



[54] CONTINUOUS MEDIA STREAM CONTROL

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[73] Assignee: Microsoft Corporation, Redmond, Wash.

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[51] Int. Cl.⁷ G06F 3/100

[52] U.S. Cl. 345/302

[58] Field of Search 345/302, 326, 345/333, 334, 335

[56] References Cited PUBLICATIONS

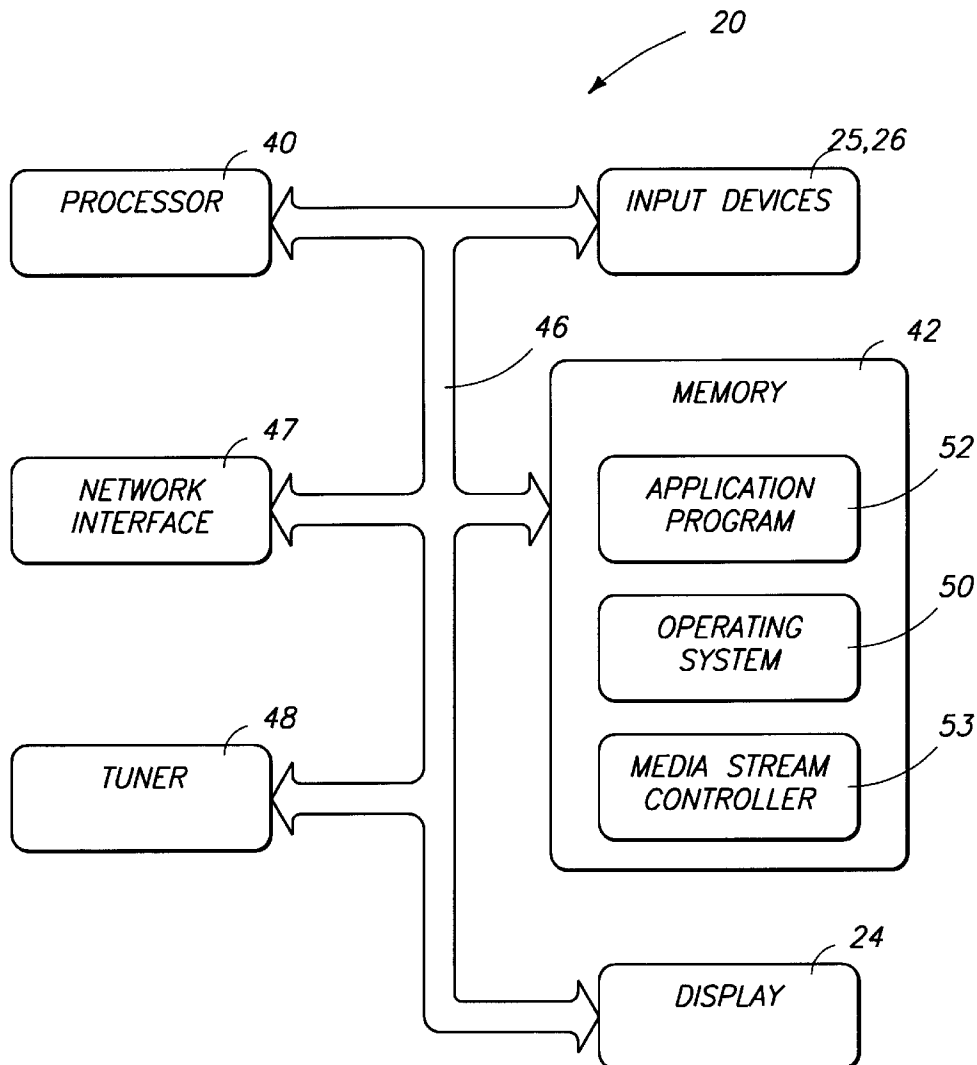
Microsoft® Media Player Version 4.0 (Trademark of Microsoft Corp.) Screen Display pp. 1-10, 1981-1996.

Primary Examiner—Phu K. Nguyen
Assistant Examiner—Cliff N. Vo
Attorney, Agent, or Firm—Lee & Hayes, PLLC

[57] ABSTRACT

A network system includes one or more network servers and a plurality of available media streams. The media streams are formatted differently. Some are file-based streams, supplied by the network servers. Others are supplied by local tuners from digital and/or analog signal broadcasts. A network client executes an application program that is to control rendering of the media streams. Each media stream is represented by a programming object. Each programming object has identical interface functions that can be invoked by the application program to control playback of the different media streams even though such media streams are of different media types.

32 Claims, 6 Drawing Sheets



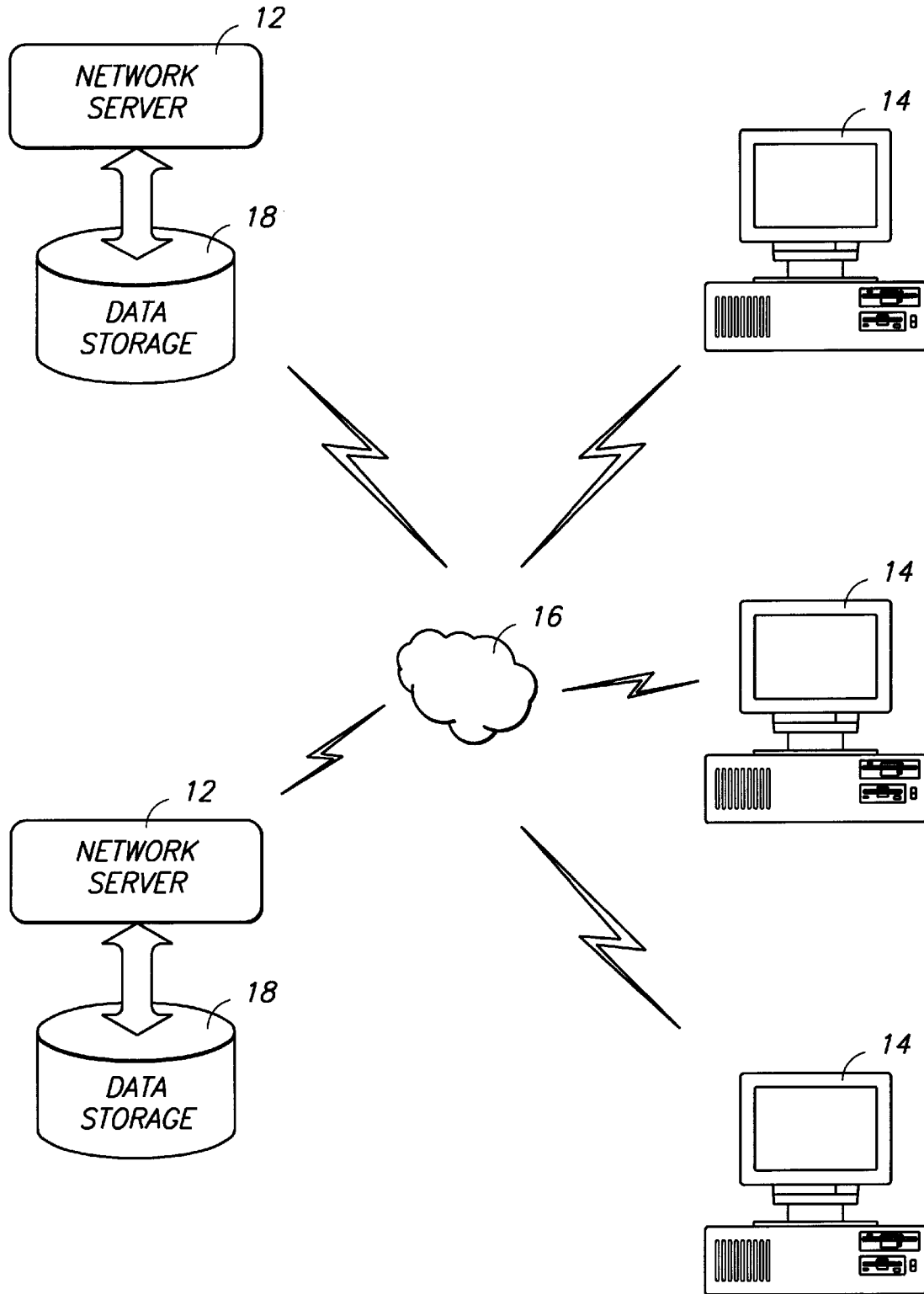


Fig 1

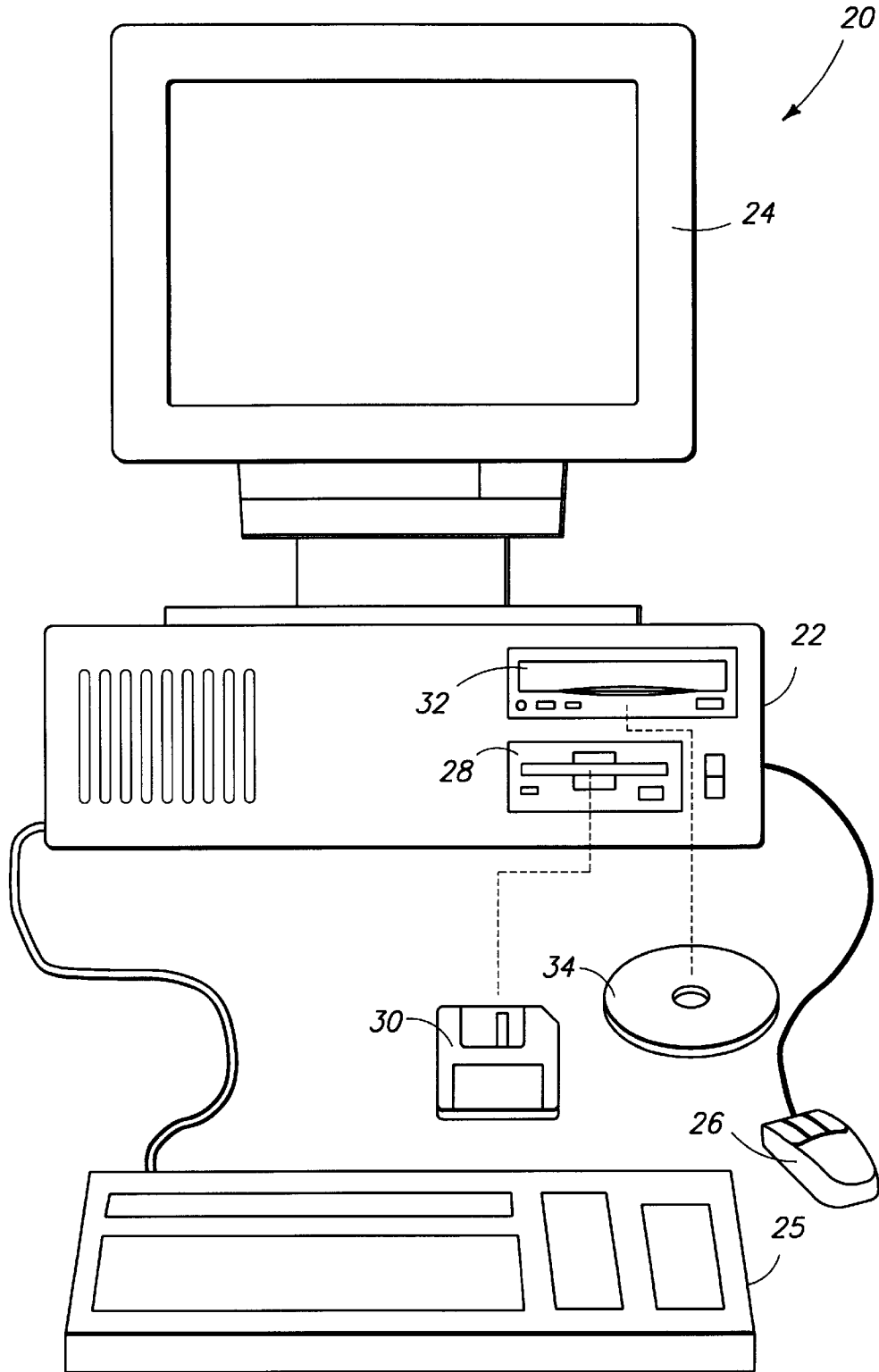


Fig 2

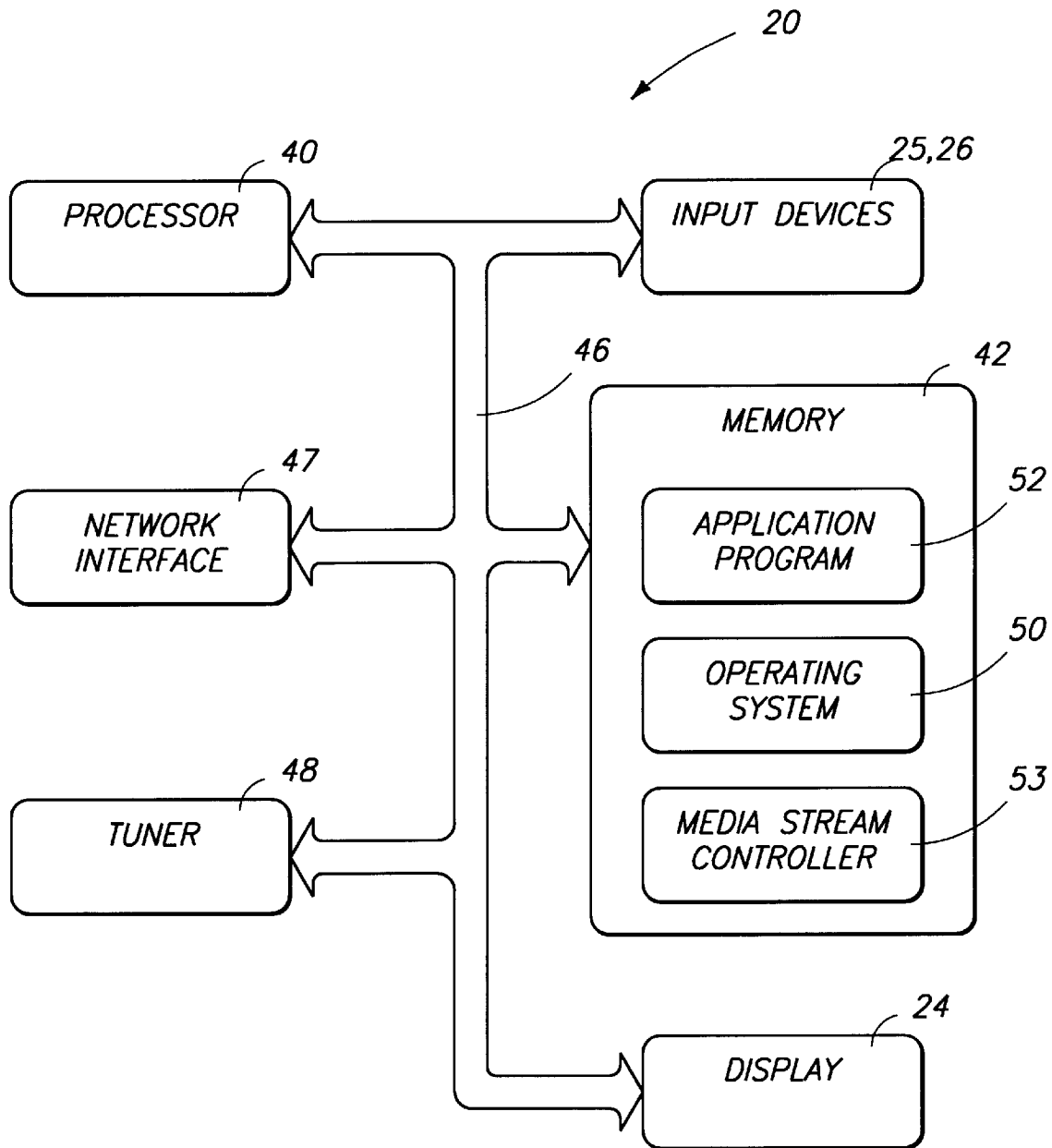


Fig 3

Fig 4

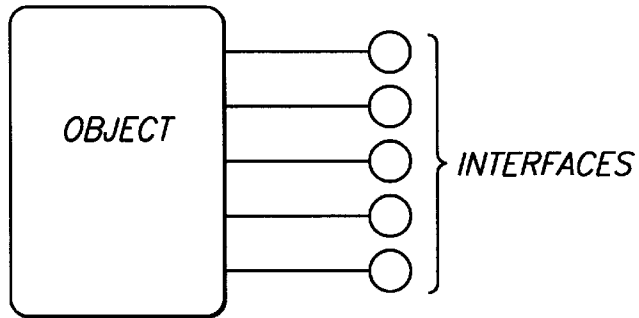


Fig 5

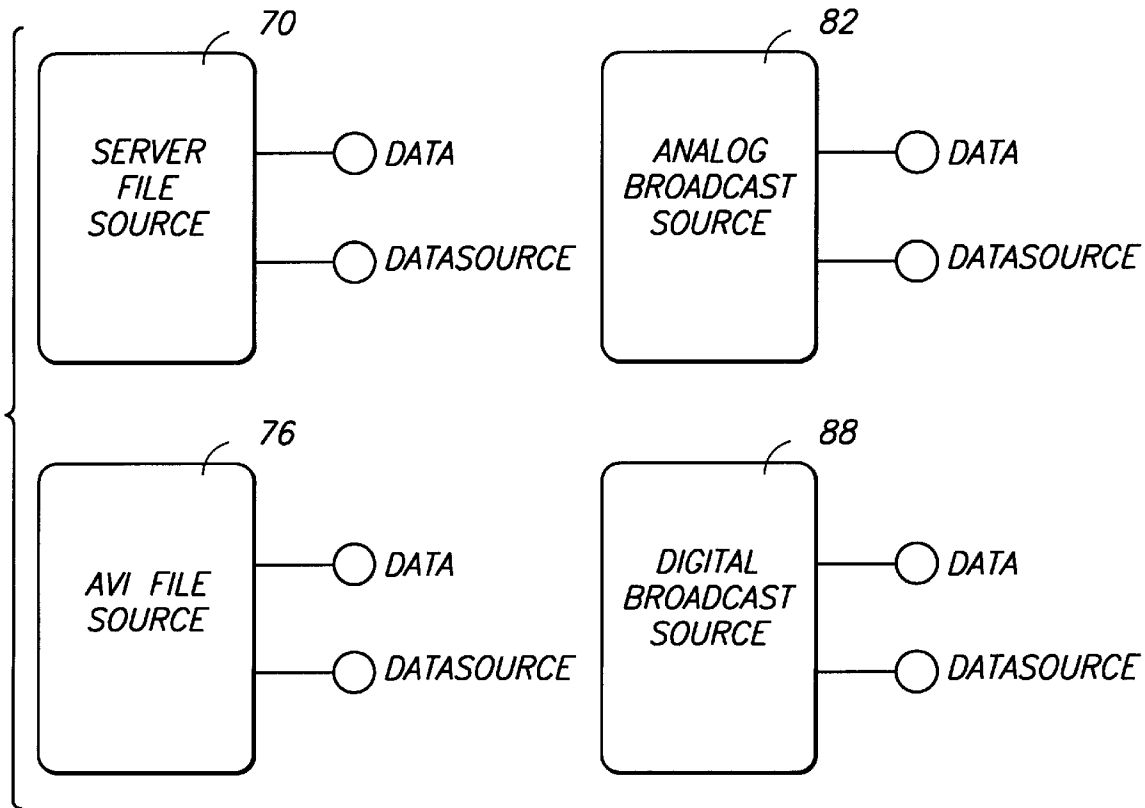
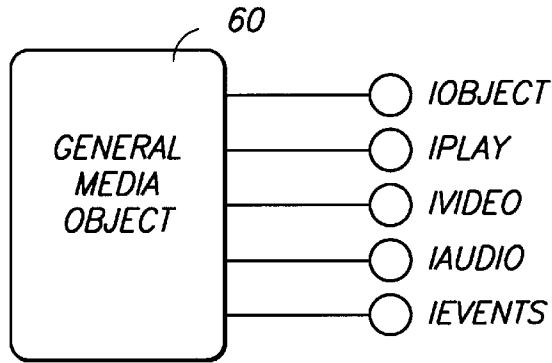


Fig 6

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