***	jiro	***	off	text/voice	***,***,***,***		A,B,C,D,E,F,G...	
Client C	***,***,***,***	ichiro	***	idle	text	***,***,***,***		A,B,C,D,E,F,G...	
Client D	***,***,***,***	hanako	***	text	text	***,***,***,***	room1	A,B,C,D,E,F,G...	
Client E	***,***,***,***	hanako	***	voice	voice	***,***,***,***	room1	A,B,C,D,E,F,G...	
Client F	***,***,***,***	yoshi	***	text	text	***,***,***,***	room1	A,B,C,D,E,F,G...	
Client G	***,***,***,***	yoshi	***	voice	voice	***,***,***,***	room1	A,B,C,D,E,F,G...	

PRESENCE INFORMATION MANAGEMENT TABLE 488

FIG. 4



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