Exhibit A

(12) **United States Patent**
Odom

(10) Patent No.: **US 7,016,942 B1**
(45) Date of Patent: **Mar. 21, 2006**

(54) **DYNAMIC HOSTING**

(76) Inventor: **Gary Odom**, 123 NW. 12th Ave., #1332, Portland, OR (US) 97209

(*) Notice: Subject to any disclaimer, the term of this patent is extended or adjusted under 35 U.S.C. 154(b) by 621 days.

(21) Appl. No.: **10/212,891**

(22) Filed: **Aug. 5, 2002**

(51) **Int. Cl.**
G06F 15/16 (2006.01)
(52) **U.S. Cl.** **709/212**; 710/22
(58) **Field of Classification Search** 709/212, 709/213, 217, 232; 710/22
See application file for complete search history.

(56) **References Cited**

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

5,072,374 A * 12/1991 Sexton et al. 709/208
5,155,857 A * 10/1992 Kunisaki et al. 709/223
5,901,291 A * 5/1999 Feeney et al. 709/253
6,003,097 A * 12/1999 Richman et al. 710/8
6,775,693 B1 * 8/2004 Adams 709/213
6,865,622 B1 * 3/2005 Sethi et al. 710/22

* cited by examiner

Primary Examiner—David Y. Eng

(57) **ABSTRACT**

For client/server network connectivity, clients connect to a server at a predesignated address. With client/server connectivity, if client-to-client communication is required, even for extended duration, the server acts as an intermediary or host—clients communicate with each other through the server. Herein described are processes for altering communications patterns after an initial client-server communications session has been established, specifically data transmission paths, from the nominal client-to-client communication through server intermediary known in the prior art and described foregoing, to a communication pattern of direct client-to-client communication, possibly with one or more clients dynamically assuming a hosting role analogous to that of a server, thus directly communicating with other clients, rather than continuing to use the server in an intervening manner. Further, once direct client-to-client communication commences, continued connectivity to the server used as the original connection point may be superflous. In short, once client-server connectivity is established, clients may communicate directly client-to-client, or dynamically act as hosts for other clients.

28 Claims, 7 Drawing Sheets
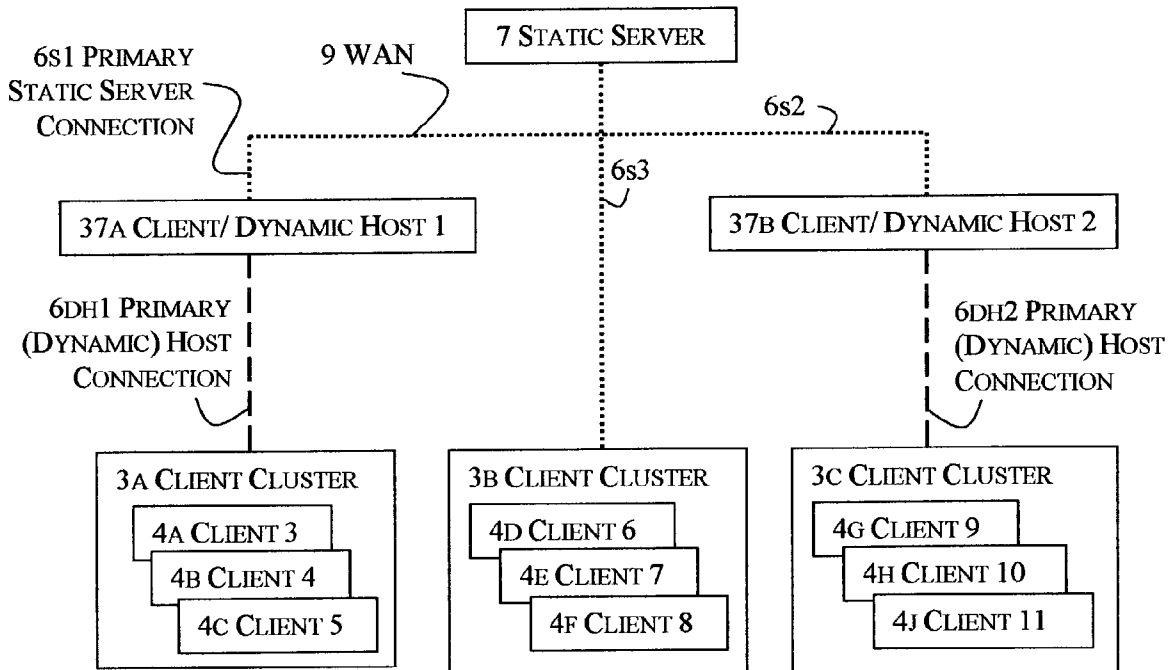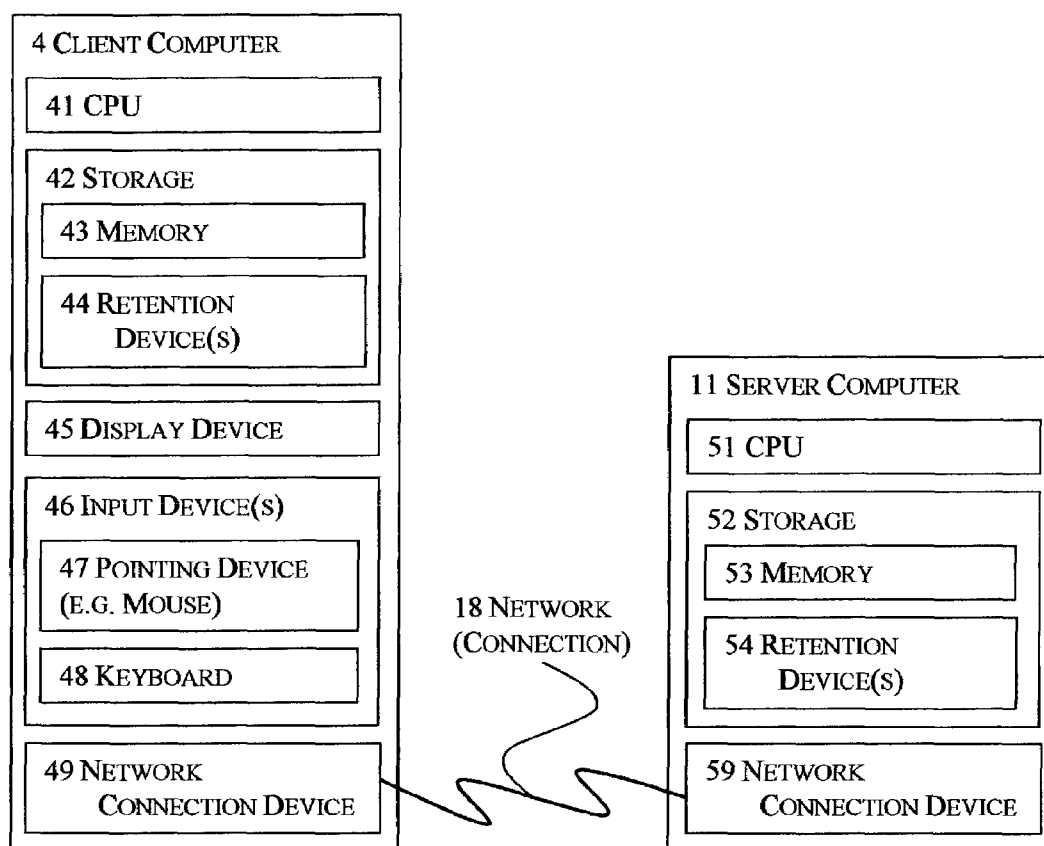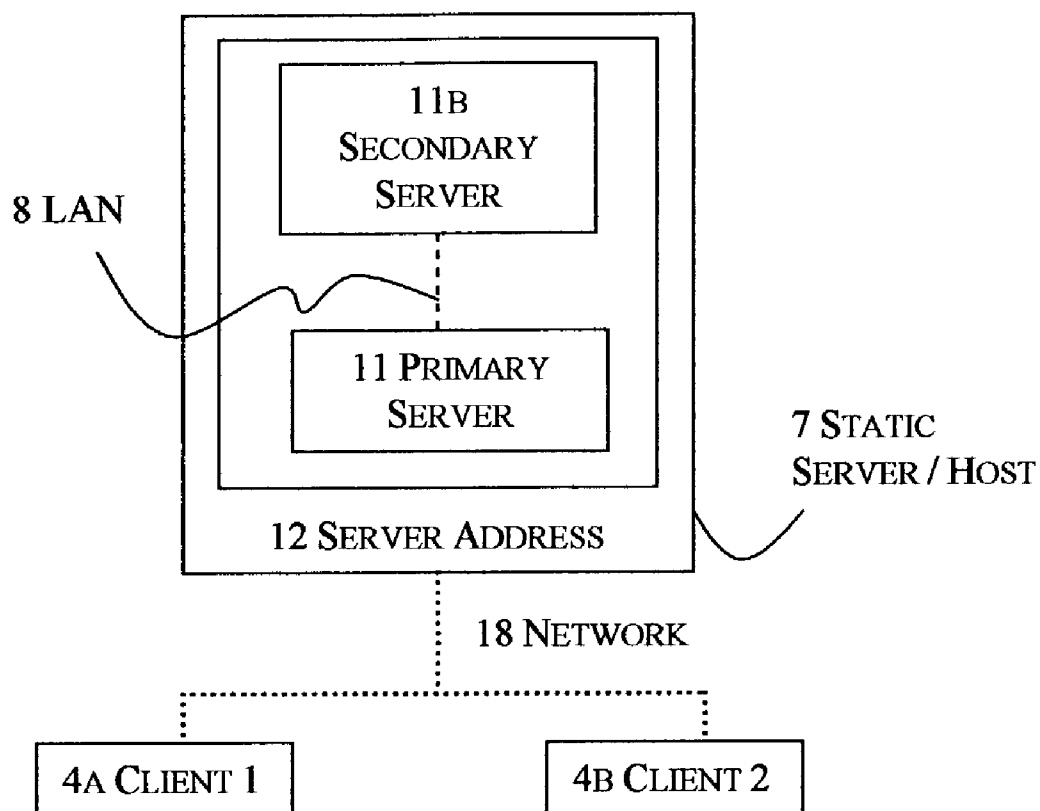
FIGURE 1 : NETWORKED COMPUTERS
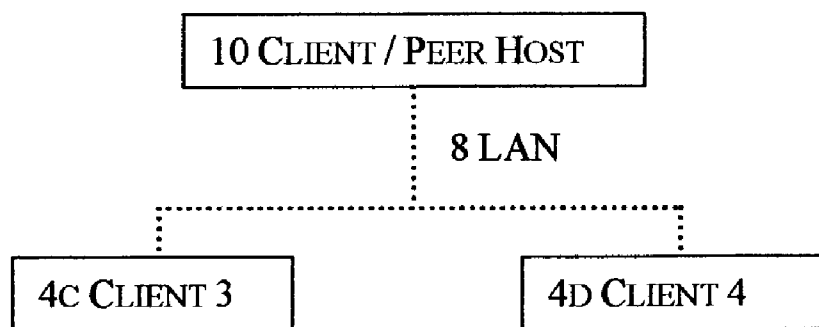
FIGURE 2 : CLIENT-SERVER (PRIOR ART)

FIGURE 3 : PEER-TO-PEER SERVER (PRIOR ART)

20 CLIENTS CONNECT TO STATIC HOST

21 CREATE CLIENT CLUSTER

22 OFFLOAD: ASSIGN DYNAMIC HOST

23 ASSIGN CLIENT CLUSTER TO DYNAMIC HOST

24 ASSIGN BACKUP HOST(S)

25 CLUSTER CLIENTS SWITCH TO DYNAMIC HOST AS PRIMARY HOST
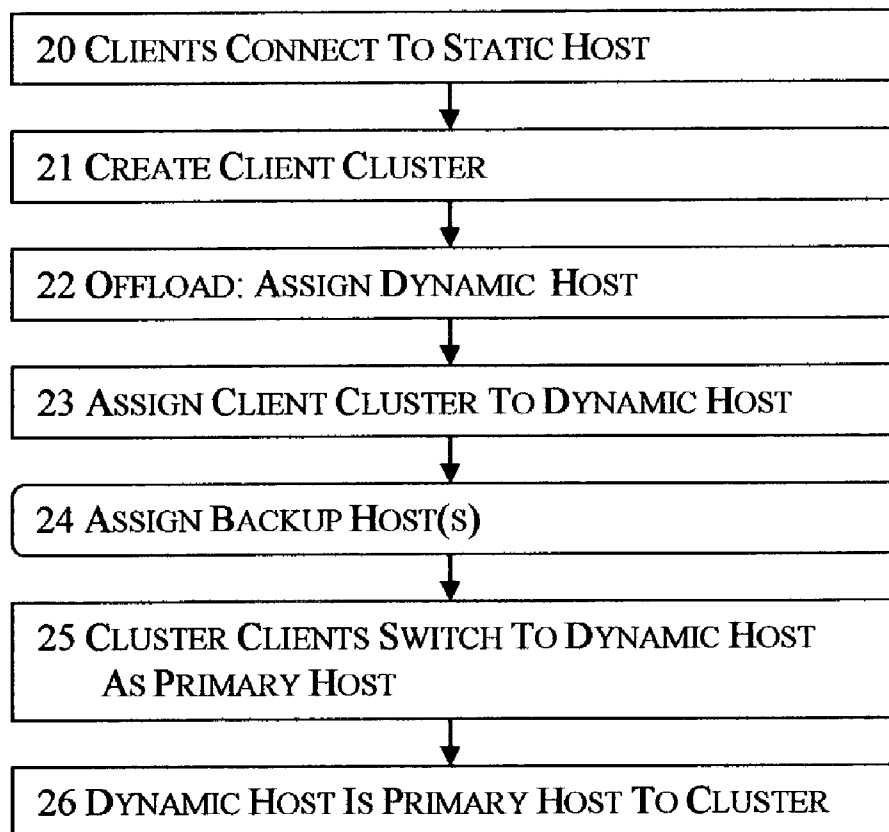
26 DYNAMIC HOST IS PRIMARY HOST TO CLUSTER

FIGURE 4 : DYNAMIC HOSTING - OFFLOAD METHOD (19)

DOCKET ALARM

Explore Litigation Insights

Docket Alarm provides insights to develop a more informed litigation strategy and the peace of mind of knowing you're on top of things.

Real-Time Litigation Alerts

Keep your litigation team up-to-date with **real-time alerts** and advanced team management tools built for the enterprise, all while greatly reducing PACER spend.

Our comprehensive service means we can handle Federal, State, and Administrative courts across the country.

Advanced Docket Research

With over 230 million records, Docket Alarm's cloud-native docket research platform finds what other services can't. Coverage includes Federal, State, plus PTAB, TTAB, ITC and NLRB decisions, all in one place.

Identify arguments that have been successful in the past with full text, pinpoint searching. Link to case law cited within any court document via Fastcase.

Analytics At Your Fingertips

Learn what happened the last time a particular judge, opposing counsel or company faced cases similar to yours.

Advanced out-of-the-box PTAB and TTAB analytics are always at your fingertips.

API

Docket Alarm offers a powerful API (application programming interface) to developers that want to integrate case filings into their apps.

LAW FIRMS
Build custom dashboards for your attorneys and clients with live data direct from the court.

Automate many repetitive legal tasks like conflict checks, document management, and marketing.

FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS
Litigation and bankruptcy checks for companies and debtors.

E-DISCOVERY AND LEGAL VENDORS
Sync your system to PACER to automate legal marketing.