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Robertson et al.

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(54) **SOCIAL NETWORKING SYSTEM**

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(US)

(*) 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

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27, 2008, now Pat. No. 7,739,139, which is a
continuation of application No. 11/022,089, filed on
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G06F 15/16 (2006.01)

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(58) **Field of Classification Search** **709/206,**
709/204, 205, 207

See application file for complete search history.

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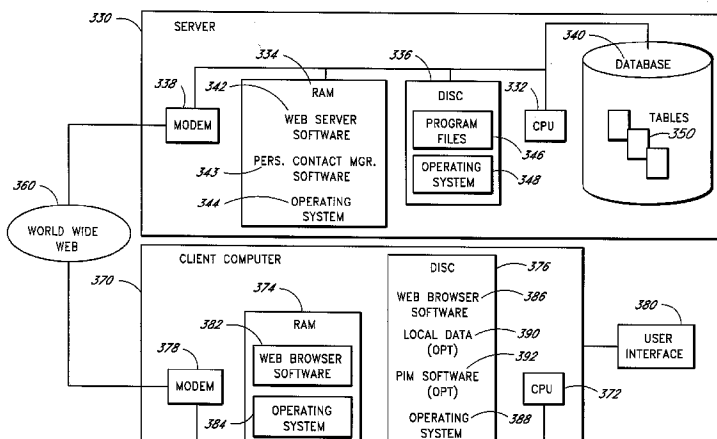
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Bear LLP

(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

17, 2004, now Pat. No. 7,194,419, which is a continuation of application No. 09/348,355, filed on Jul. 7, 1999, now Pat. No. 6,714,916, which is a continuation of application No. 08/962,997, filed on Nov. 2, 1997, now Pat. No. 6,269,369.

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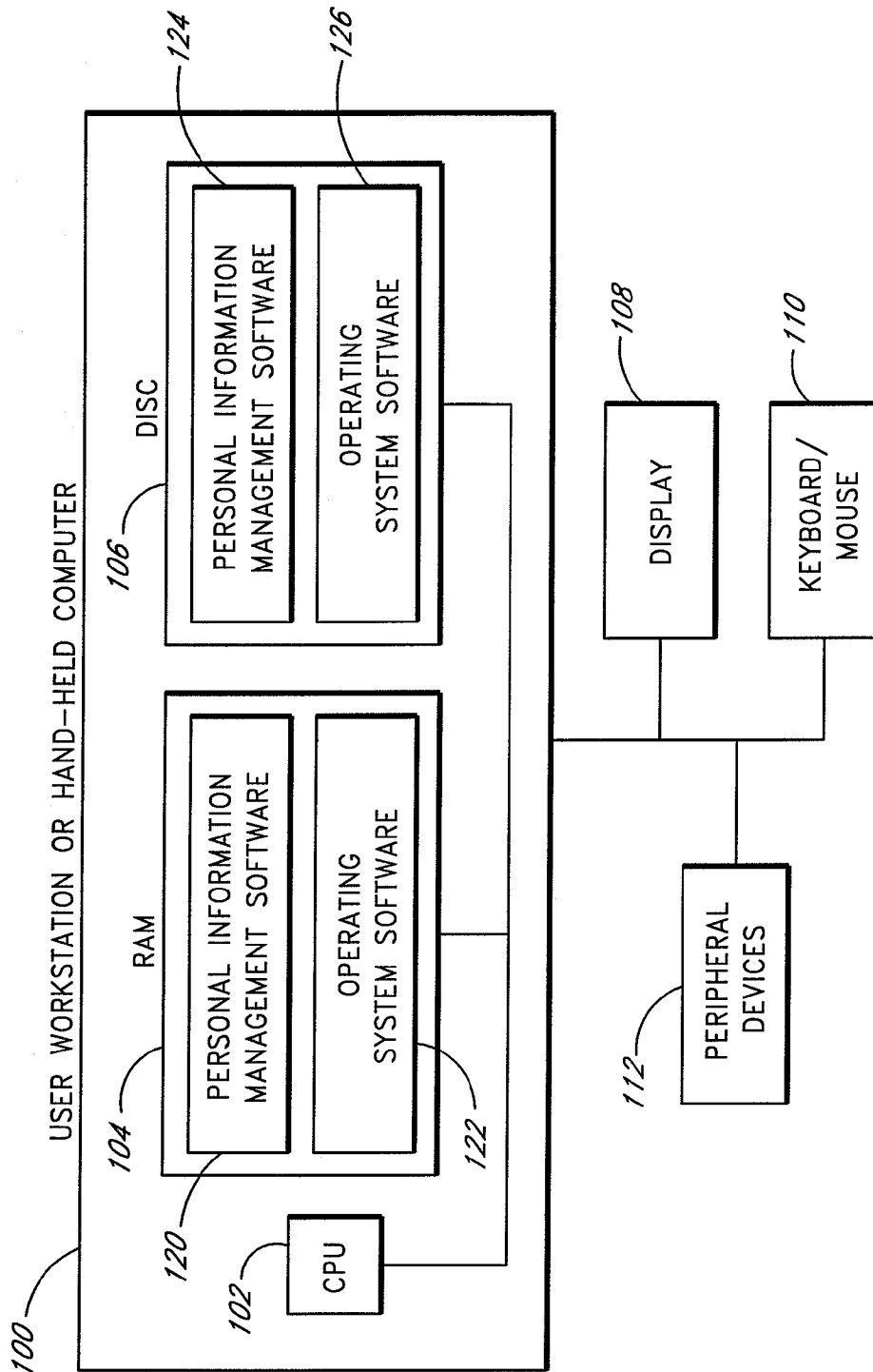


FIG. 1
(PRIOR ART)

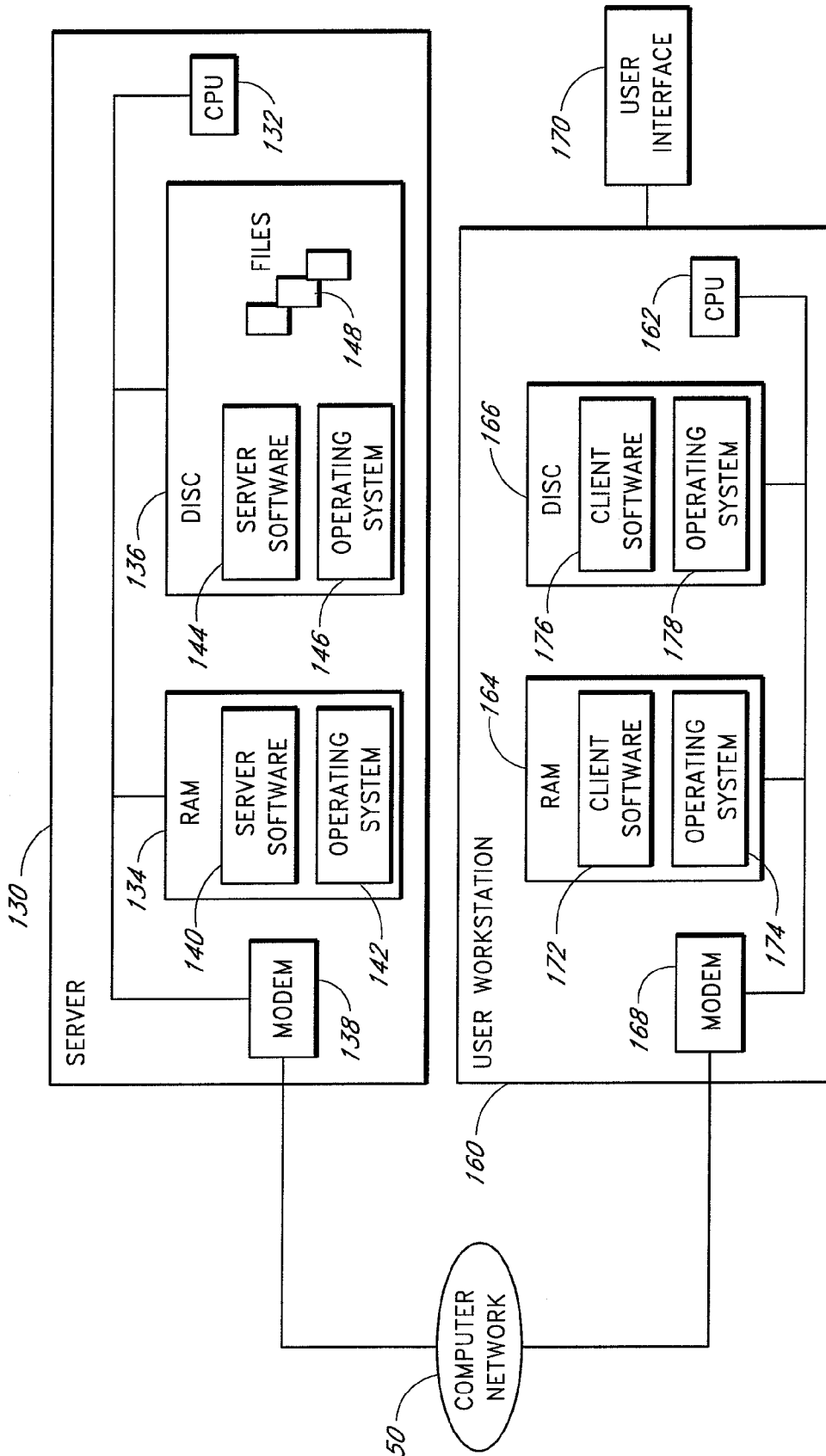


FIG. 2
(PRIOR ART)

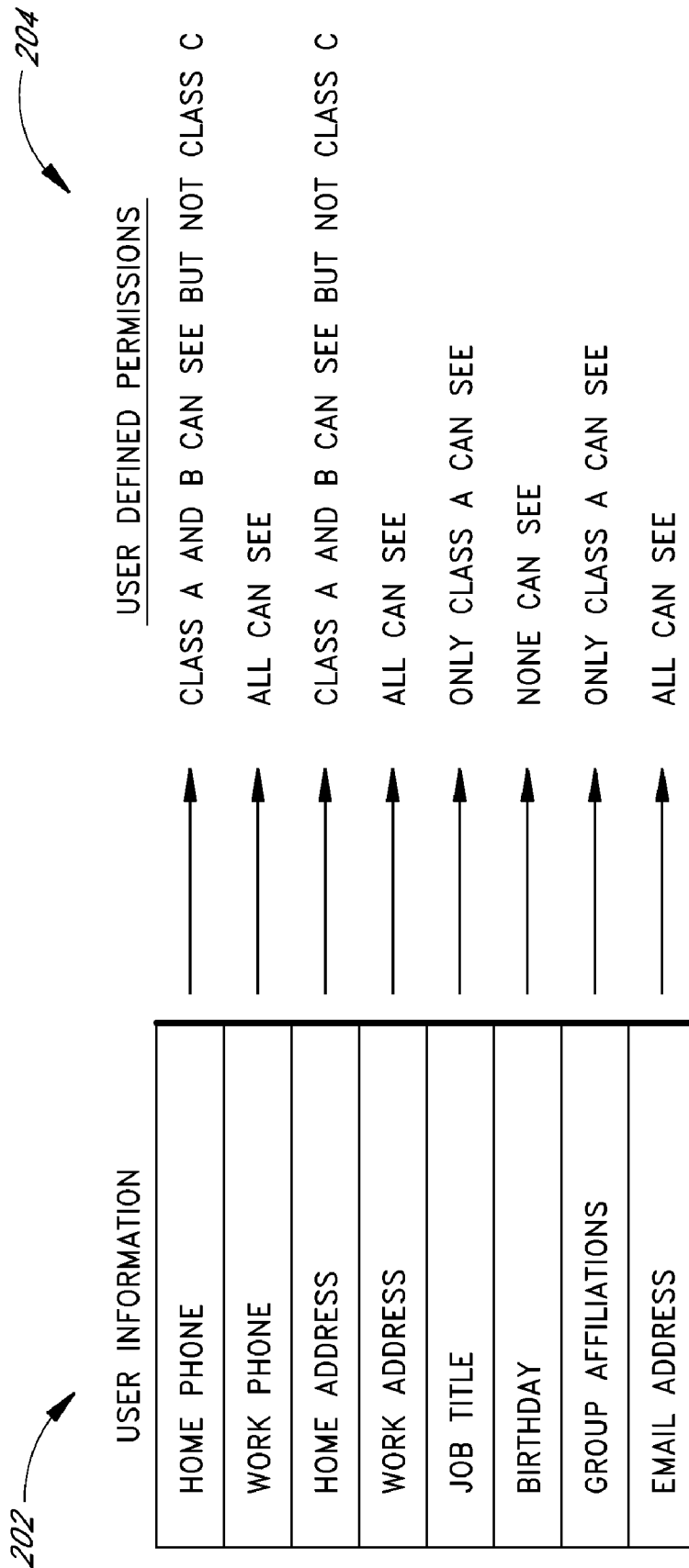


FIG. 3
(PRIOR ART)

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