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(12) **United States Patent**  
**Price**

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(54) **STREAMING MEDIA BUFFERING SYSTEM**

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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 0 days.  
  
This patent is subject to a terminal disclaimer.

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(65) **Prior Publication Data**

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**Related U.S. Application Data**

(63) Continuation of application No. 10/893,814, filed on Jul. 19, 2004, now Pat. No. 7,716,358, which is a continuation-in-part of application No. 09/819,337, filed on Mar. 28, 2001, now Pat. No. 6,766,376.

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(51) **Int. Cl.**  
**G06F 15/16** (2006.01)

(52) **U.S. Cl.** ..... **709/231**

(58) **Field of Classification Search** ..... **709/230,**  
**709/231**

See application file for complete search history.

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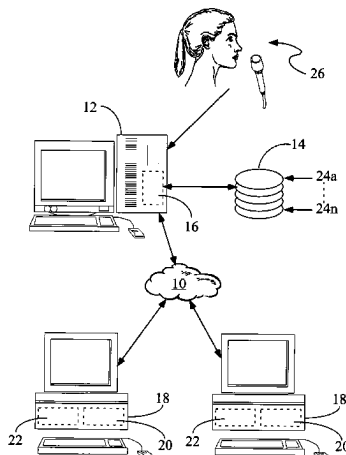
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(57) **ABSTRACT**

Streaming media, such as audio or video files, is sent via the Internet. The media are immediately played on a user's computer. Audio/video data is transmitted from the server more rapidly than it is played out by the user system. The audio/video data in the user buffer accumulates; and interruptions in playback as well as temporary modem delays are avoided.

**28 Claims, 3 Drawing Sheets**



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Fig. 1

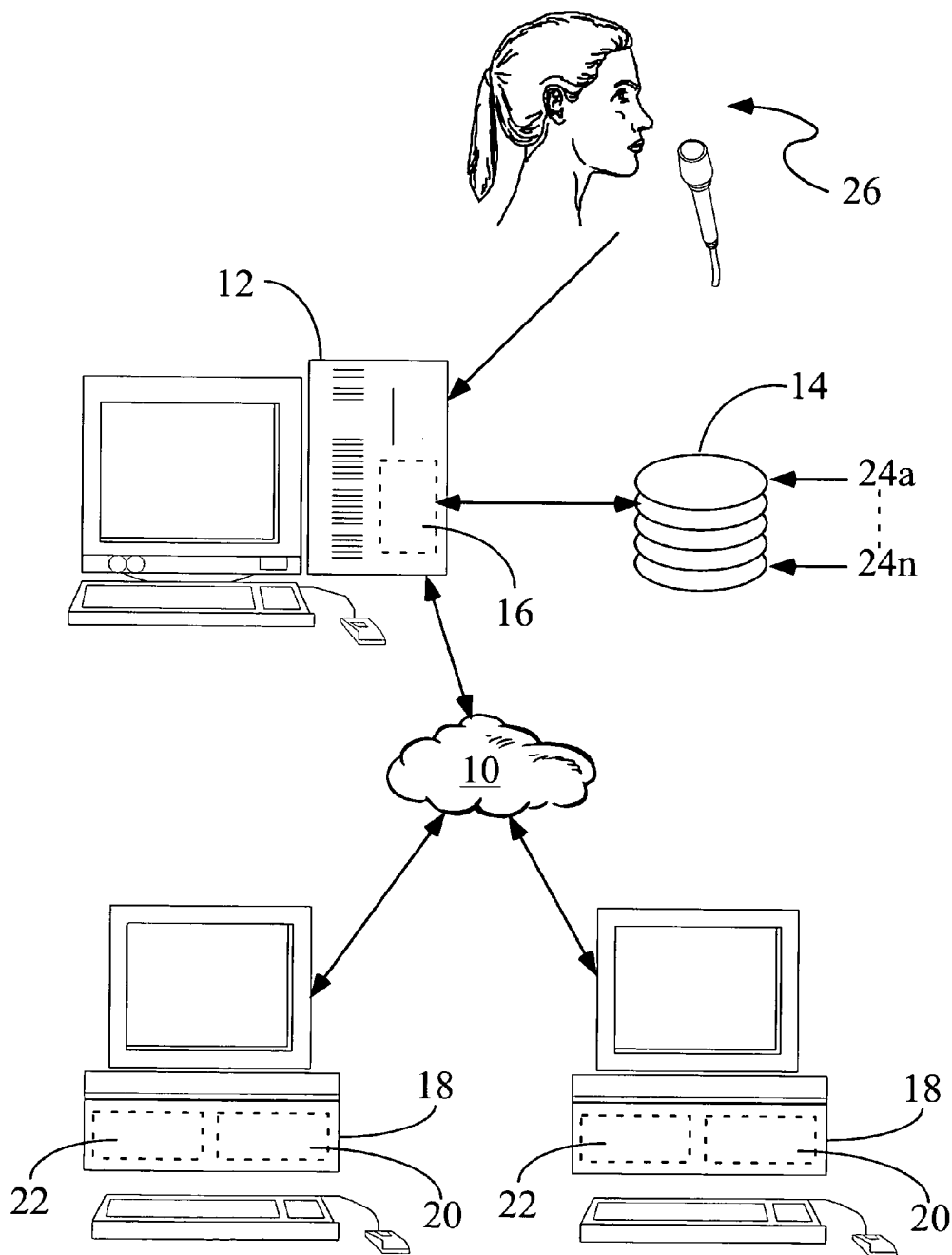
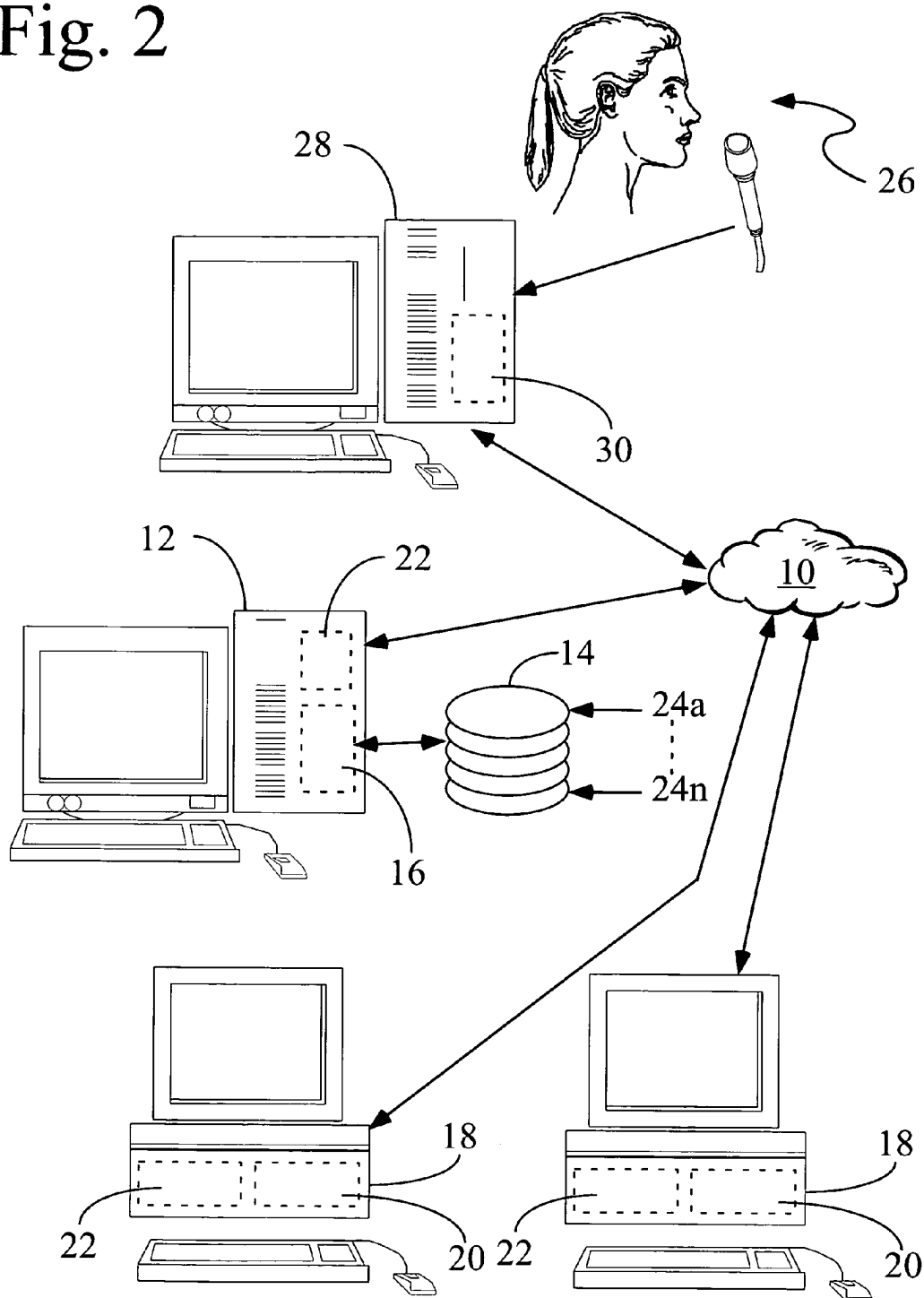
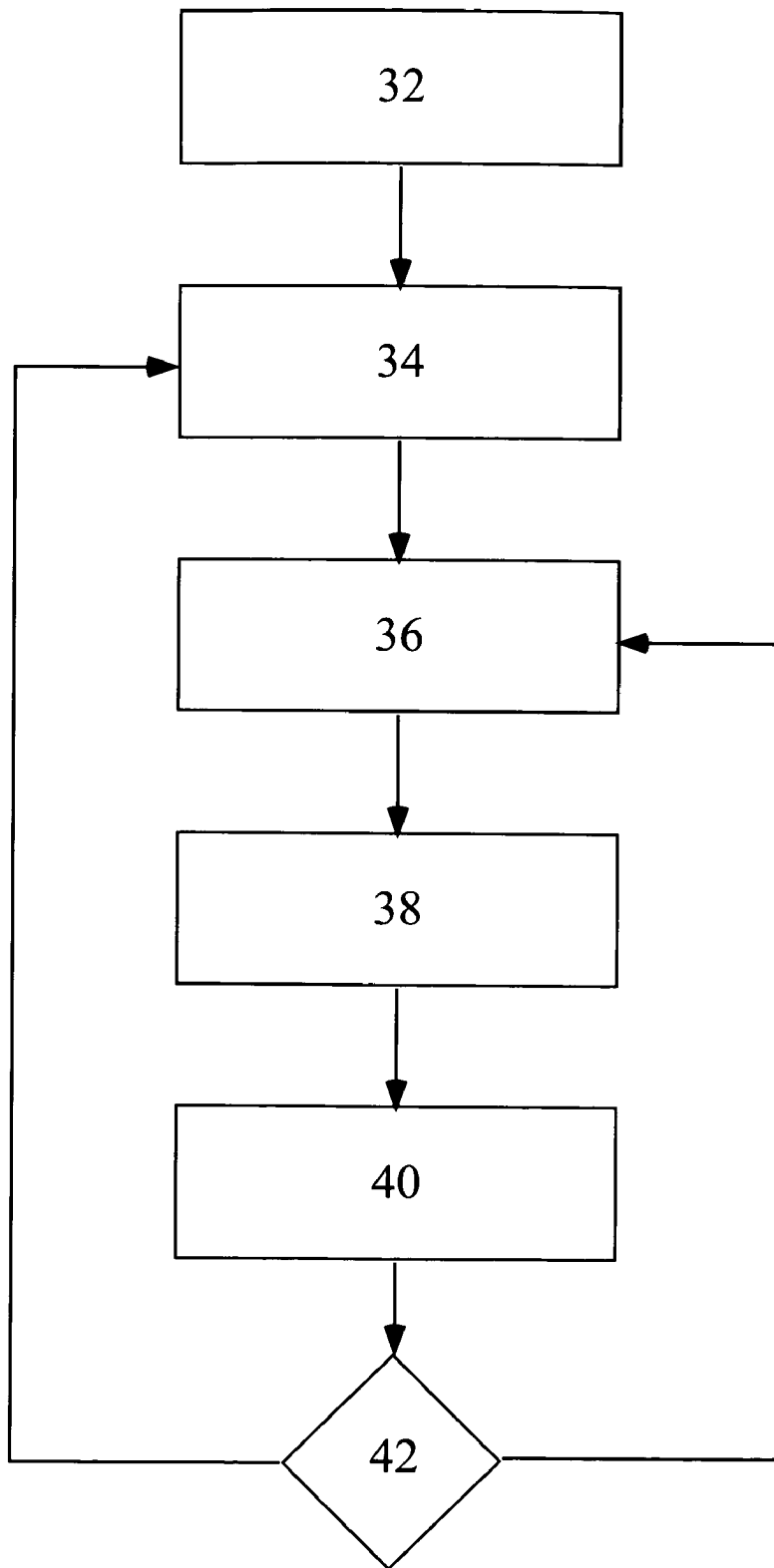


Fig. 2



# Fig. 3



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