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(54) SOCIAL NETWORKING 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 426 days.

This patent is subject to a terminal dis-

claimer.

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Related U.S. Application Data

(60) Division of application No. 12/127,495, filed on May 27, 2008, now Pat. No. 7,739,139, which is a continuation of application No. 11/022,089, filed on Dec. 22, 2004, now Pat. No. 7,386,464, which is a division of application No. 10/780,486, filed on Feb.

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See application file for complete search history.

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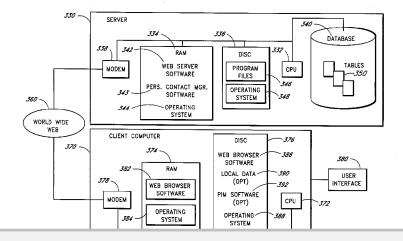
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(57) ABSTRACT

A networked computer system provides various services for assisting users in locating, and establishing contact relationships with, other users. For example, in one embodiment, users can identify other users based on their affiliations with particular schools or other organizations. The system also provides a mechanism for a user to selectively establish contact relationships or connections with other users, and to grant permissions for such other users to view personal information of the user. The system may also include features for enabling users to identify contacts of their respective contacts. In addition, the system may automatically notify users of personal information updates made by their respective contacts.

18 Claims, 14 Drawing Sheets





Related U.S. Application Data

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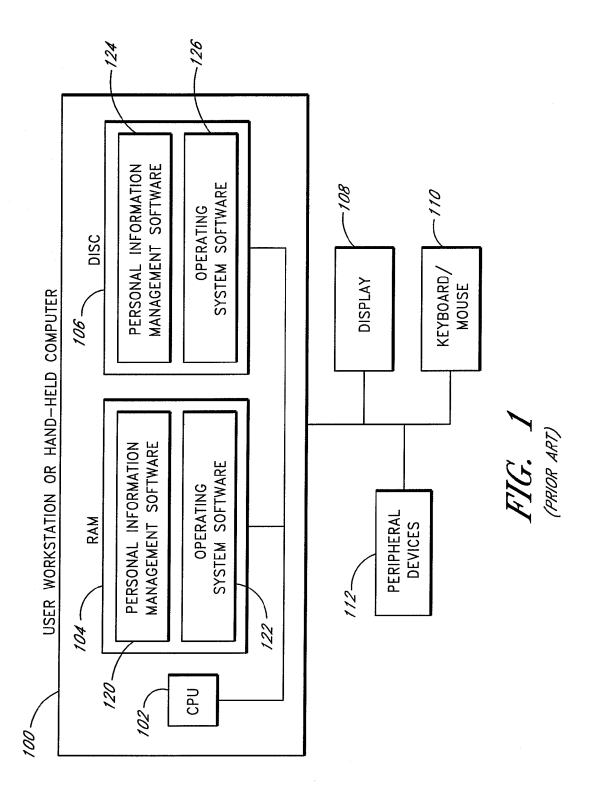
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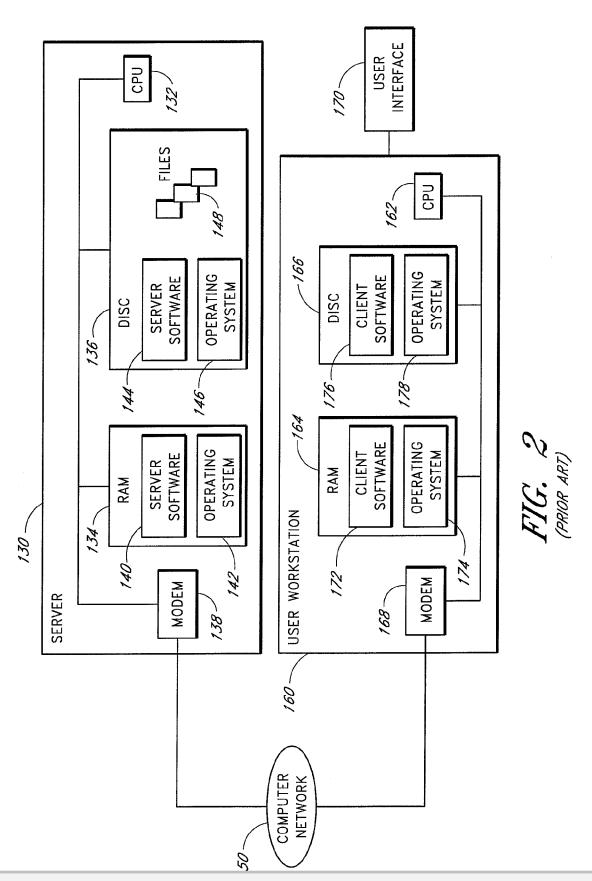
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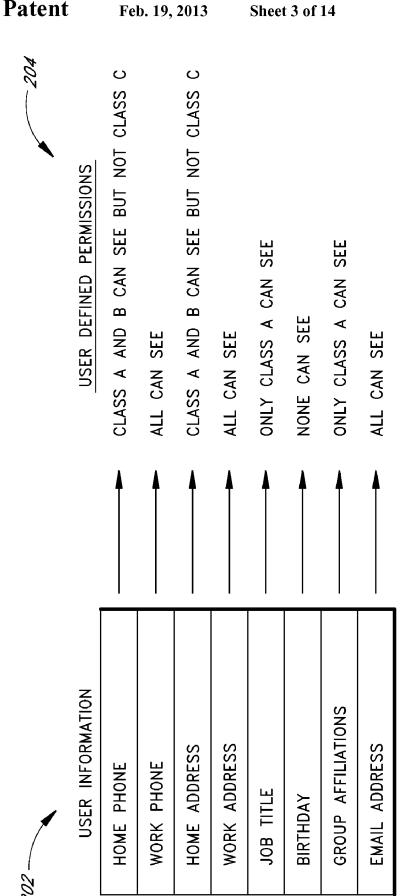


FIG. 3 (PRIOR ART)

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