

# EXHIBIT A

(12) **United States Patent**  
**Cao et al.**

(10) **Patent No.:** **US 6,446,004 B1**  
(45) **Date of Patent:** **Sep. 3, 2002**

- (54) **SYSTEM AND METHOD FOR IMPLEMENTING PROXIMITY OR LOCATION DRIVEN ACTIVITIES**
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**Daniel Alexander Ford**, Los Gatos;  
**Reiner Kraft**, Gilroy, both of CA (US)
- (73) Assignee: **International Business Machines Corporation**, Armonk, NY (US)
- (\*) Notice: Subject to any disclaimer, the term of this patent is extended or adjusted under 35 U.S.C. 154(b) by 0 days.

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- (21) Appl. No.: **09/796,864**
- (22) Filed: **Feb. 28, 2001**
- (51) **Int. Cl.**<sup>7</sup> ..... **G01C 21/00**
- (52) **U.S. Cl.** ..... **701/213; 701/211; 340/995**
- (58) **Field of Search** ..... **701/211, 213, 701/300; 342/357, 457; 340/995, 996**
- (56) **References Cited**

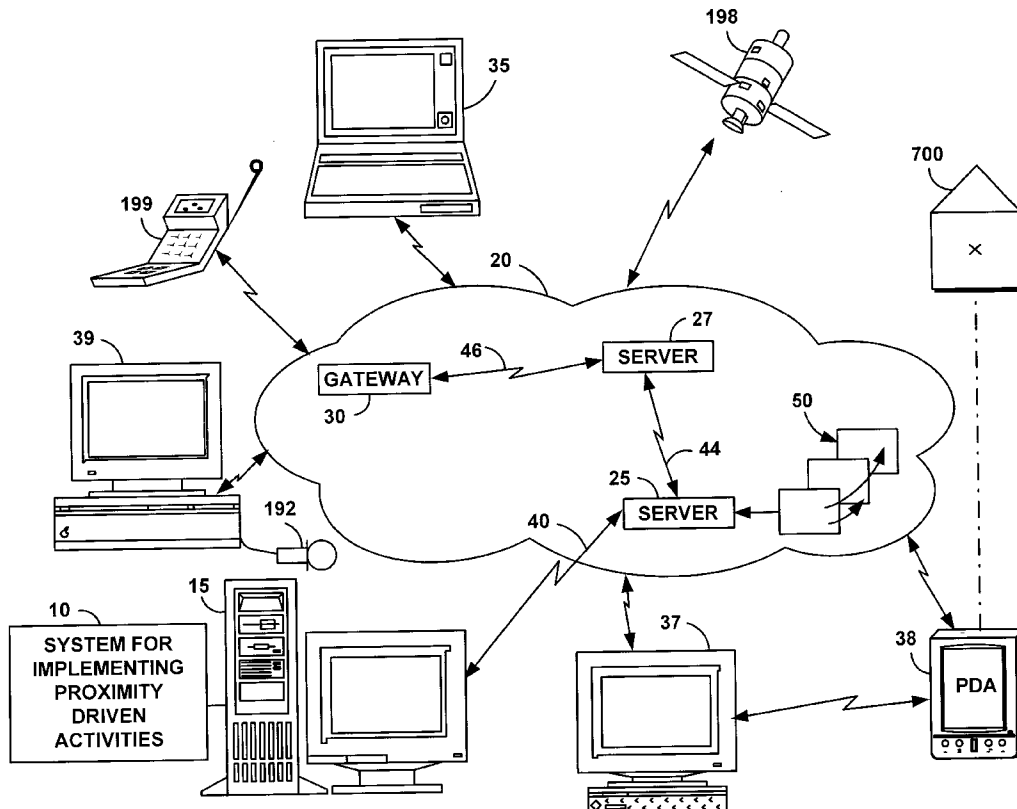
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(57) **ABSTRACT**

A system and associated method that allow particular requests to be executed at some point in the future without specifying the exact time or necessarily a precise location. The execution time of the request is linked to the arrival of a person or object at, or near a geographic destination location. When a person, an object, or a group of persons or objects, arrives at the destination location, or comes close to it, the request to interact will be executed. The proximity threshold can be adjustable or programmable.

**33 Claims, 9 Drawing Sheets**



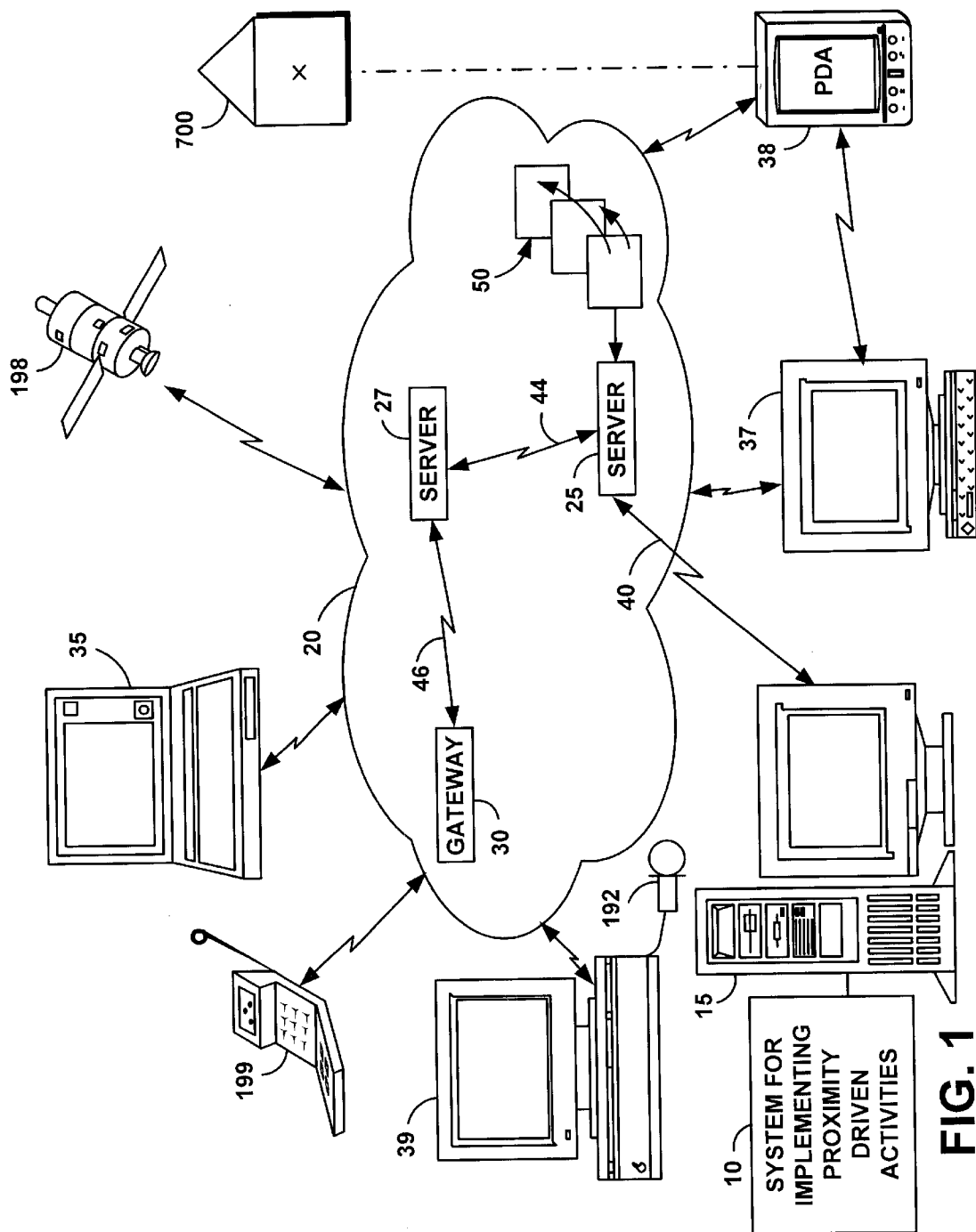


FIG. 1

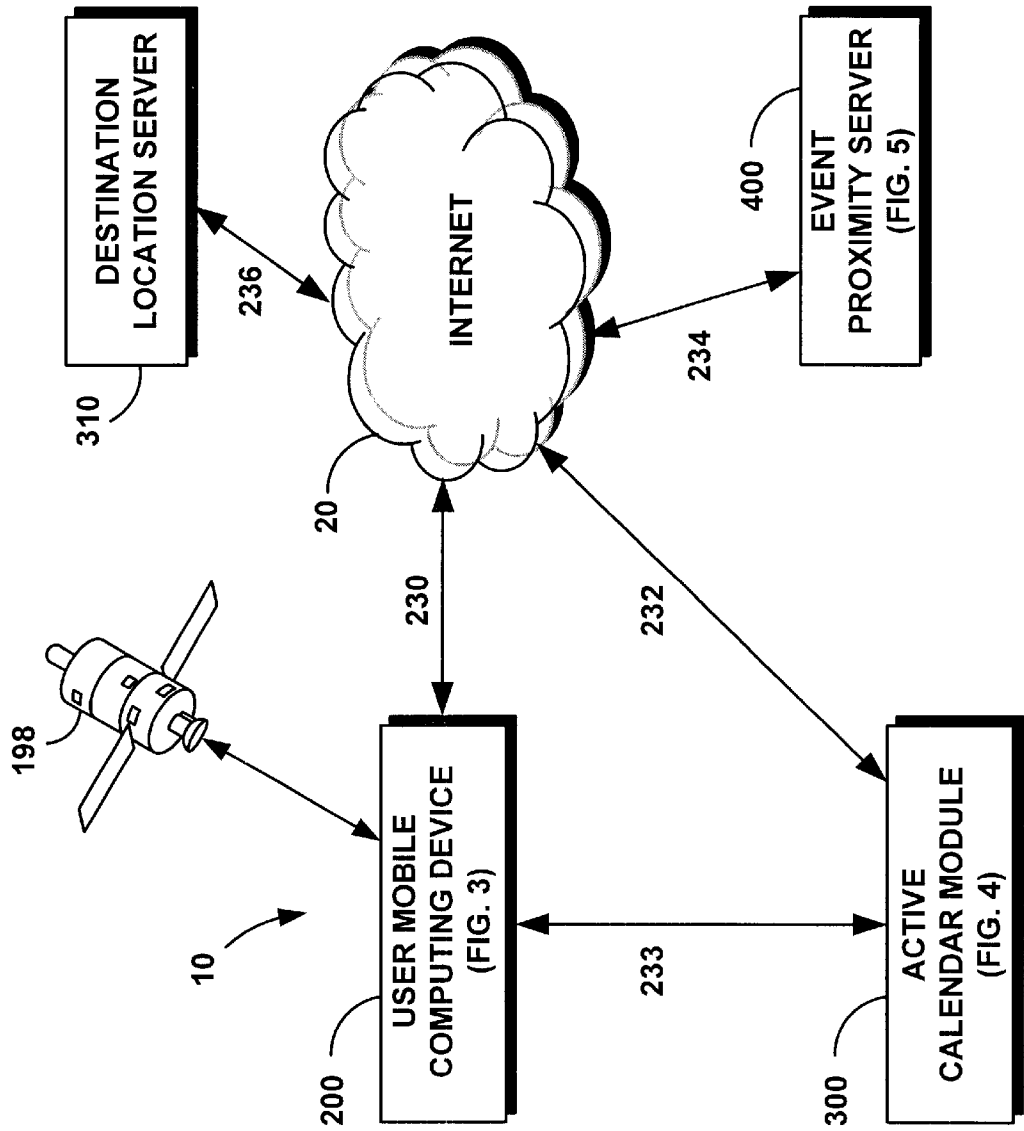


FIG. 2

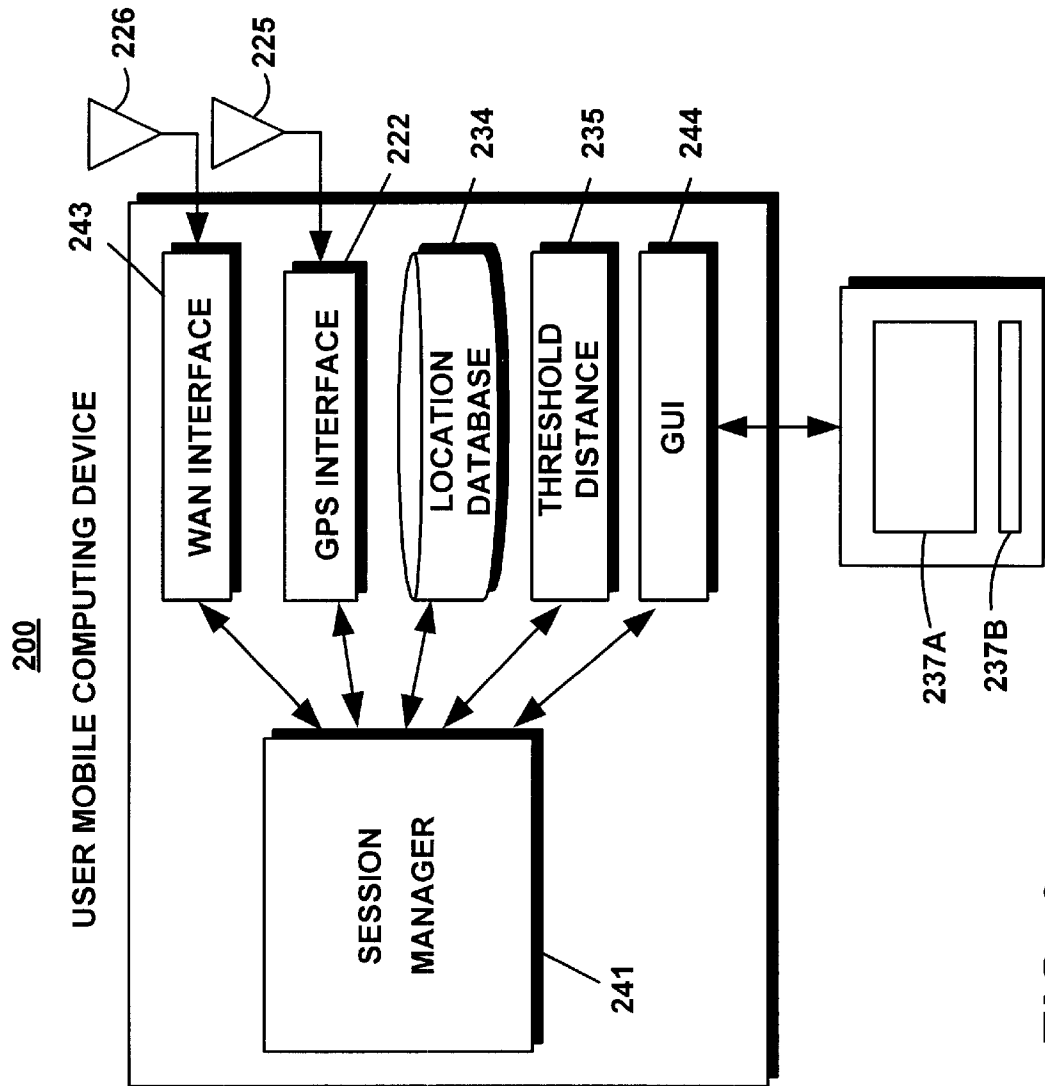


FIG. 3

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