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Sandhu et al.

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(54) **METHOD AND SYSTEM FOR A PLURALITY OF MOBILE UNITS TO LOCATE ONE ANOTHER**

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(52) **U.S. Cl.** **342/357.07; 342/357.1; 455/456.3**

(58) **Field of Search** **342/357.07, 357.08, 342/357.09, 357.1, 457; 701/208, 213; 455/456.3, 456.5, 456.6**

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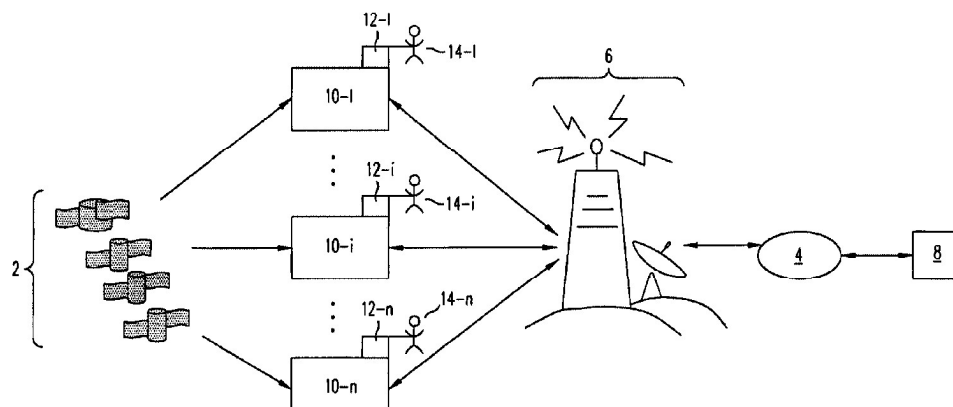
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(57) **ABSTRACT**

A method and system whereby two mobile units can locate each other is presented. A user connects an interface device, such as a personal digital assistance (PDA), a wireless phone, a laptop, or a pager, to a mobile unit. The mobile unit regularly obtains its location through a location-determining technology (e.g., GPS) and sends the location to a service provider computer. The service provider computer maintains a database of the current location of all the mobile units, and provides the location of mobile units to each of the mobile units. The mobile unit communicates with the service provider wirelessly through a communication network and a data network, for example the Internet.

A user of the mobile unit can send messages to other users with a location stamp, which indicates the location of the message sender's mobile unit. In addition, a user can send a request to be notified when a target mobile unit reaches a reference point. The reference point may be defined relative to the location of the requester. Alternatively, the reference point may be an address or a landmark. Upon receiving the request, the service provider computer tracks the distance between the target mobile unit and the reference point, and sends a notification to the requester when the target mobile unit reaches the reference point.

29 Claims, 5 Drawing Sheets



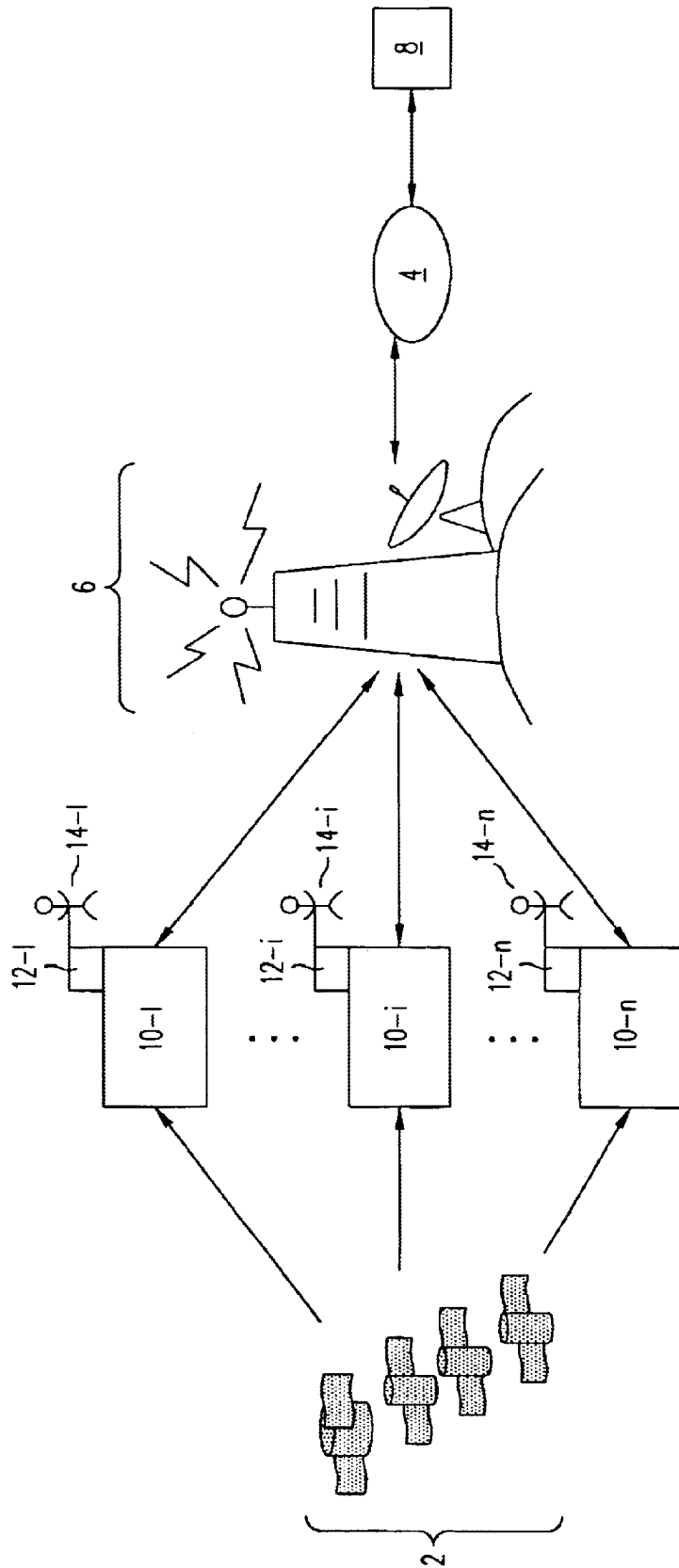


FIG. 1

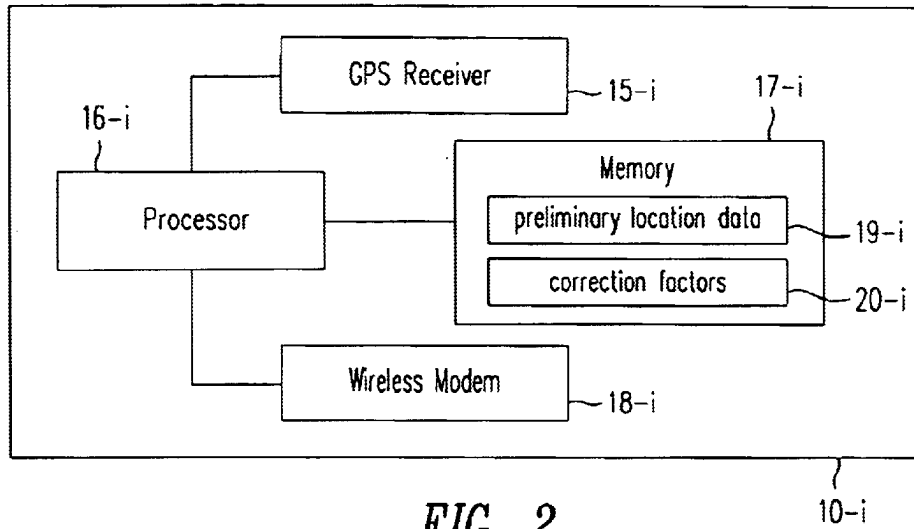


FIG. 2

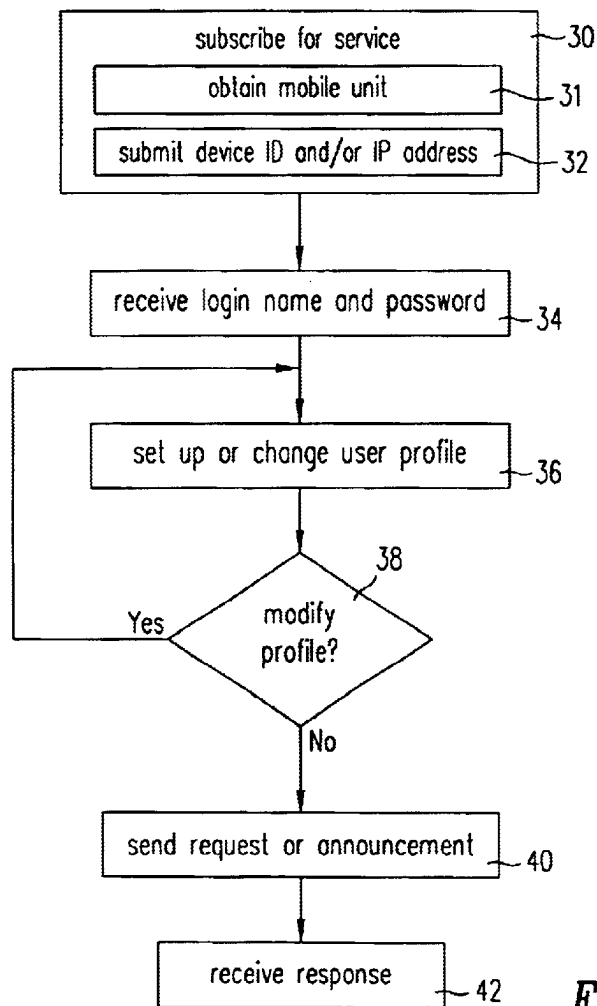


FIG. 3

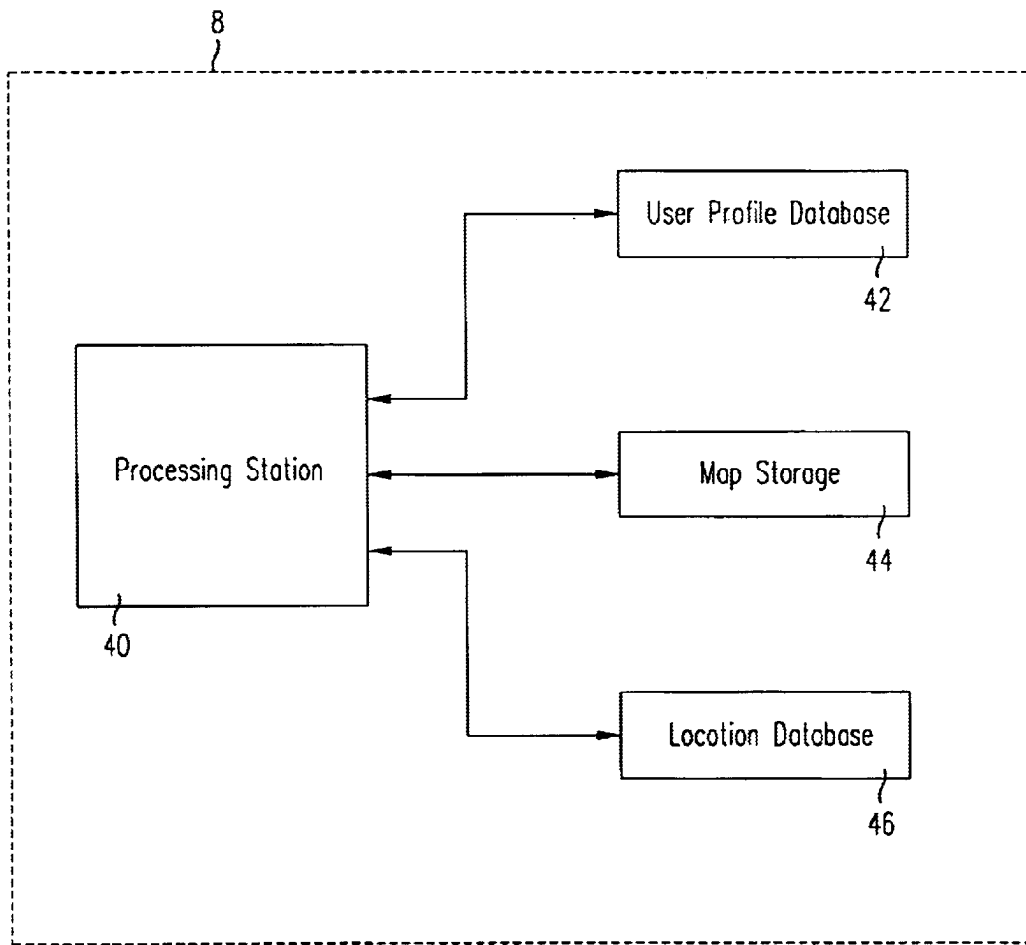


FIG. 4

51	52	53	54	55	56	57	58	59
	device ID#	name	residence	home phone	mobile phone	e-mail	hobbies/interests	distribution list
user 1	JK5004-327	John Smith	123 Second Street San Jose, CA 95050	(408) 123-4567	(408) 987-6543	jsmith@aol.com	salsa dancing golfing	users 2, 3, 5, 125, 127, 135, 136, 137
user 2								group 1: 24-55 group 2: 133, 202, 211, 212, 222
⋮								
user								
⋮								
user n								

FIG. 5

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