

EXHIBIT A



US006446004B1

(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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(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.

* cited by examiner

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(21) Appl. No.: **09/796,864**

(22) Filed: **Feb. 28, 2001**

(51) **Int. Cl.**⁷ **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**

(57) **ABSTRACT**

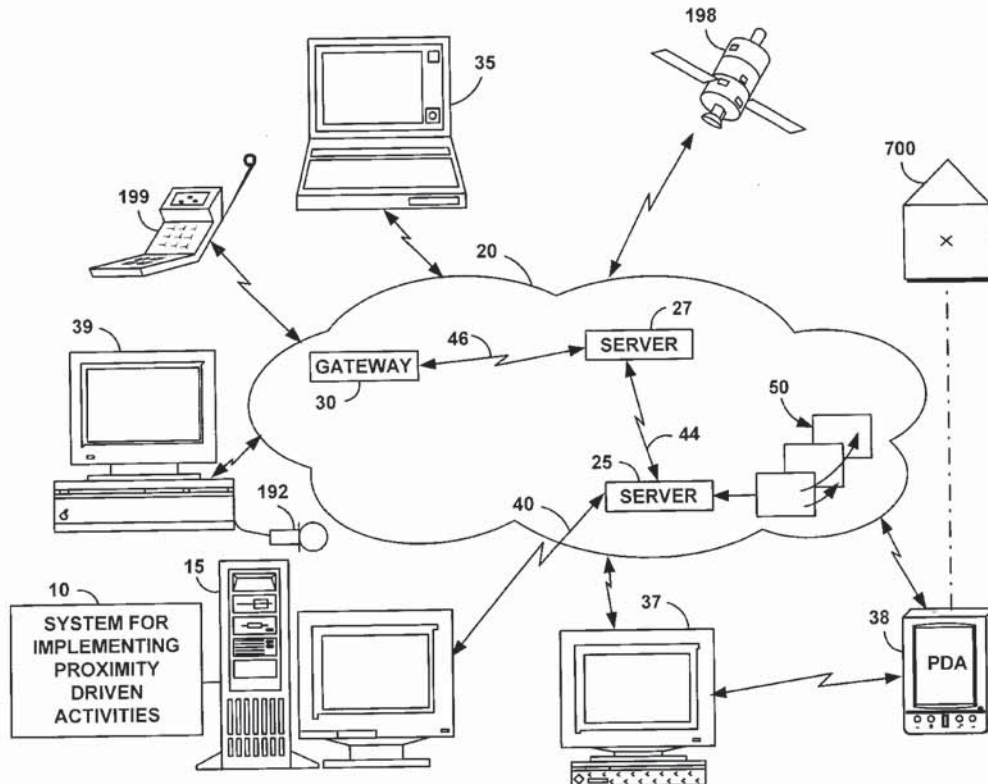
A system and associated method that allow particular requests to be executed at some point in the future without specifying the exact time or necessarily a precise location. The execution time of the request is linked to the arrival of a person or object at, or near a geographic destination location. 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.

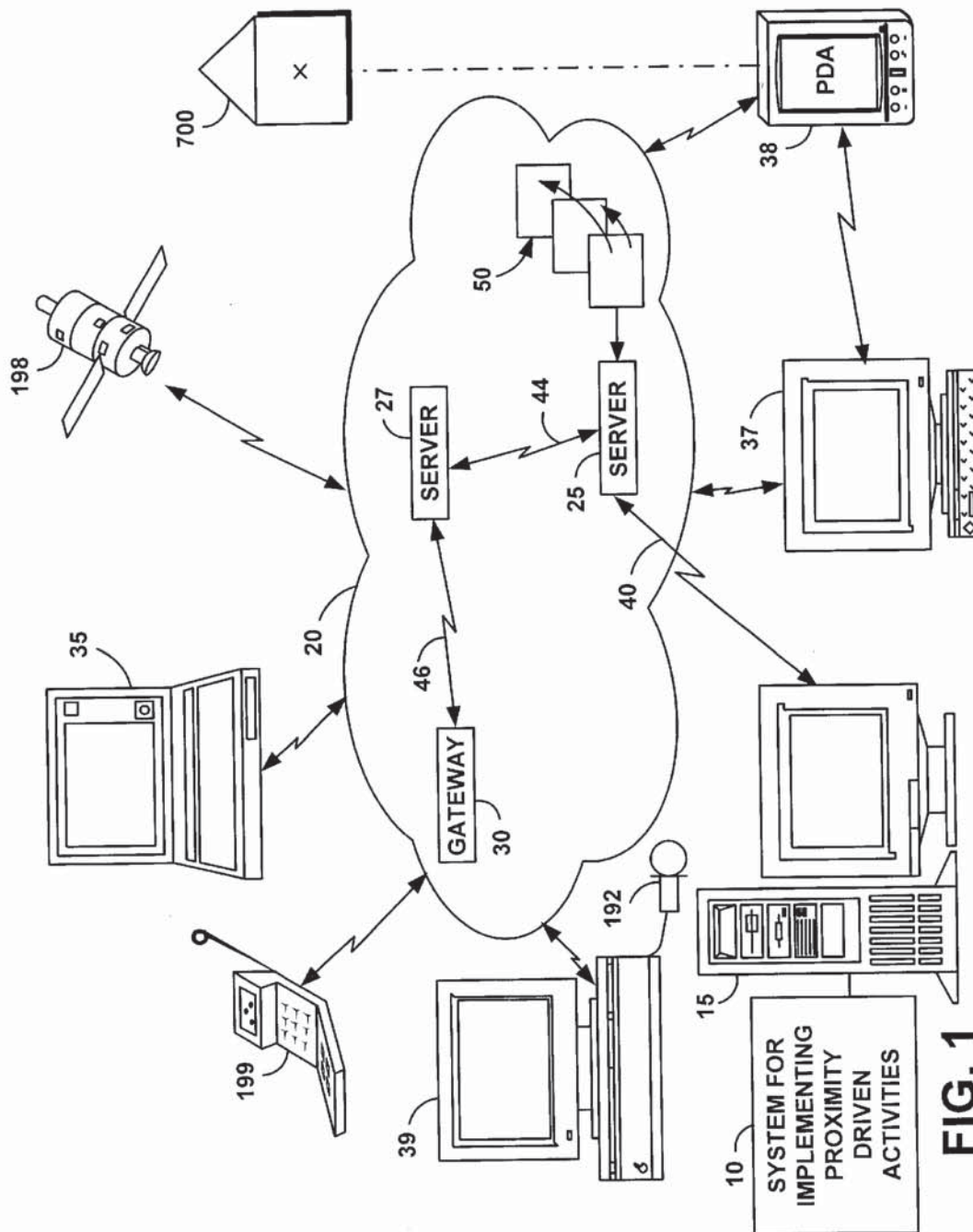
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33 Claims, 9 Drawing Sheets





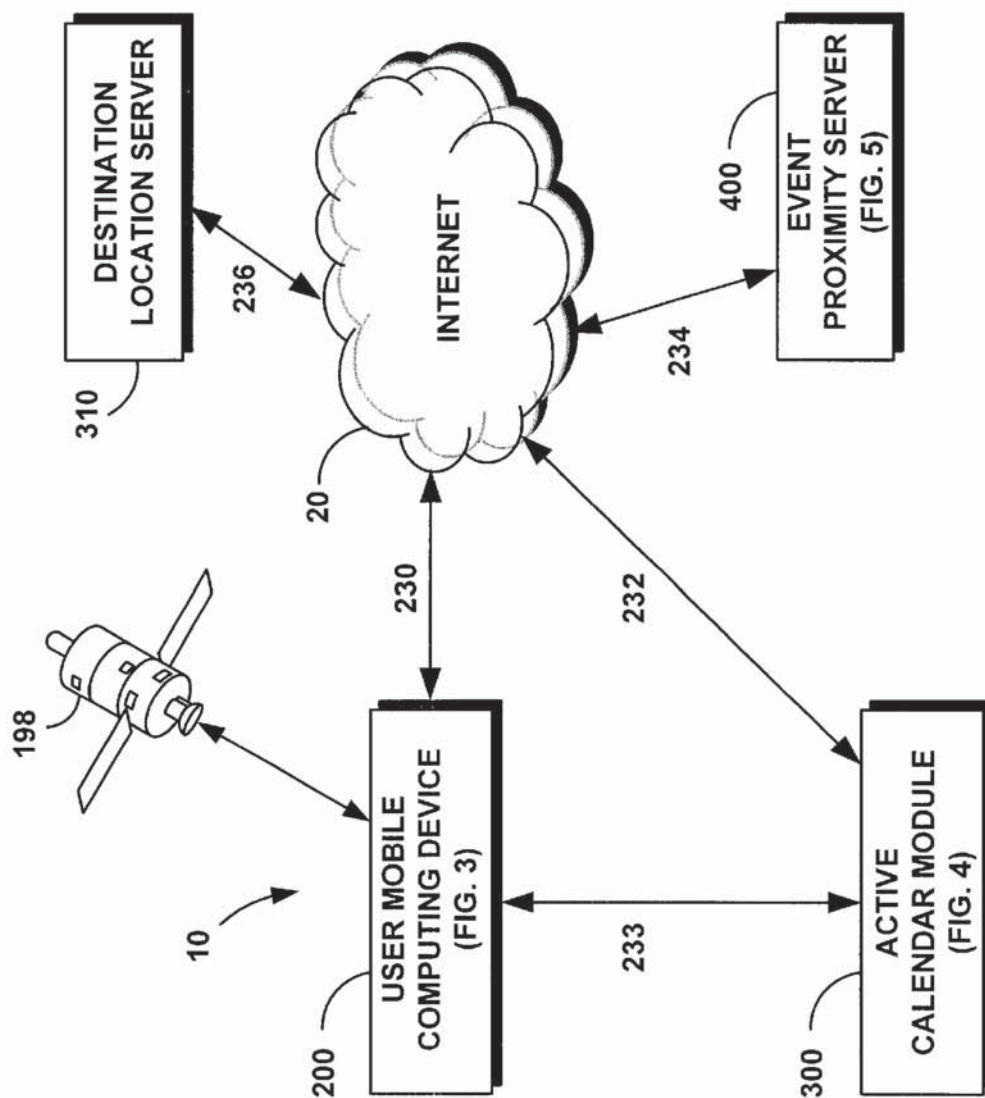


FIG. 2

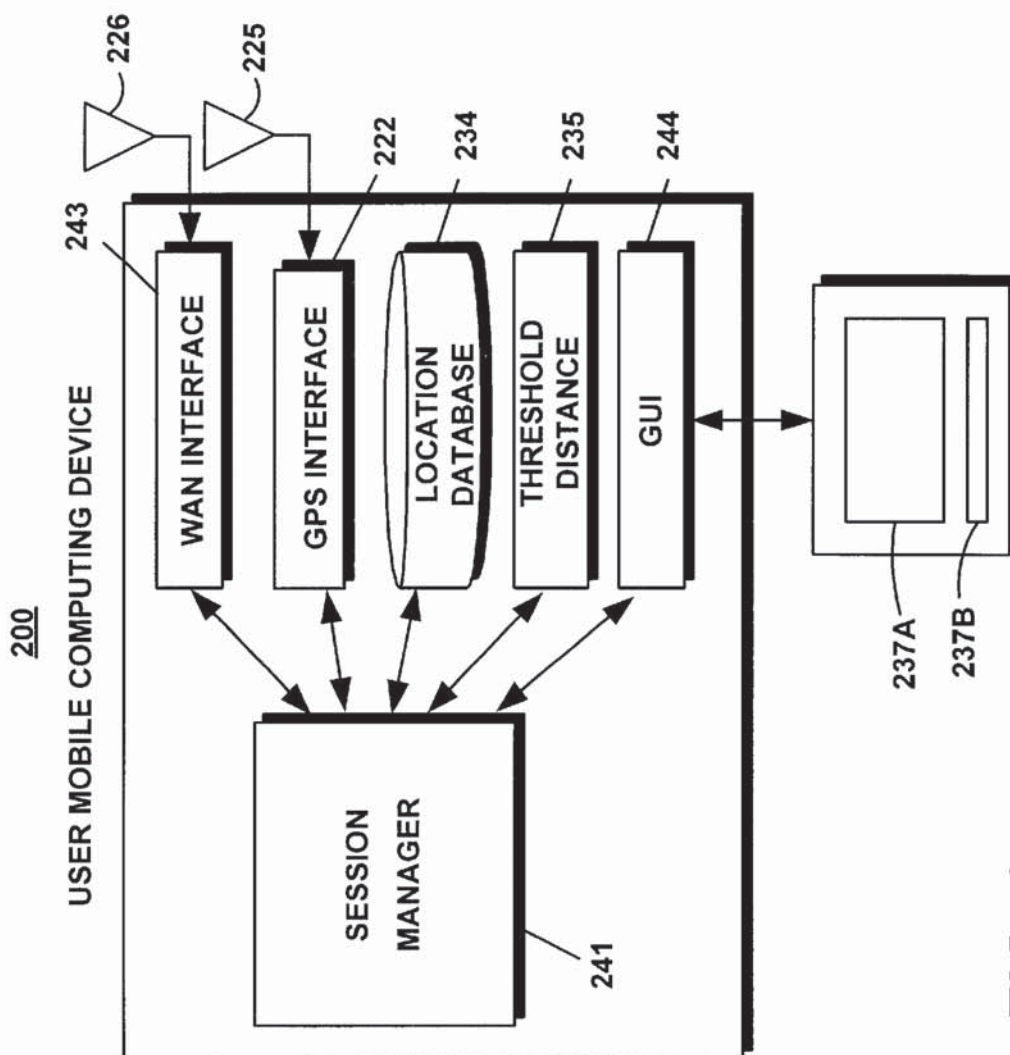


FIG. 3

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