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Burfeind et al.

(54) SYSTEMS AND METHODS FOR ORGANIZING AN EVENT AND TRACKING ATTENDANCE STATUS

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G06F 7/00 (2006.01)

(52) **U.S. Cl.** **707/1**

(57) **ABSTRACT**

A user accesses an organization device and schedules a location-specific event. The user has the option of inviting event participants, who can send to the organization device a response regarding the participation status of the invitee. The organization device tracks the participation status of each invitee. The organization device can also provide the participation status of each invitee to other invitees. In some cases, the organization device can communicate with a portable, location-aware electronic device of one or more of the invitees. In such cases, the organization device can also track and provide the arrival status of these invitees.

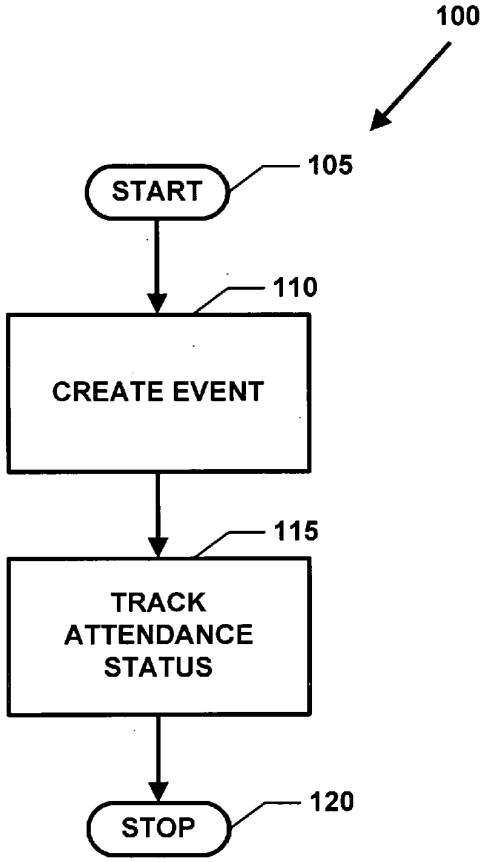
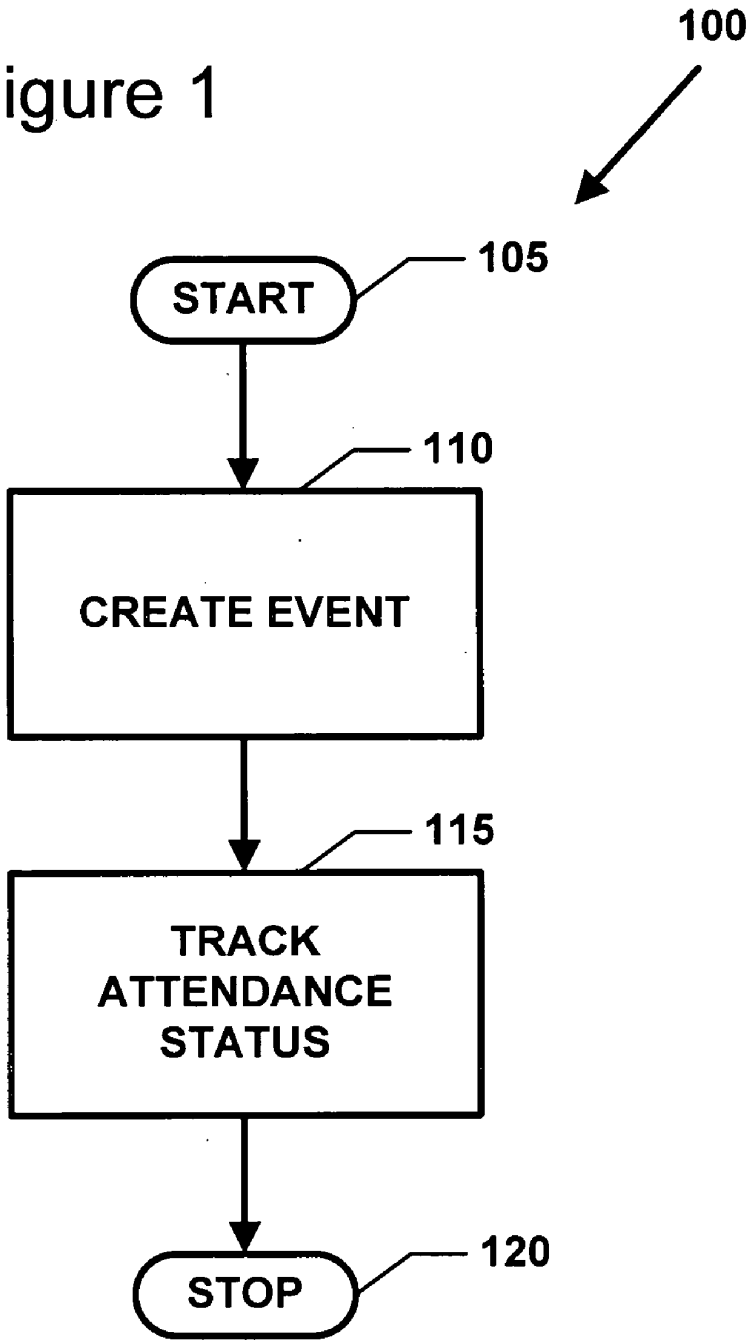


Figure 1


100
START
105
CREATE EVENT
110
TRACK ATTENDANCE STATUS
115
STOP
120

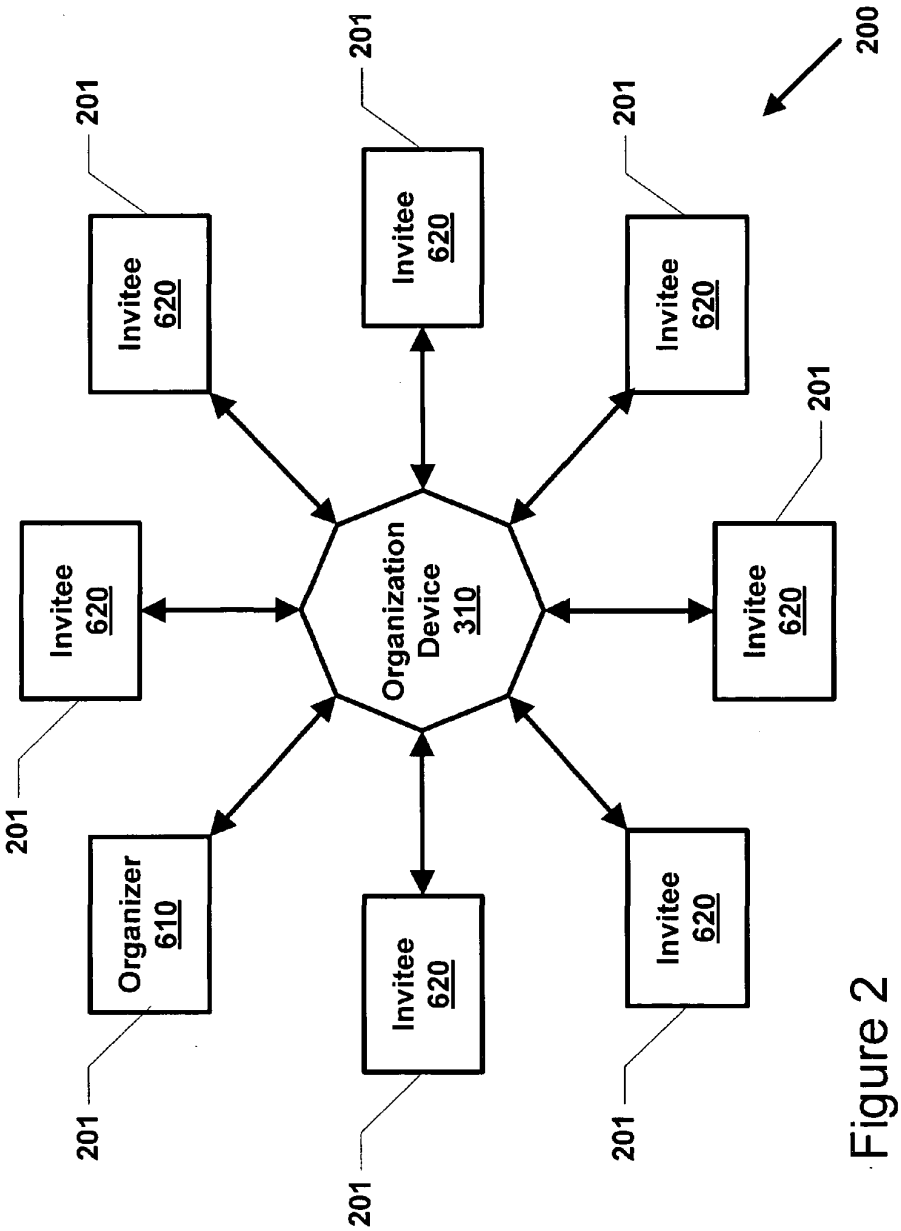


Figure 2

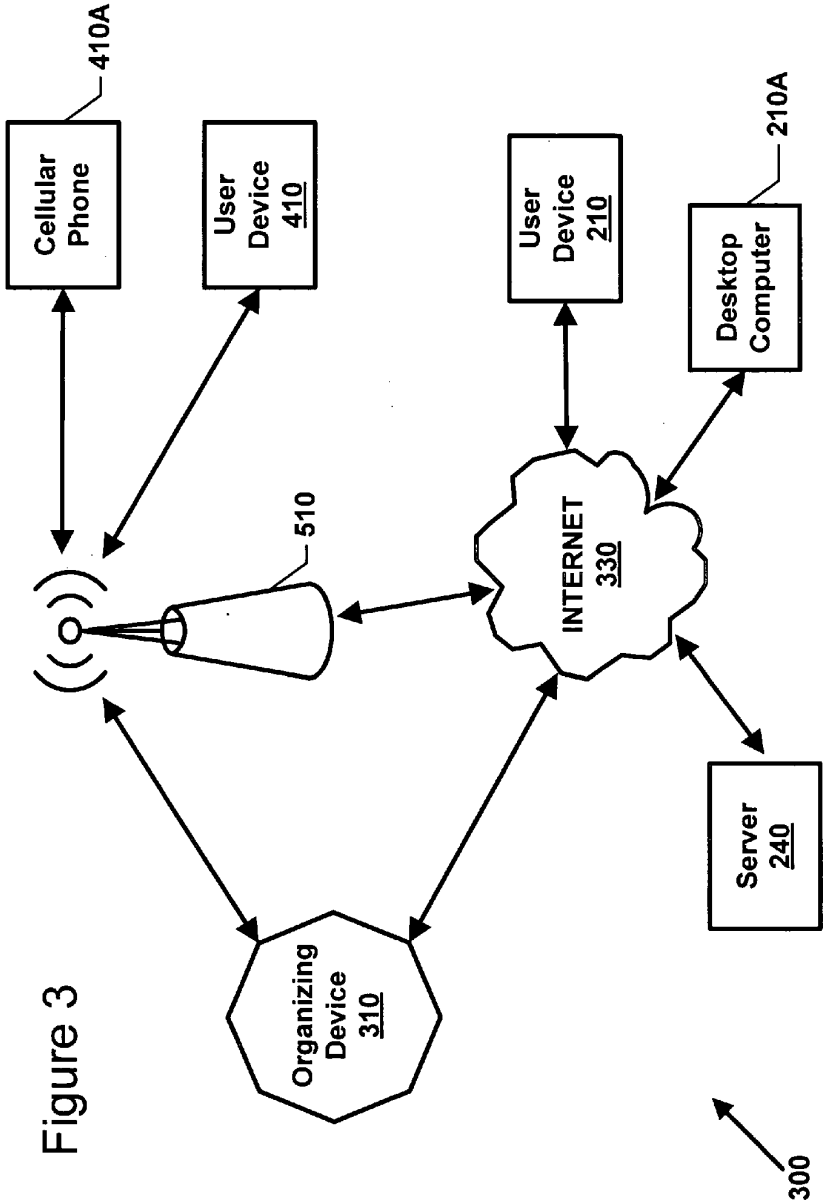
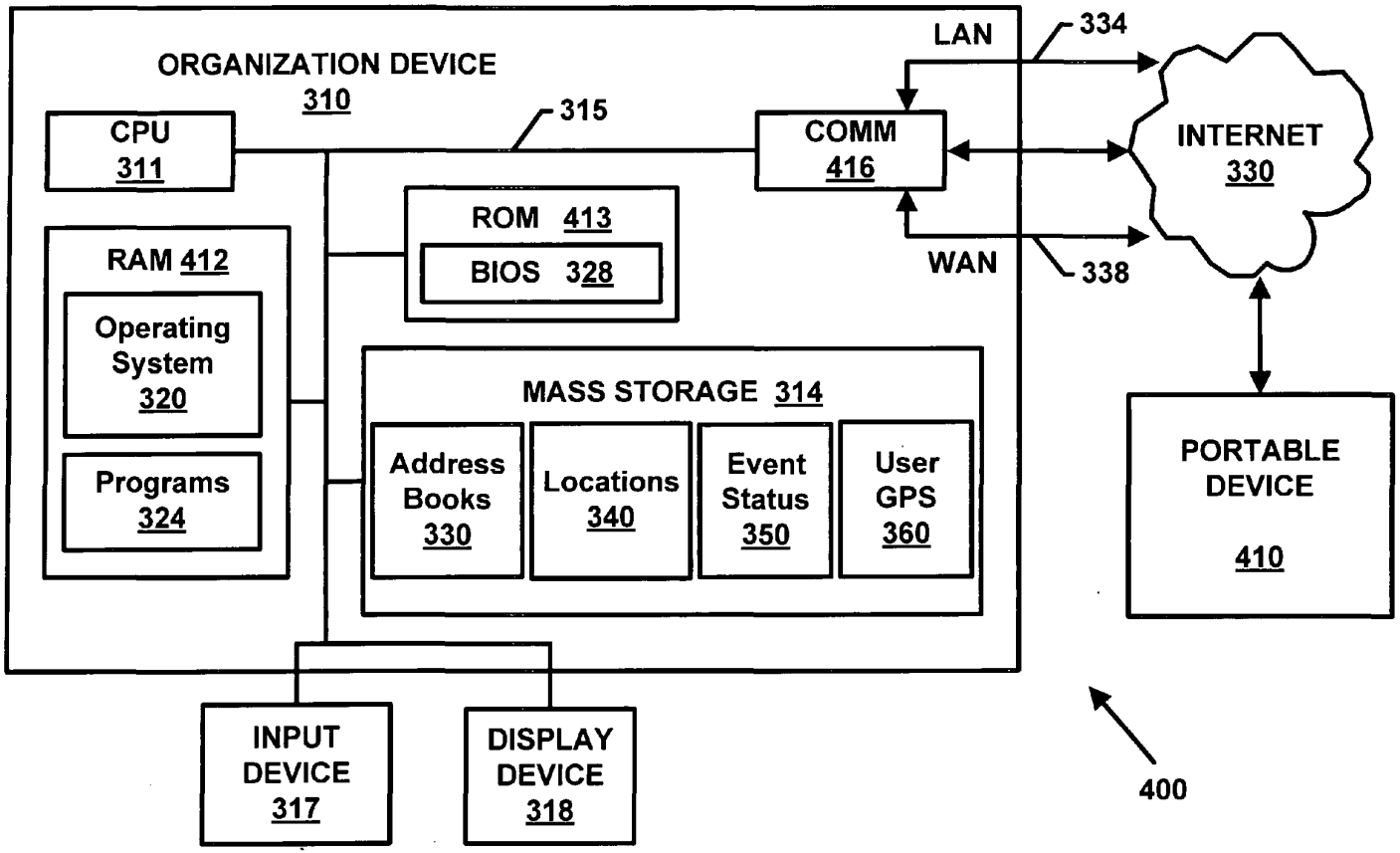

Cellular Phone
410A
User Device 410
User Device 210
Desktop Computer
210A
510
INTERNET 330
Server 240
Organizing Device 310
300

Figure 3

Figure 4


ORGANIZATION DEVICE
310
CPU
311
315
COMM
416
LAN
334
INTERNET
330
WAN
338
ROM 413
BIOS 328
RAM 412
Operating System
320
Programs
324
MASS STORAGE 314
Address Books
330
Locations
340
Event Status
350
User GPS
360
PORTABLE DEVICE
410
INPUT DEVICE
317
DISPLAY DEVICE
318
400

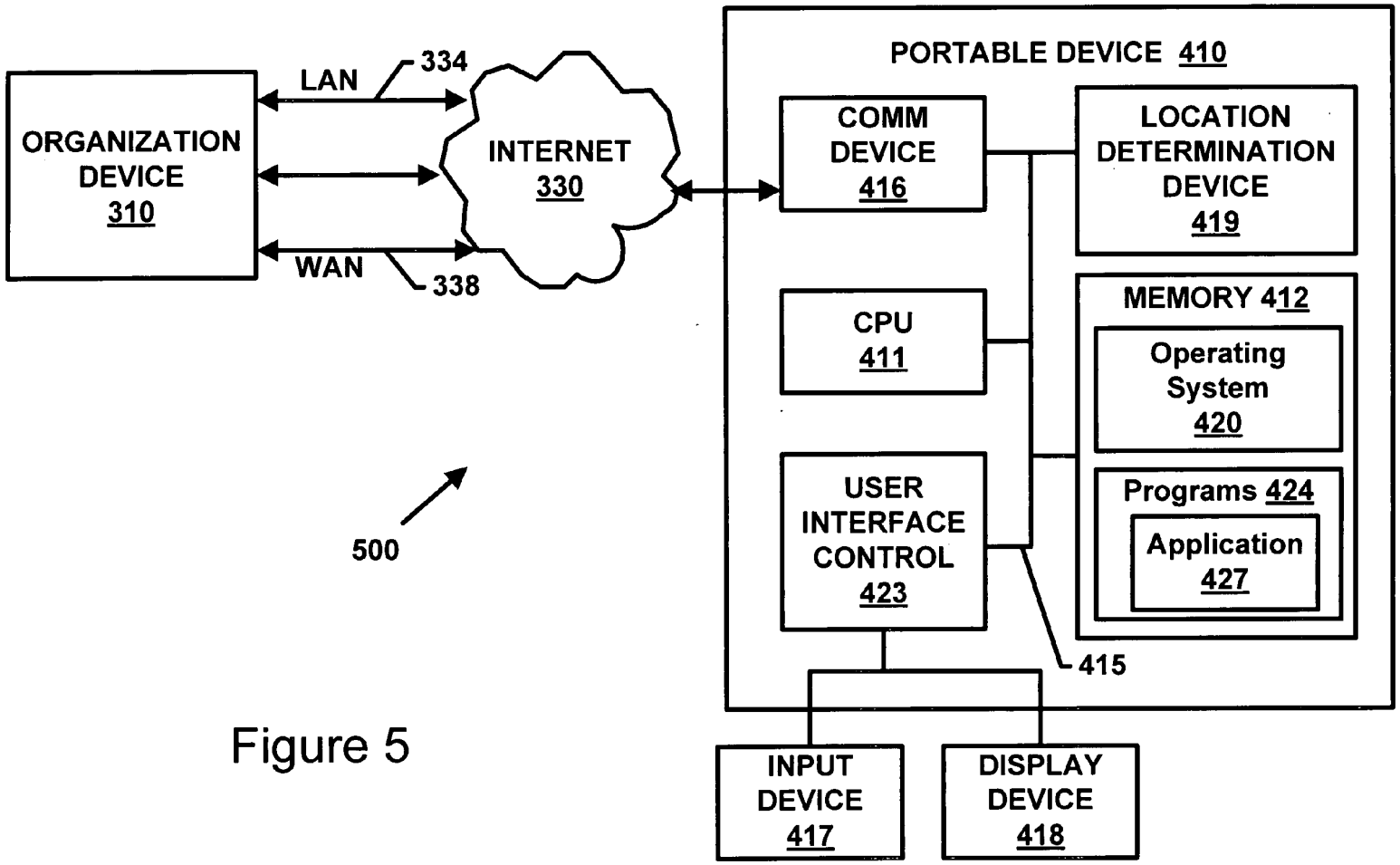

ORGANIZATION DEVICE 310
LAN
334
WAN
338
INTERNET 330
PORTABLE DEVICE 410
COMM DEVICE 416
LOCATION DETERMINATION DEVICE 419
CPU 411
MEMORY 412
Operating System 420
Programs 424
Application 427
USER INTERFACE CONTROL 423
415
INPUT DEVICE 417
DISPLAY DEVICE 418
500

Figure 5

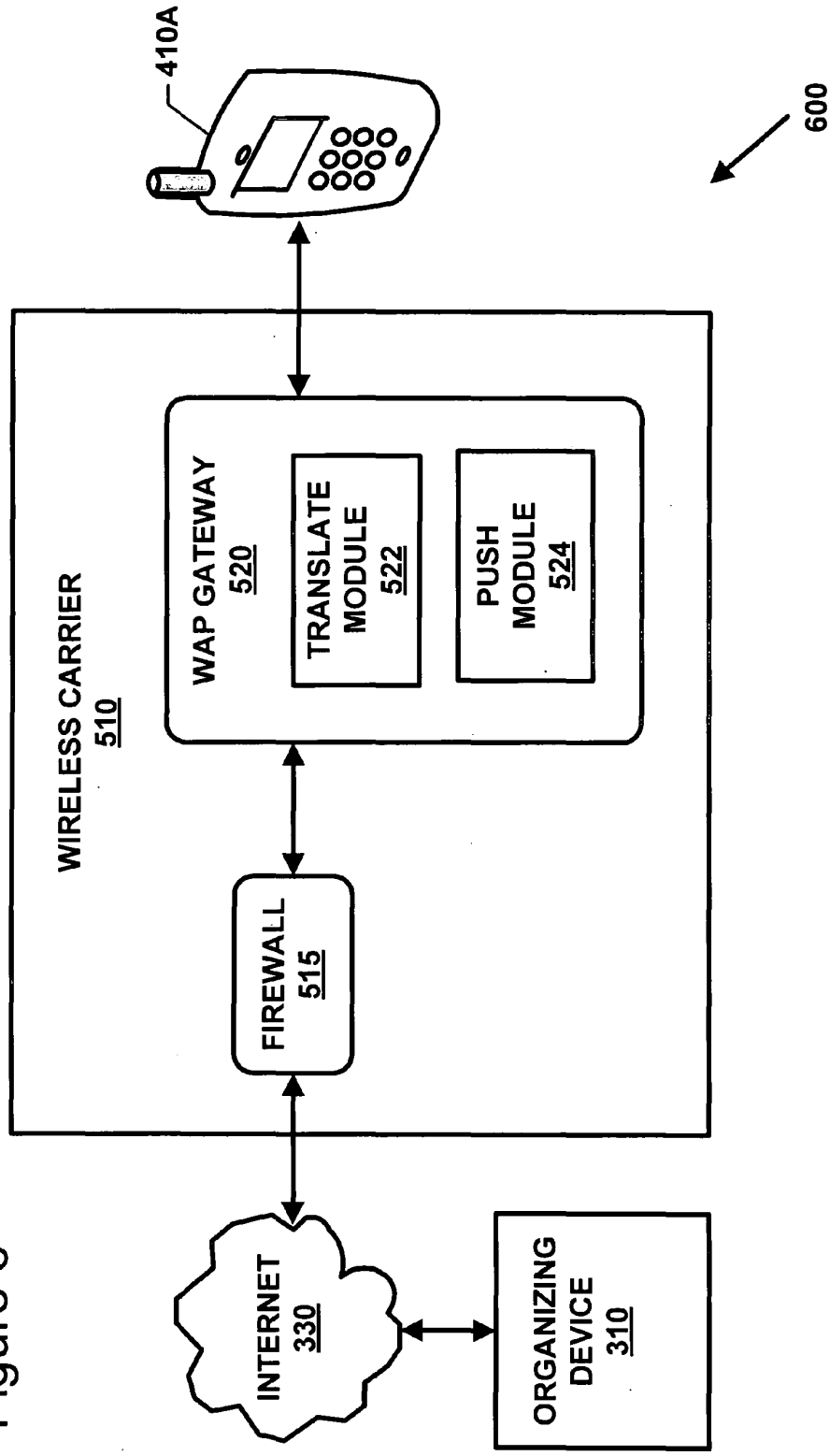

410A
600
WIRELESS CARRIER
510
WAP GATEWAY
520
TRANSLATE MODULE
522
PUSH MODULE
524
FIREWALL
515
INTERNET
330
ORGANIZING DEVICE
310

Figure 6

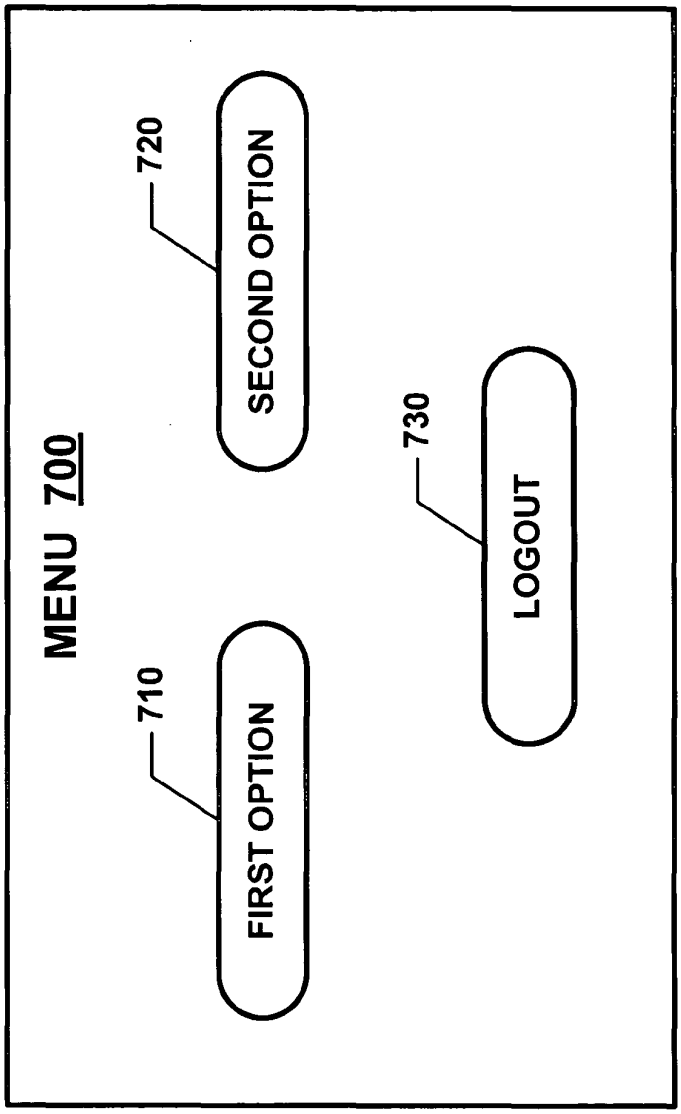


Figure 7

Figure 8

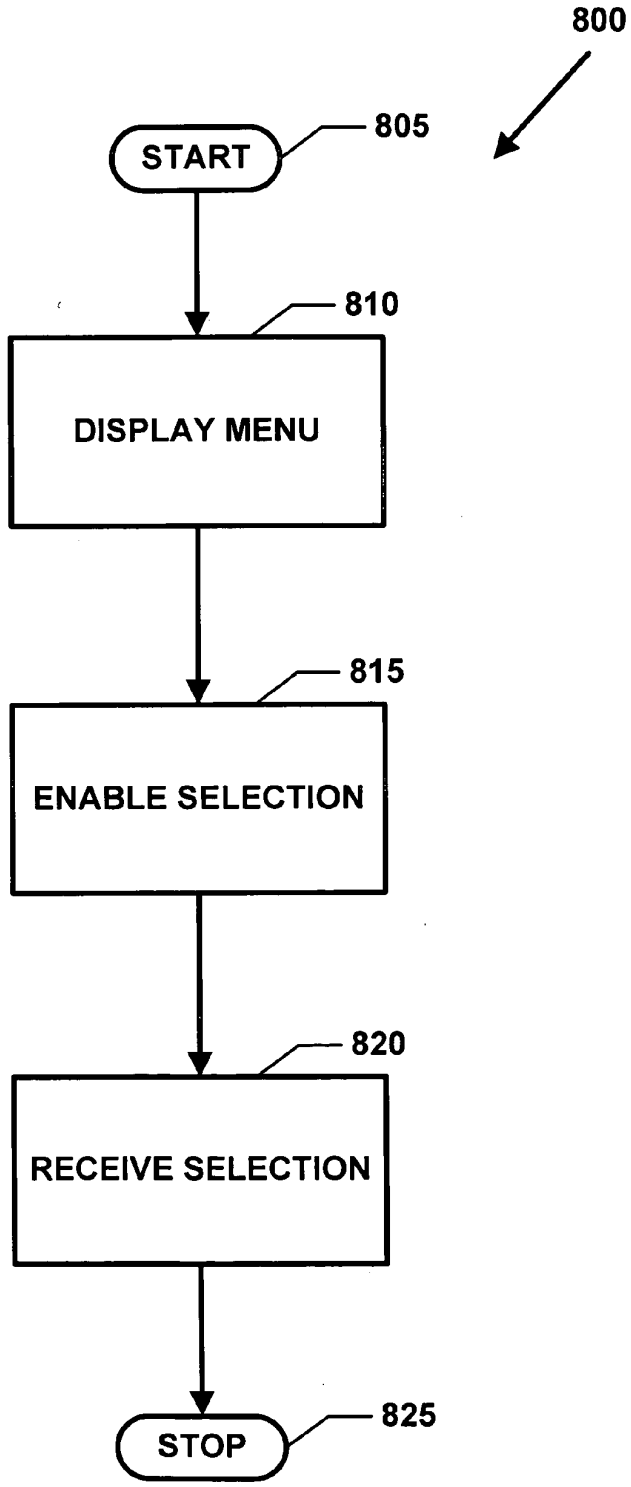
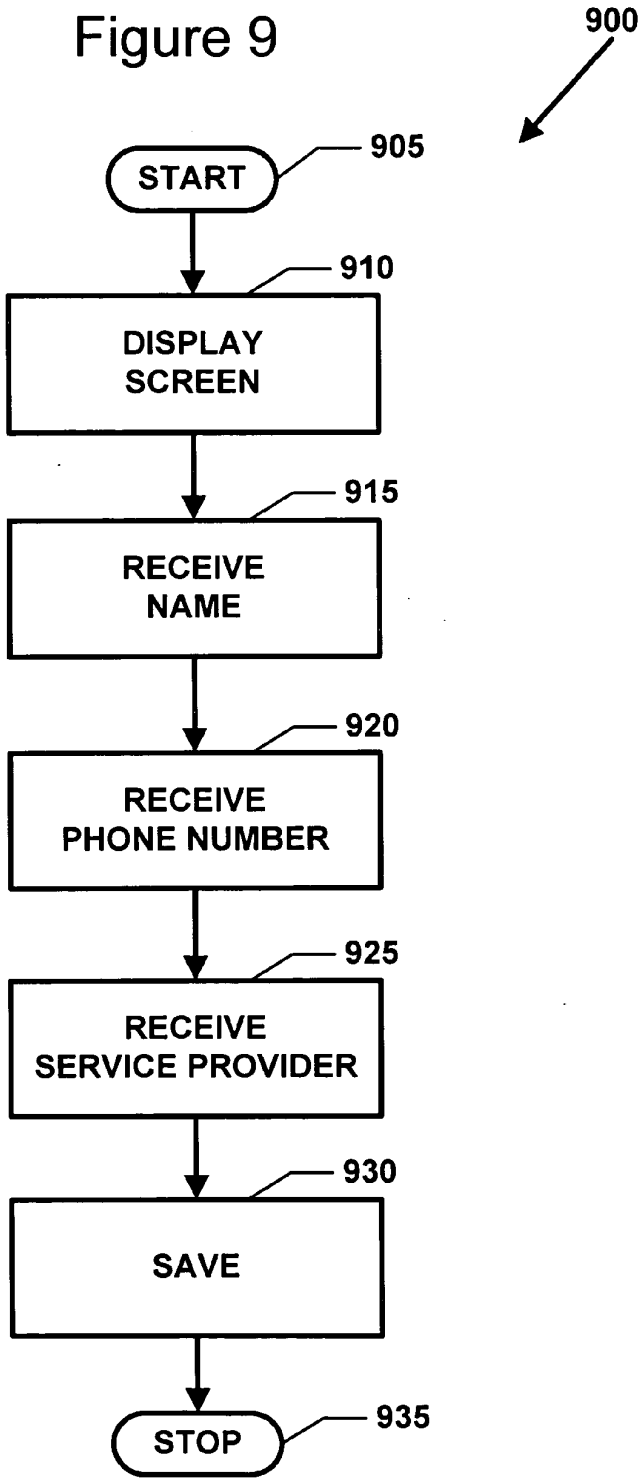

800
START
805
DISPLAY MENU
810
ENABLE SELECTION
815
RECEIVE SELECTION
820
STOP
825

Figure 9


900
START
905
DISPLAY SCREEN
910
RECEIVE NAME
915
RECEIVE PHONE NUMBER
920
RECEIVE SERVICE PROVIDER
925
SAVE
930
STOP
935

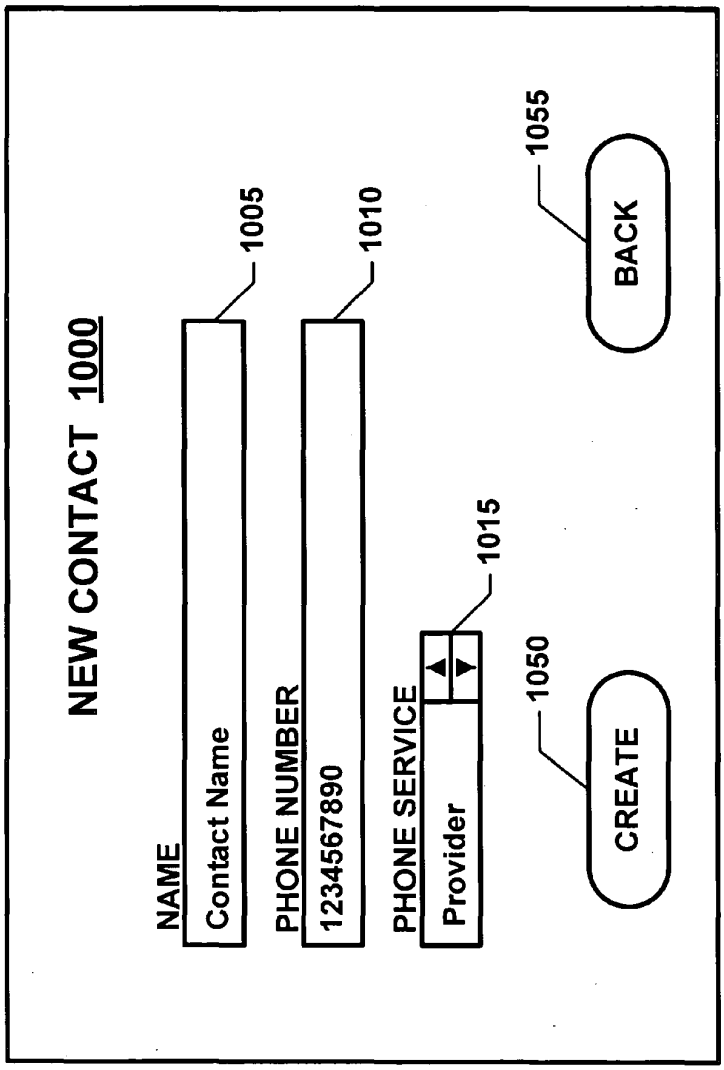

NEW CONTACT 1000
NAME
Contact Name
1005
PHONE NUMBER
1234567890
1010
PHONE SERVICE
Provider
1015
CREATE
1050
BACK
1055

Figure 10

Figure 11

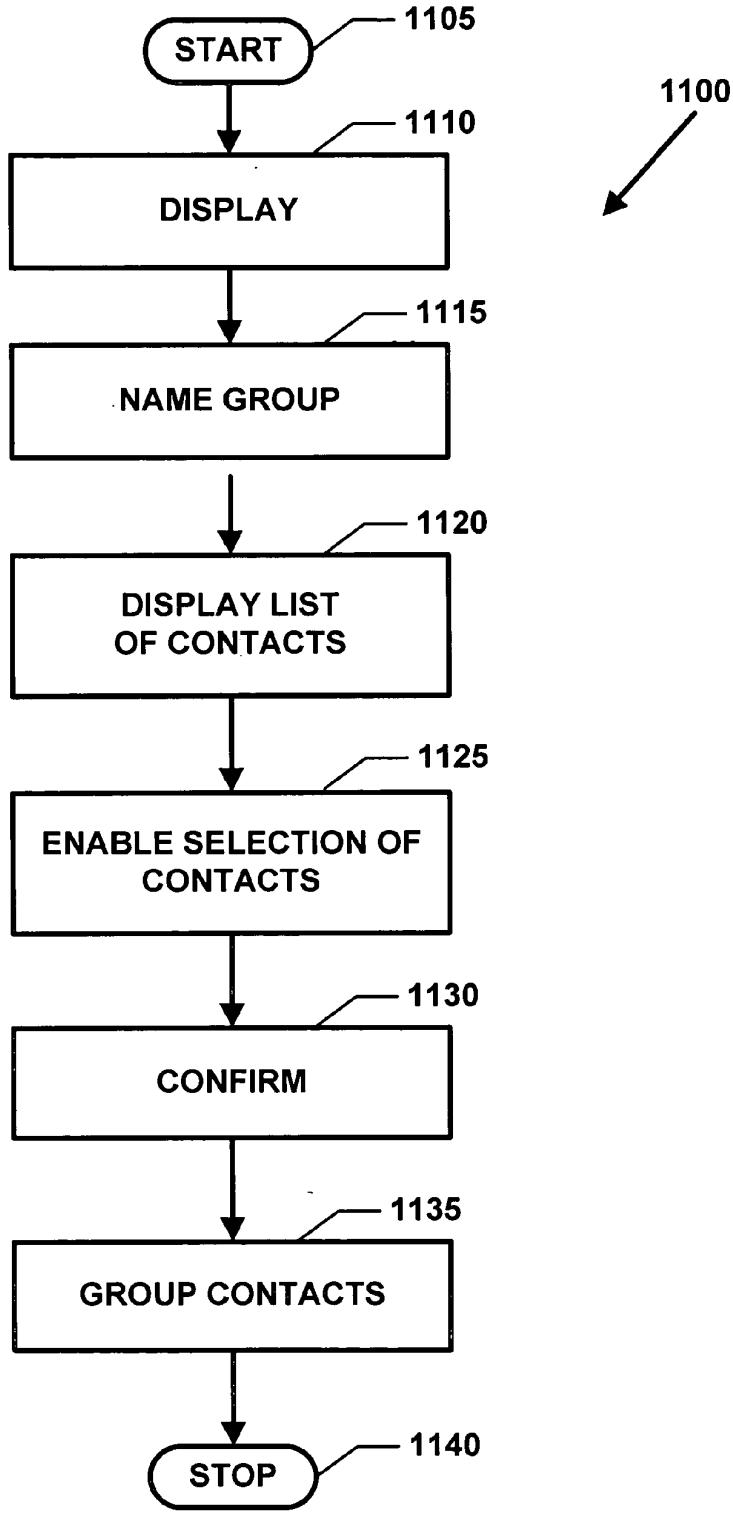

START
1105
1100
1110
DISPLAY
1115
NAME GROUP
1120
DISPLAY LIST
OF CONTACTS
1125
ENABLE SELECTION OF
CONTACTS
1130
CONFIRM
1135
GROUP CONTACTS
STOP
1140

Figure 12

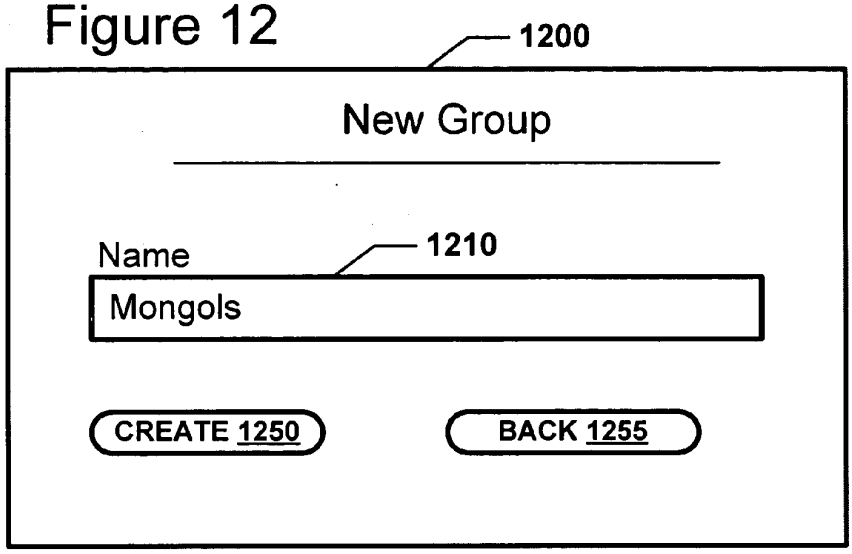


Figure 13

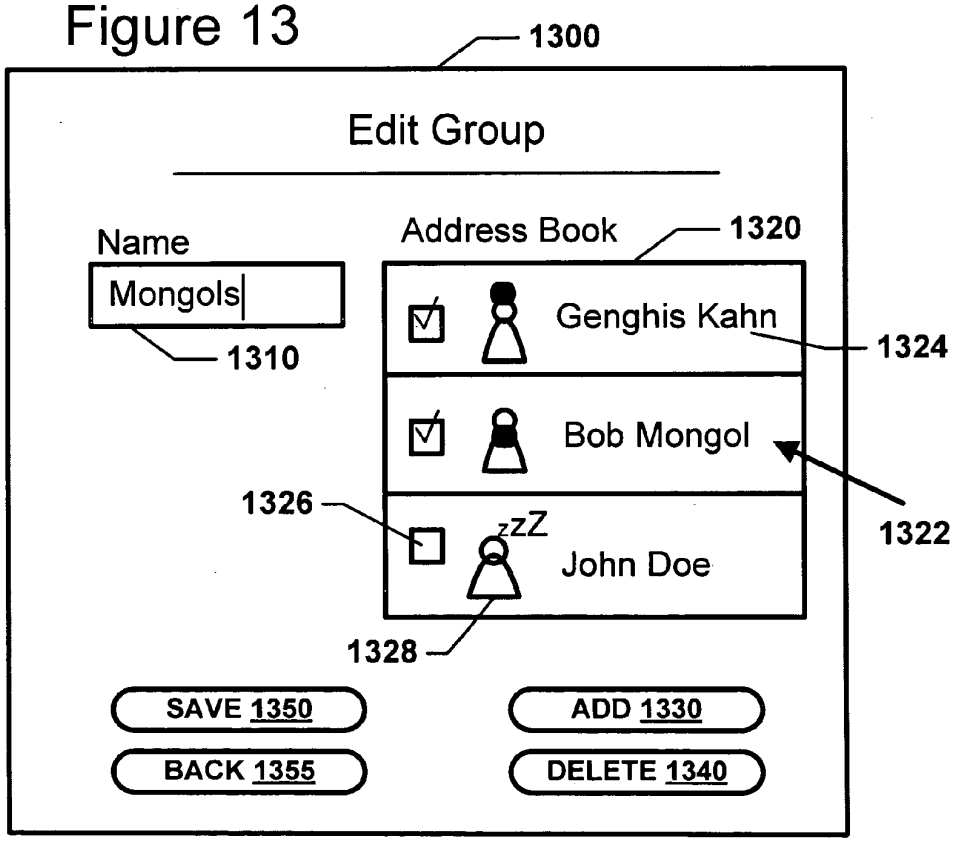
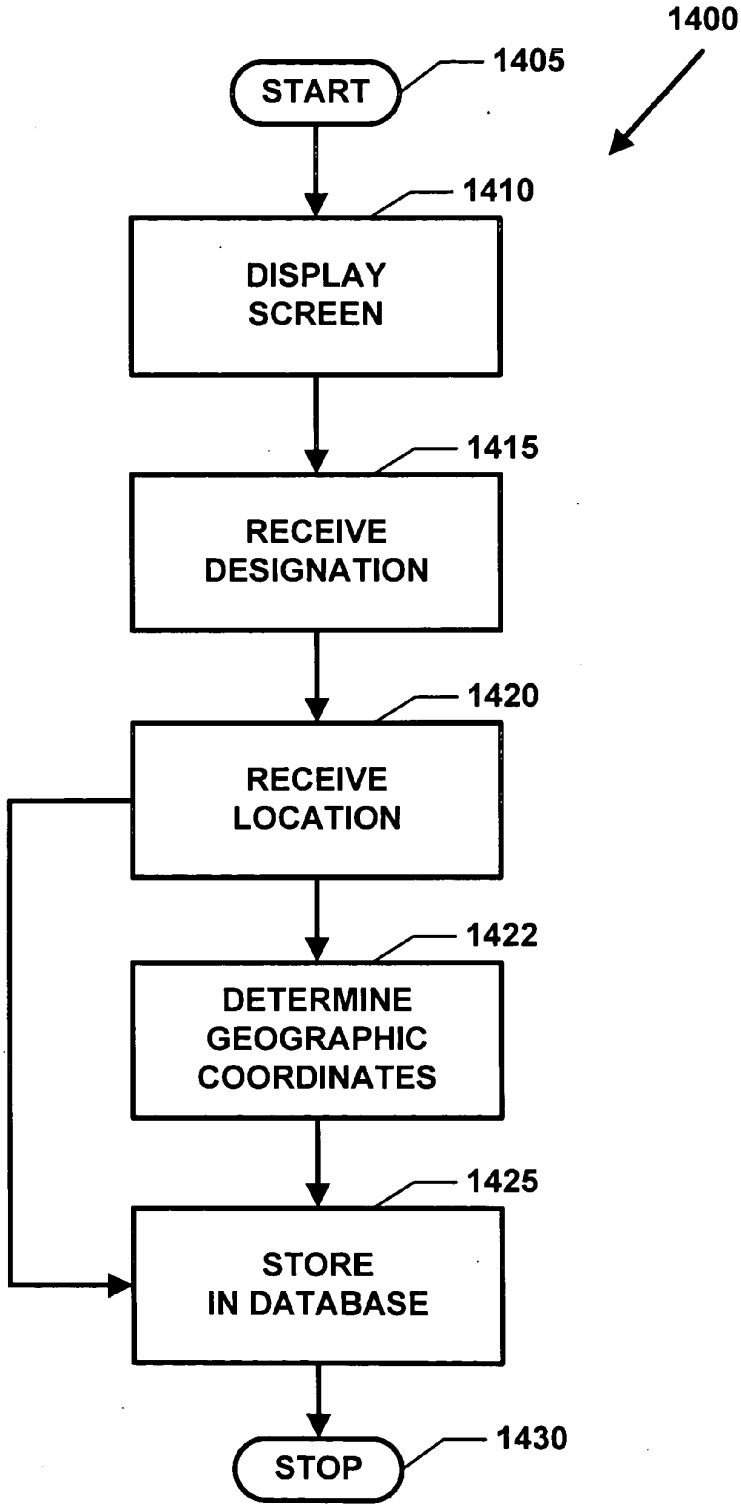


Figure 14


1400
START
1405
1410
DISPLAY SCREEN
1415
RECEIVE DESIGNATION
1420
RECEIVE LOCATION
1422
DETERMINE GEOGRAPHIC COORDINATES
1425
STORE IN DATABASE
STOP
1430

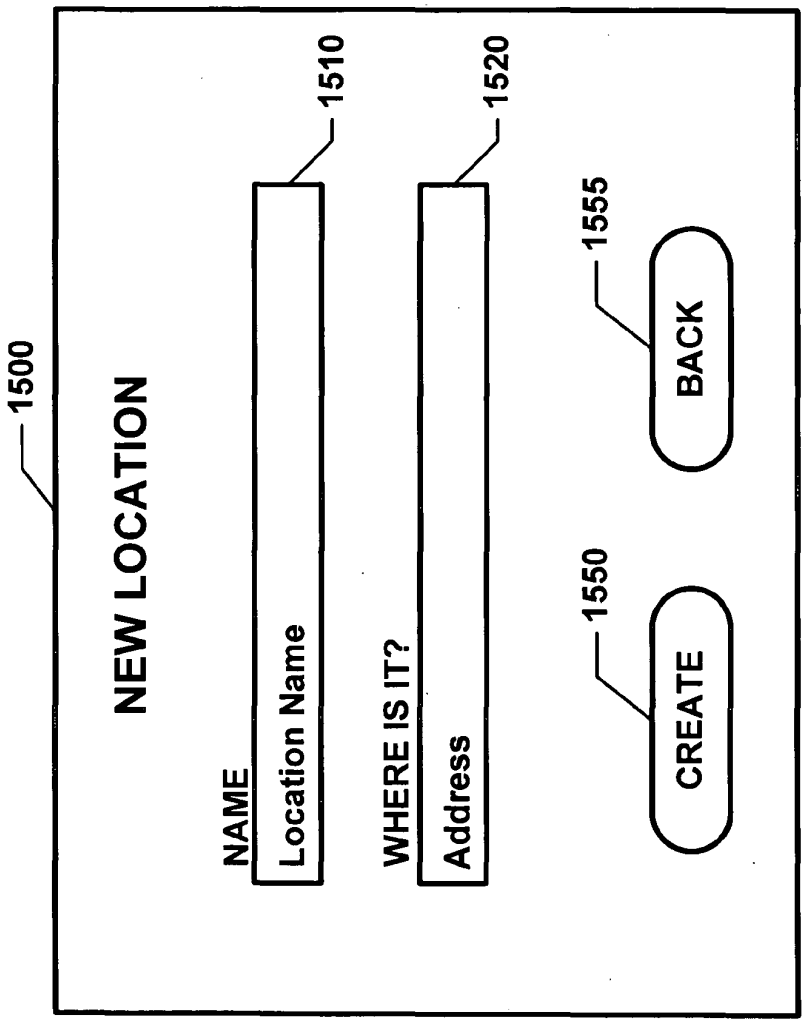

1500
NEW LOCATION
NAME
Location Name
1510
WHERE IS IT?
Address
1520
CREATE
1550
BACK
1555

Figure 15

Figure 16

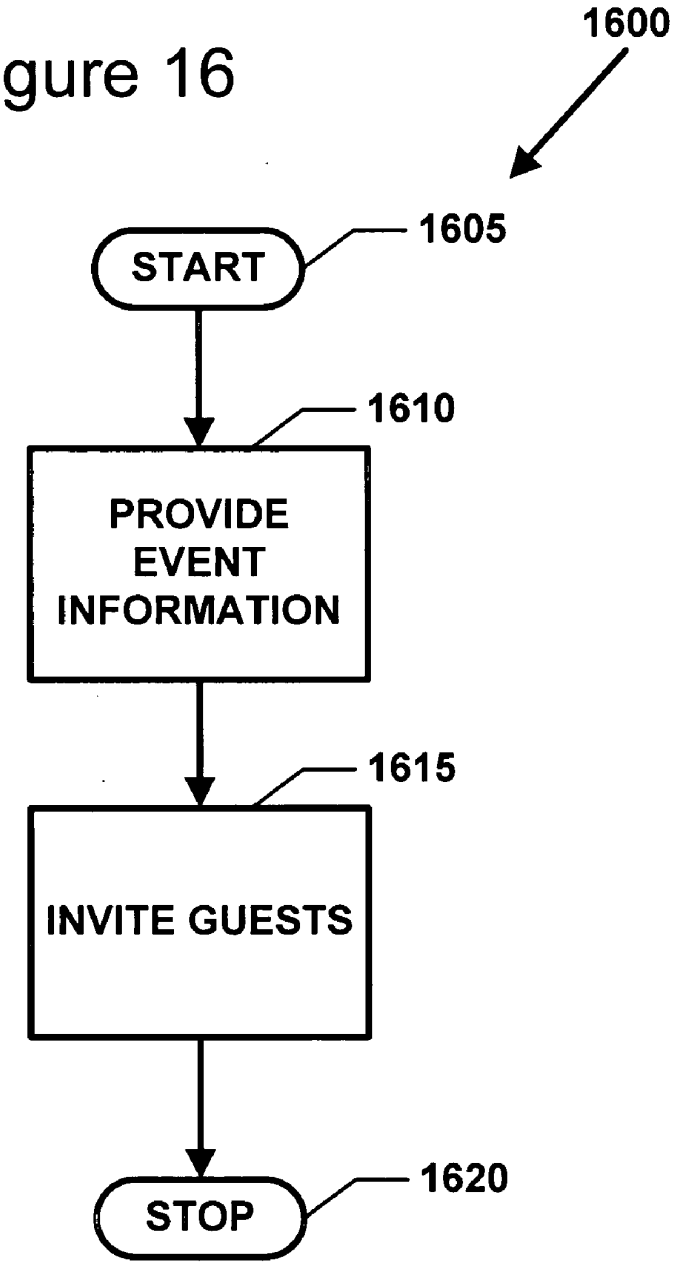
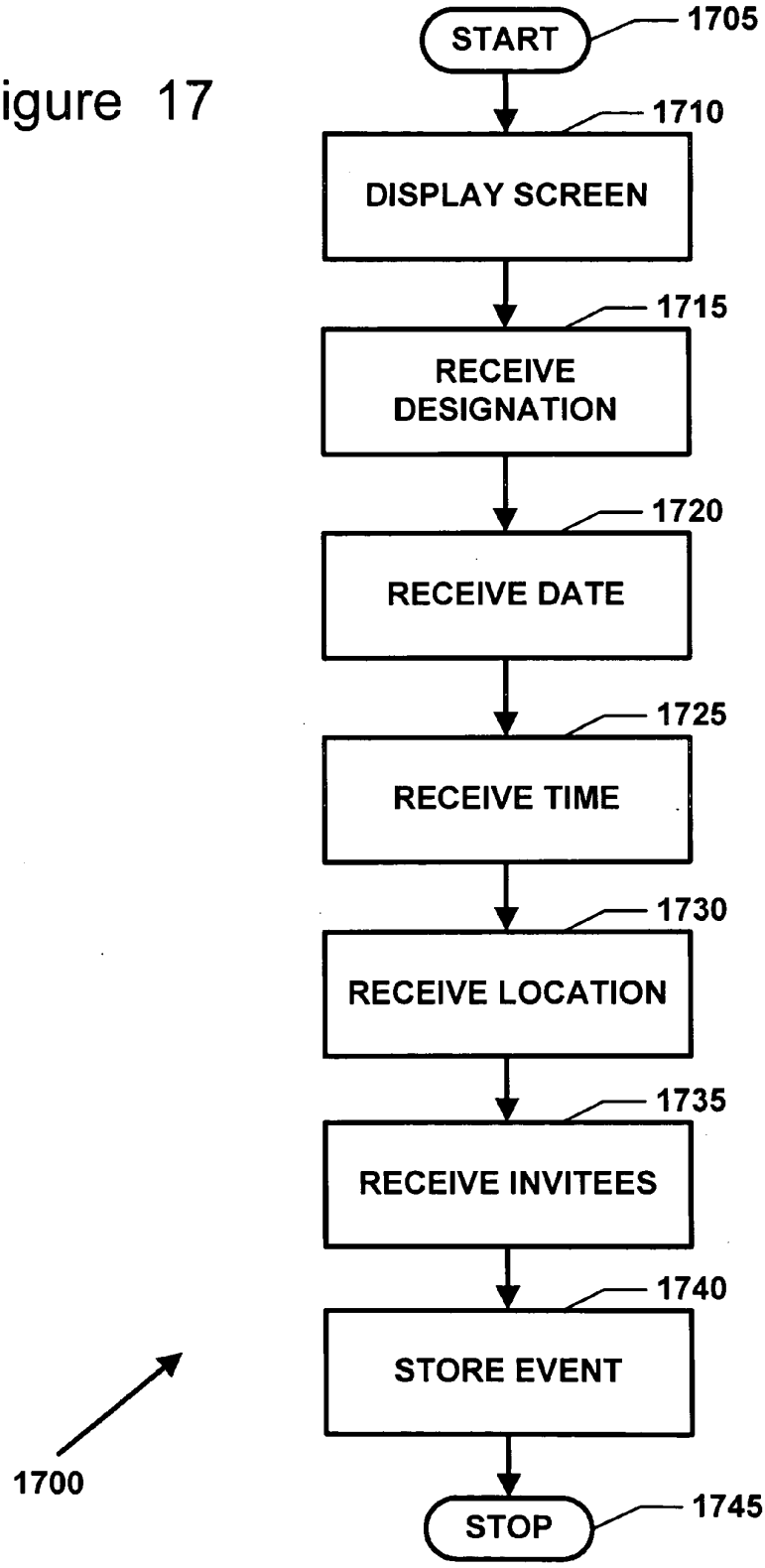

1600
START
1605
1610
PROVIDE EVENT INFORMATION
1615
INVITE GUESTS
STOP
1620

Figure 17


START
1705
1710
DISPLAY SCREEN
1715
RECEIVE DESIGNATION
1720
RECEIVE DATE
1725
RECEIVE TIME
1730
RECEIVE LOCATION
1735
RECEIVE INVITEES
1740
STORE EVENT
STOP
1745
1700

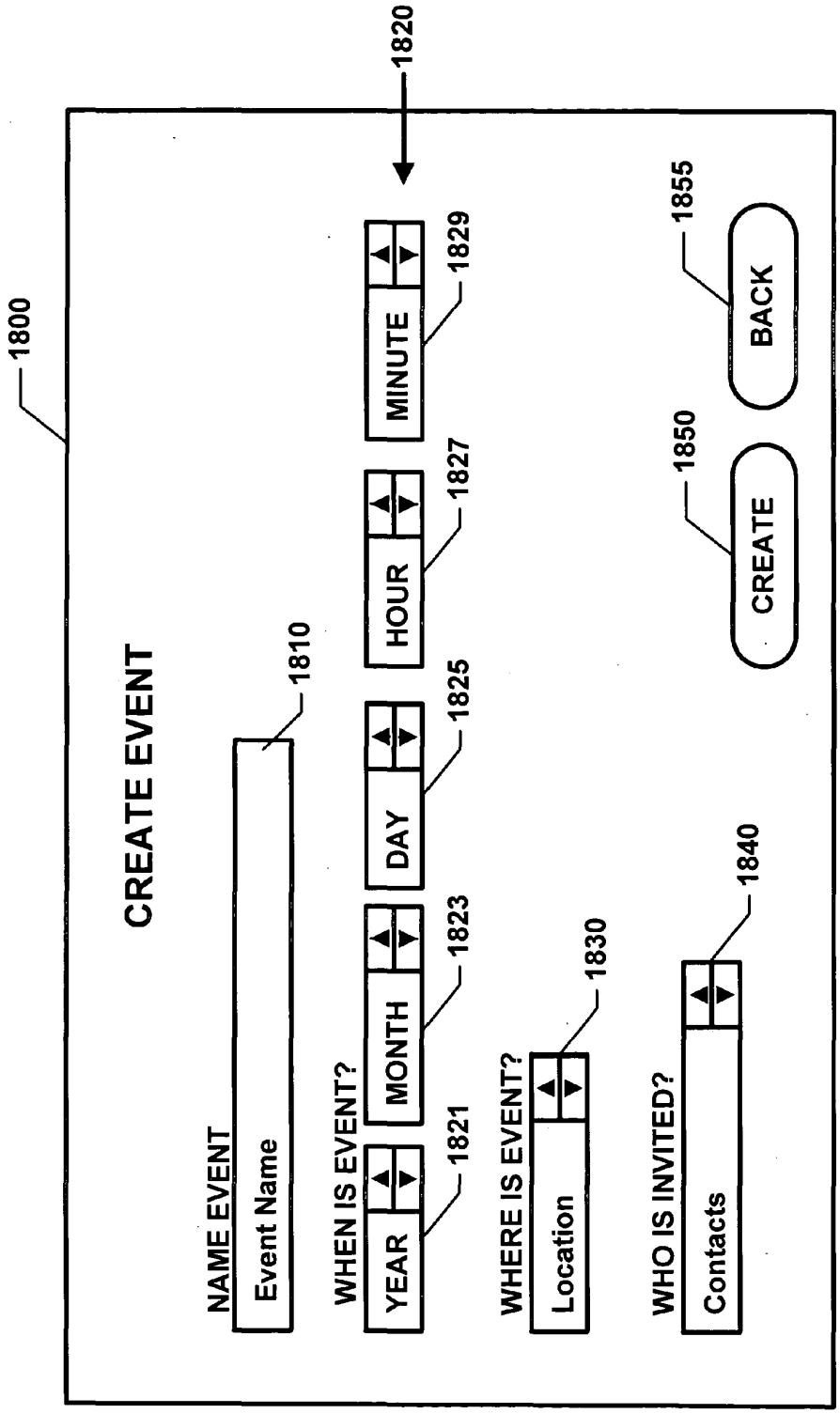

1800
CREATE EVENT
NAME EVENT
Event Name
1810
WHEN IS EVENT?
YEAR
1821
MONTH
1823
DAY
1825
HOUR
1827
MINUTE
1829
1820
WHERE IS EVENT?
Location
1830
WHO IS INVITED?
Contacts
1840
CREATE
1850
BACK
1855

Figure 18

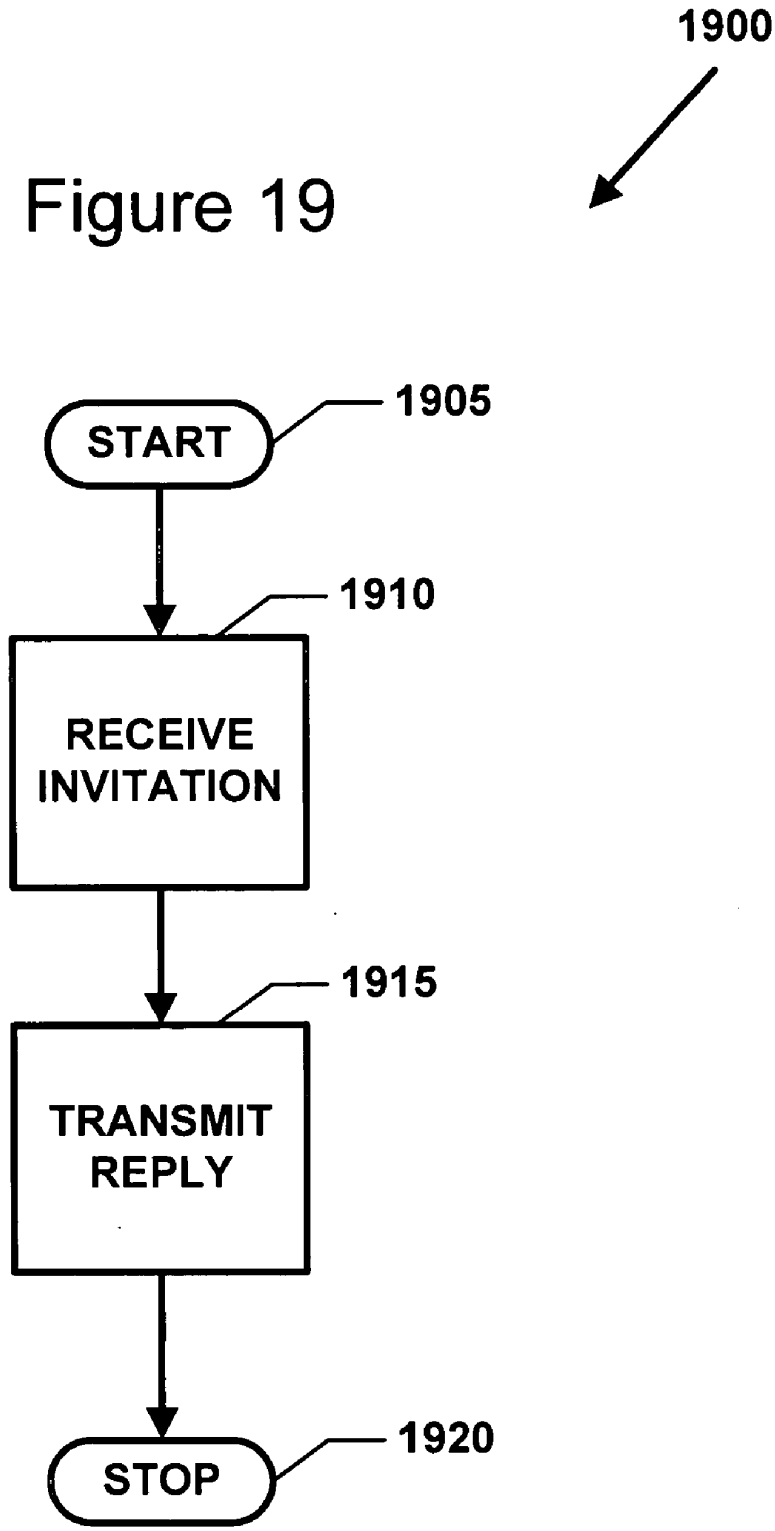
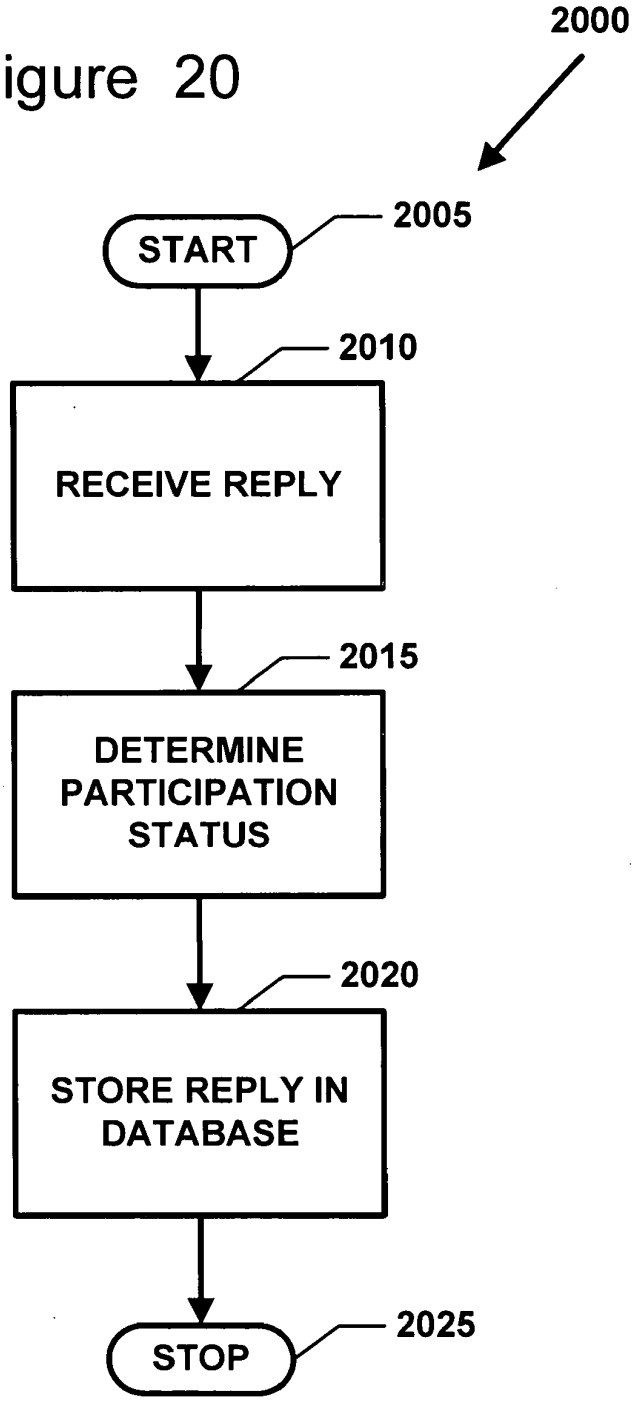

1900
START
1905
RECEIVE INVITATION
1910
TRANSMIT REPLY
1915
STOP
1920

Figure 19

Figure 20


2000
START
2005
2010
RECEIVE REPLY
2015
DETERMINE PARTICIPATION STATUS
2020
STORE REPLY IN DATABASE
STOP
2025

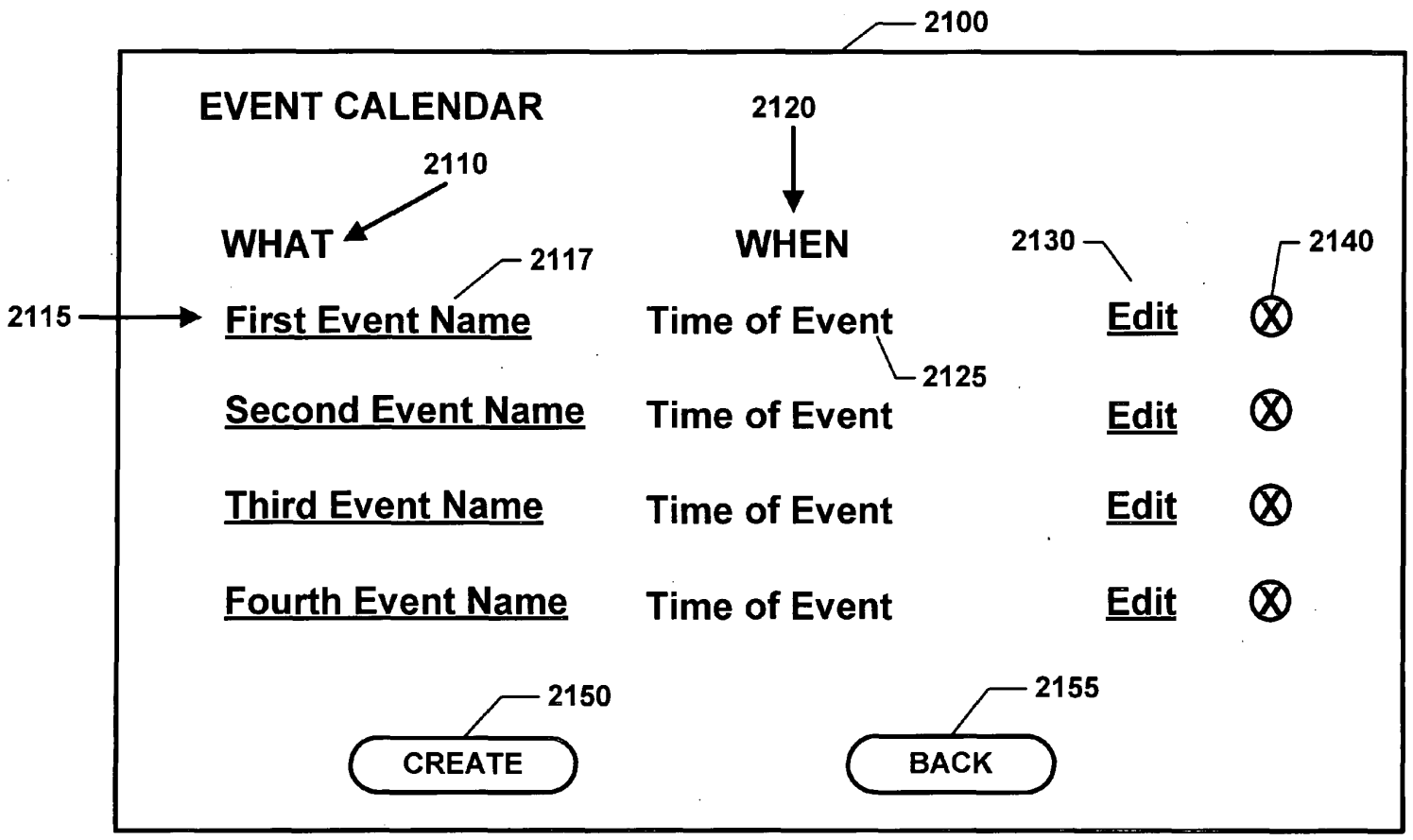

2100
EVENT CALENDAR
2120
2110
WHAT
WHEN
2130
2140
2117
2115
First Event Name
Time of Event
Edit
2125
Second Event Name
Time of Event
Edit
Third Event Name
Time of Event
Edit
Fourth Event Name
Time of Event
Edit
2150
2155
CREATE
BACK

Figure 21

Figure 22

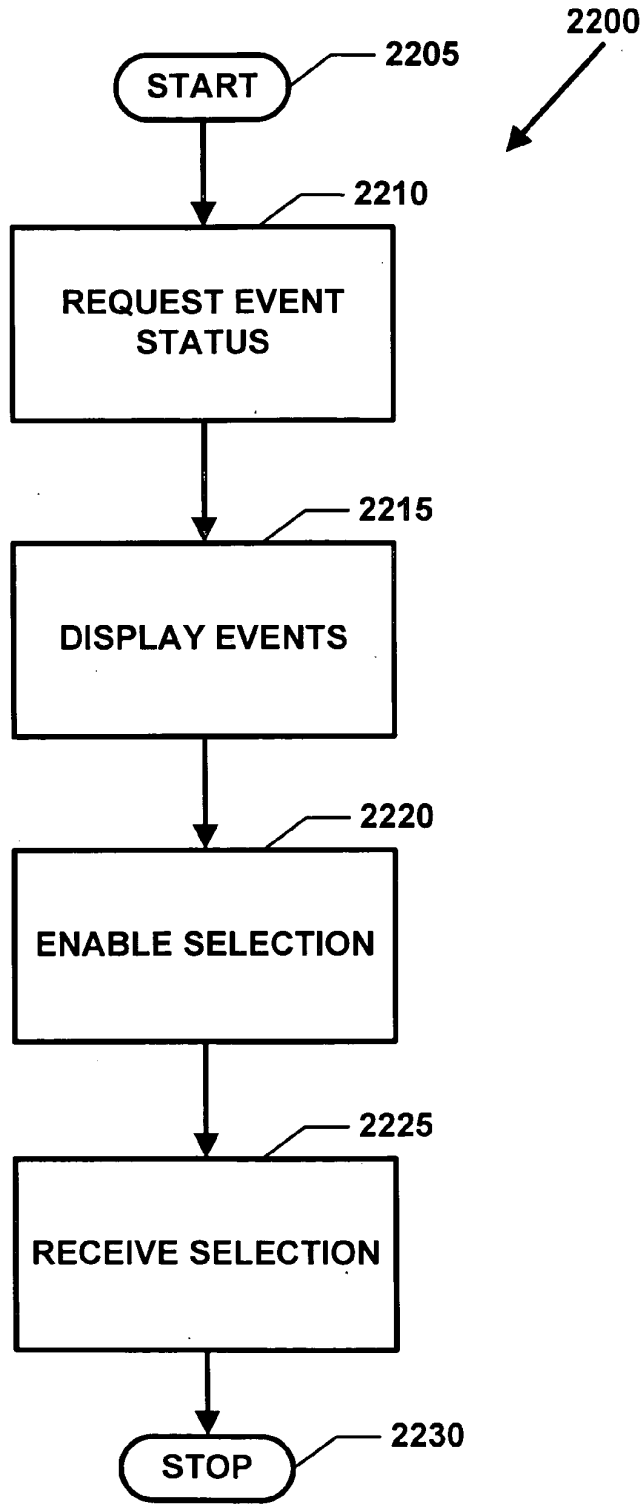

2200
START
2205
REQUEST EVENT STATUS
2210
DISPLAY EVENTS
2215
ENABLE SELECTION
2220
RECEIVE SELECTION
2225
STOP
2230

Figure 23

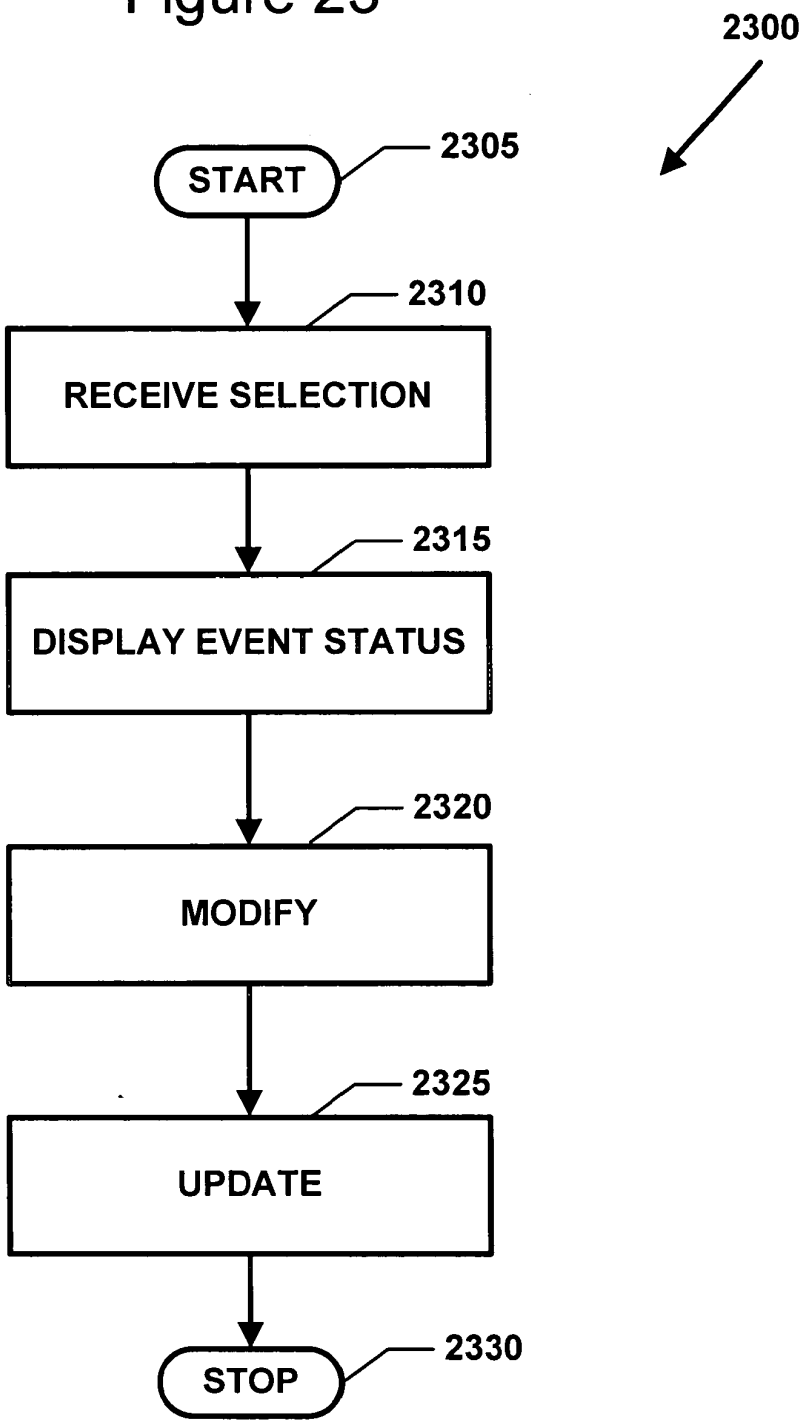

2300
START
2305
RECEIVE SELECTION
2310
DISPLAY EVENT STATUS
2315
MODIFY
2320
UPDATE
2325
STOP
2330

Figure 24

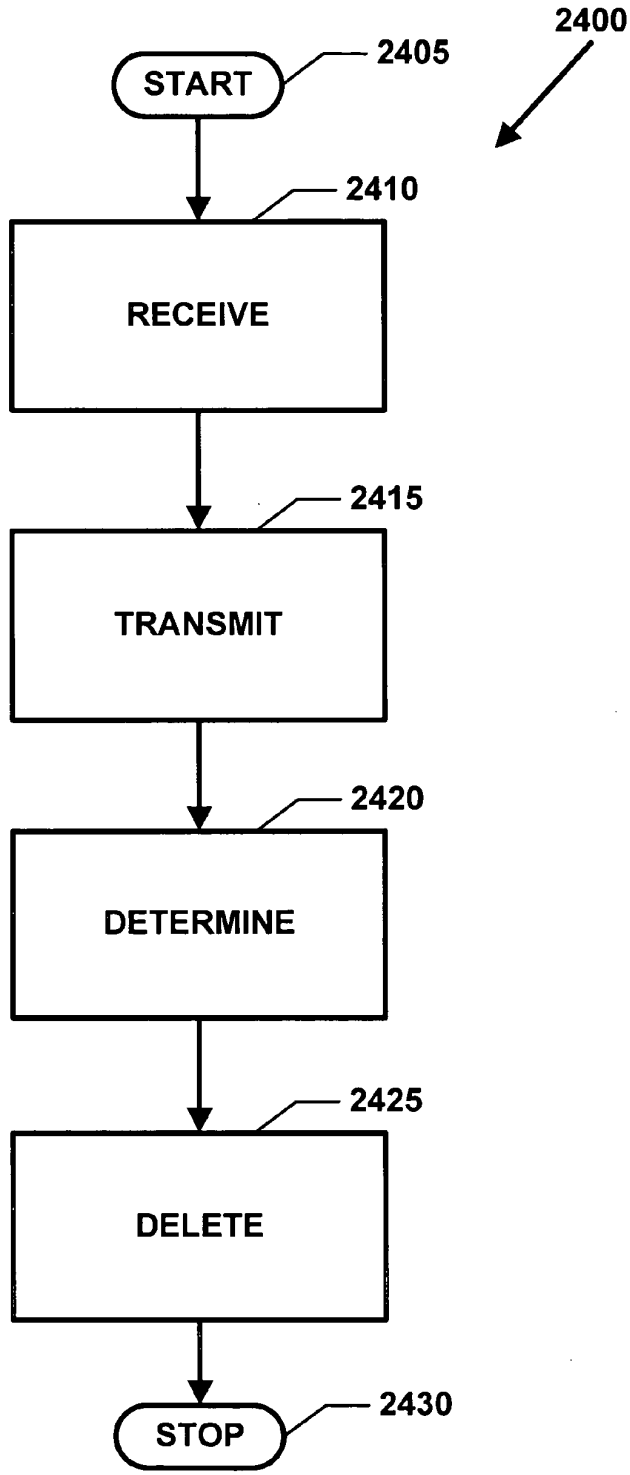

2400
START
2405
2410
RECEIVE
2415
TRANSMIT
2420
DETERMINE
2425
DELETE
STOP
2430

Figure 25

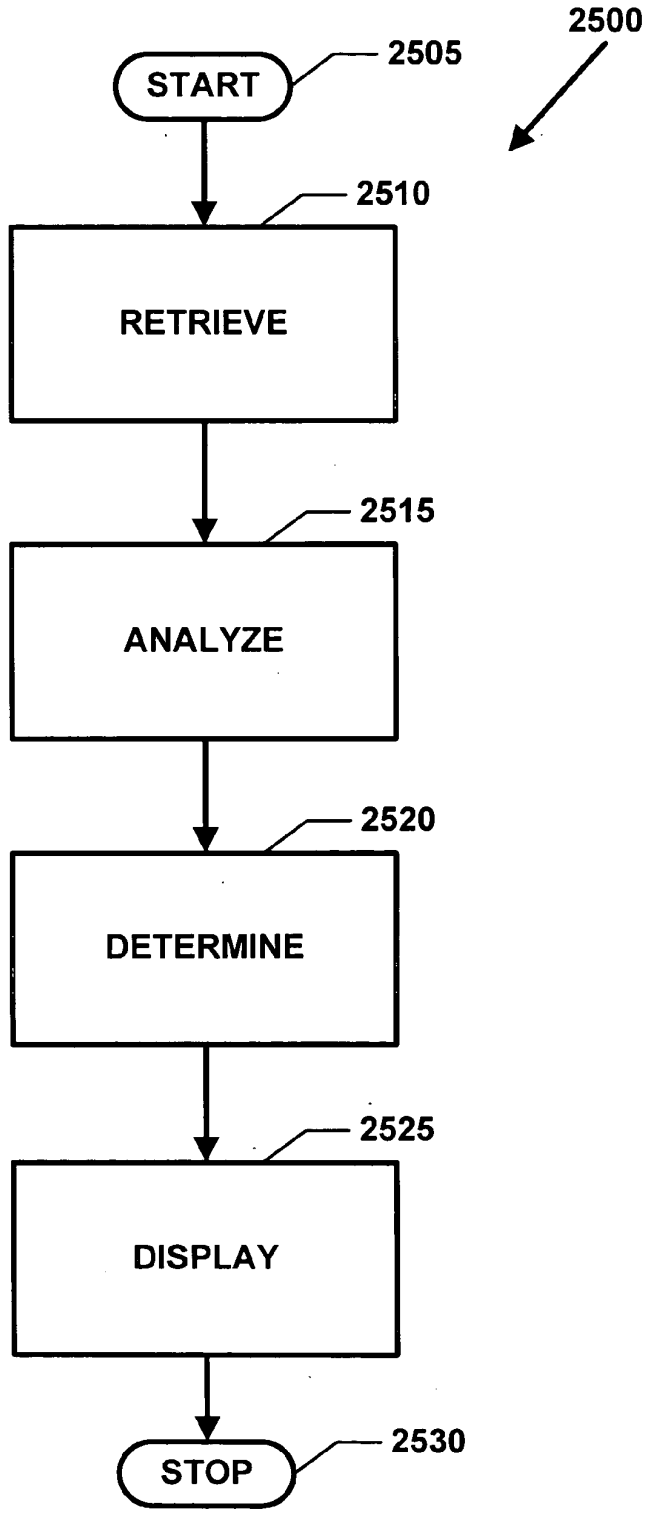
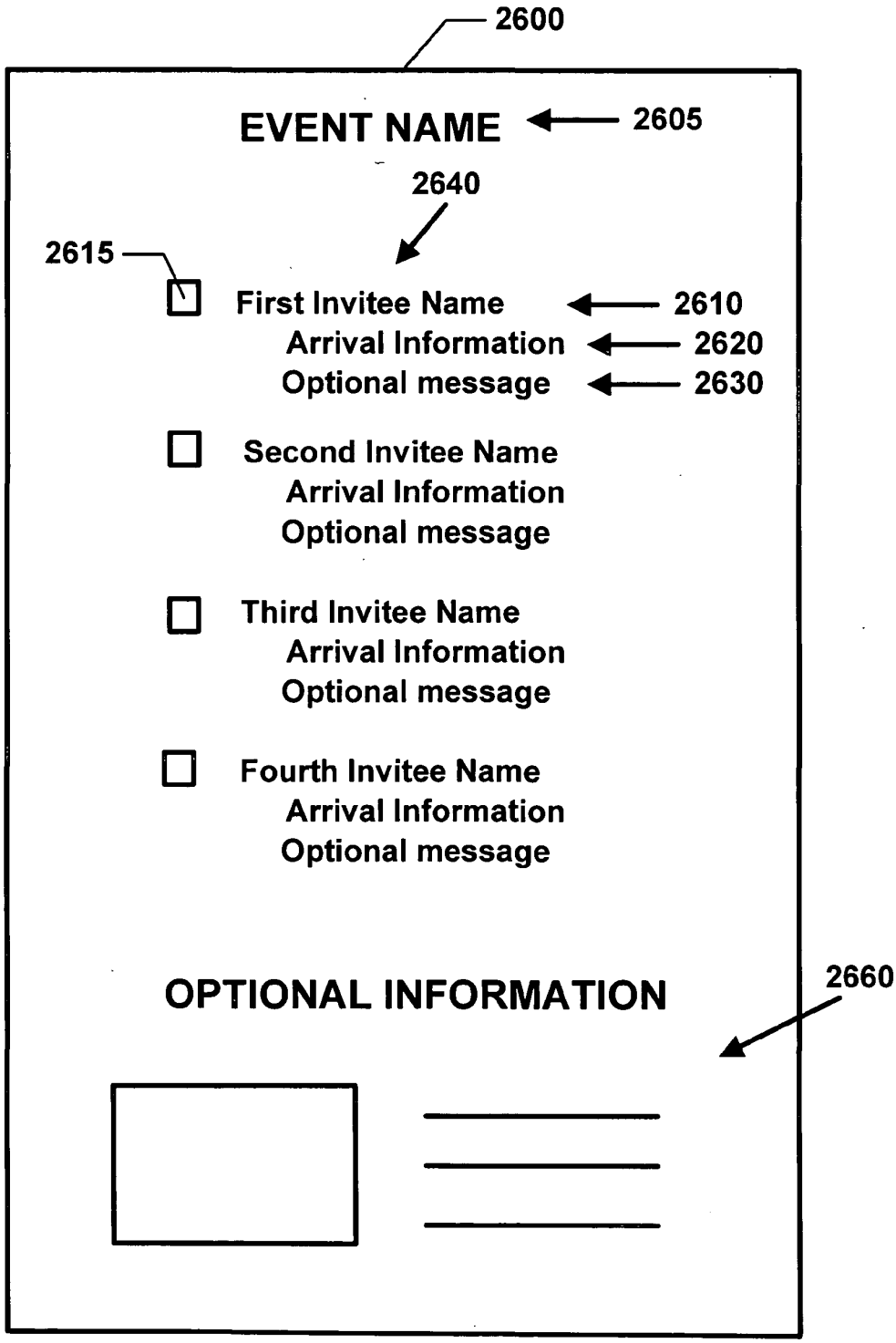

2500
START
2505
2510
RETRIEVE
2515
ANALYZE
2520
DETERMINE
2525
DISPLAY
STOP
2530

Figure 26


2600
EVENT NAME
2605
2640
2615
First Invitee Name
2610
Arrival Information
2620
Optional message
2630
Second Invitee Name
Arrival Information
Optional message
Third Invitee Name
Arrival Information
Optional message
Fourth Invitee Name
Arrival Information
Optional message
OPTIONAL INFORMATION
2660

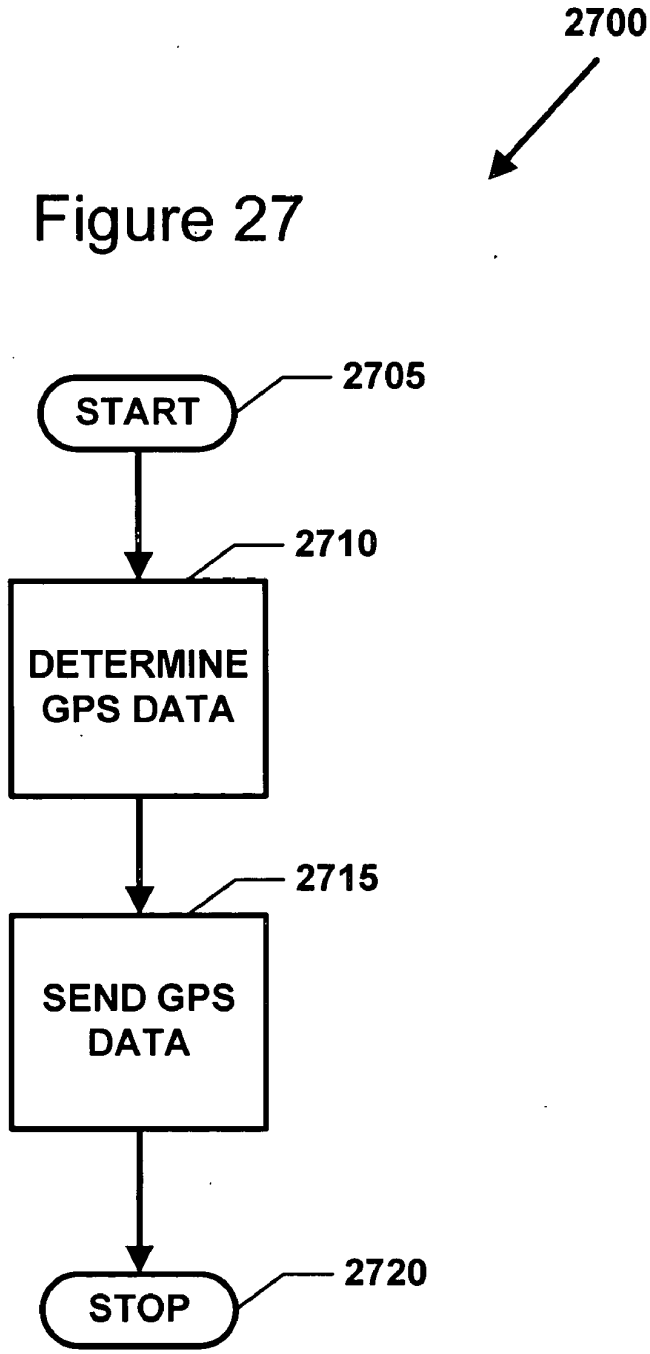

2700
2705
START
2710
DETERMINE GPS DATA
2715
SEND GPS DATA
2720
STOP

Figure 27

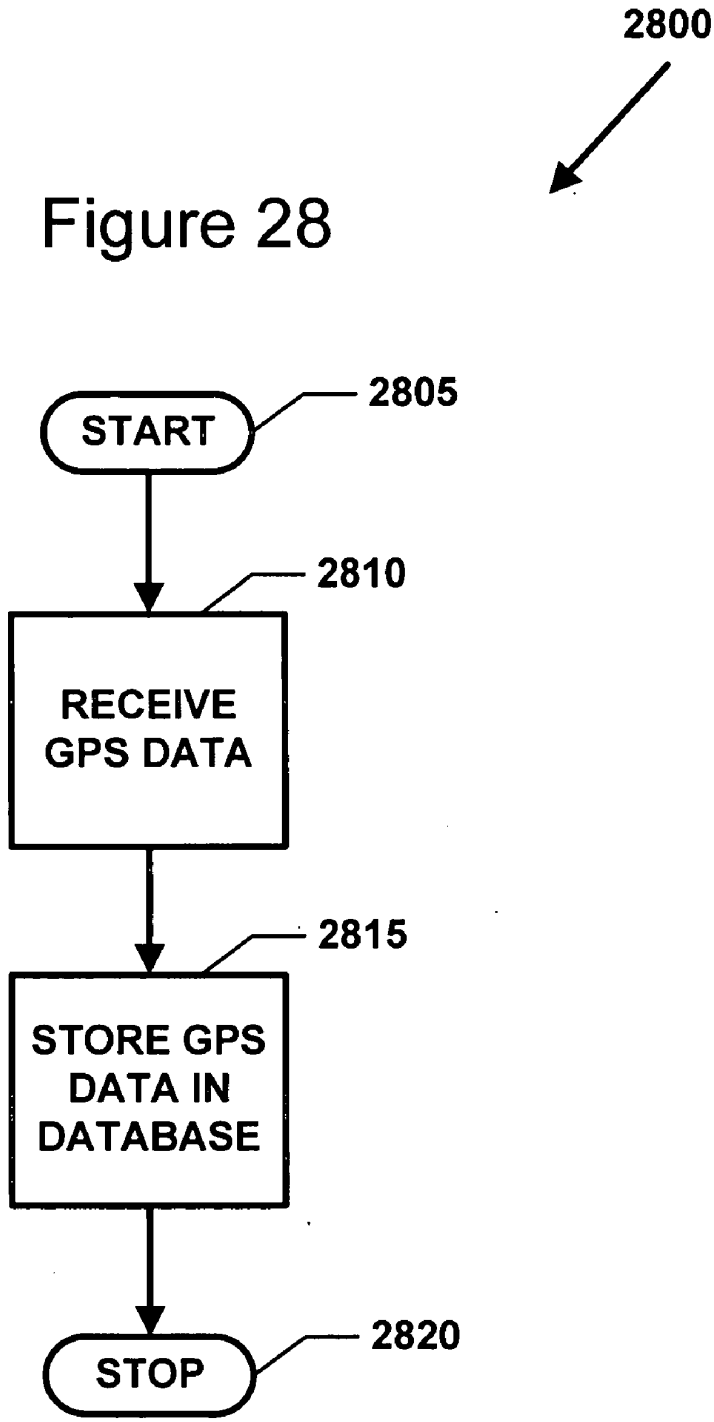

2800
START
2805
RECEIVE GPS DATA
2810
STORE GPS DATA IN DATABASE
2815
STOP
2820

Figure 28

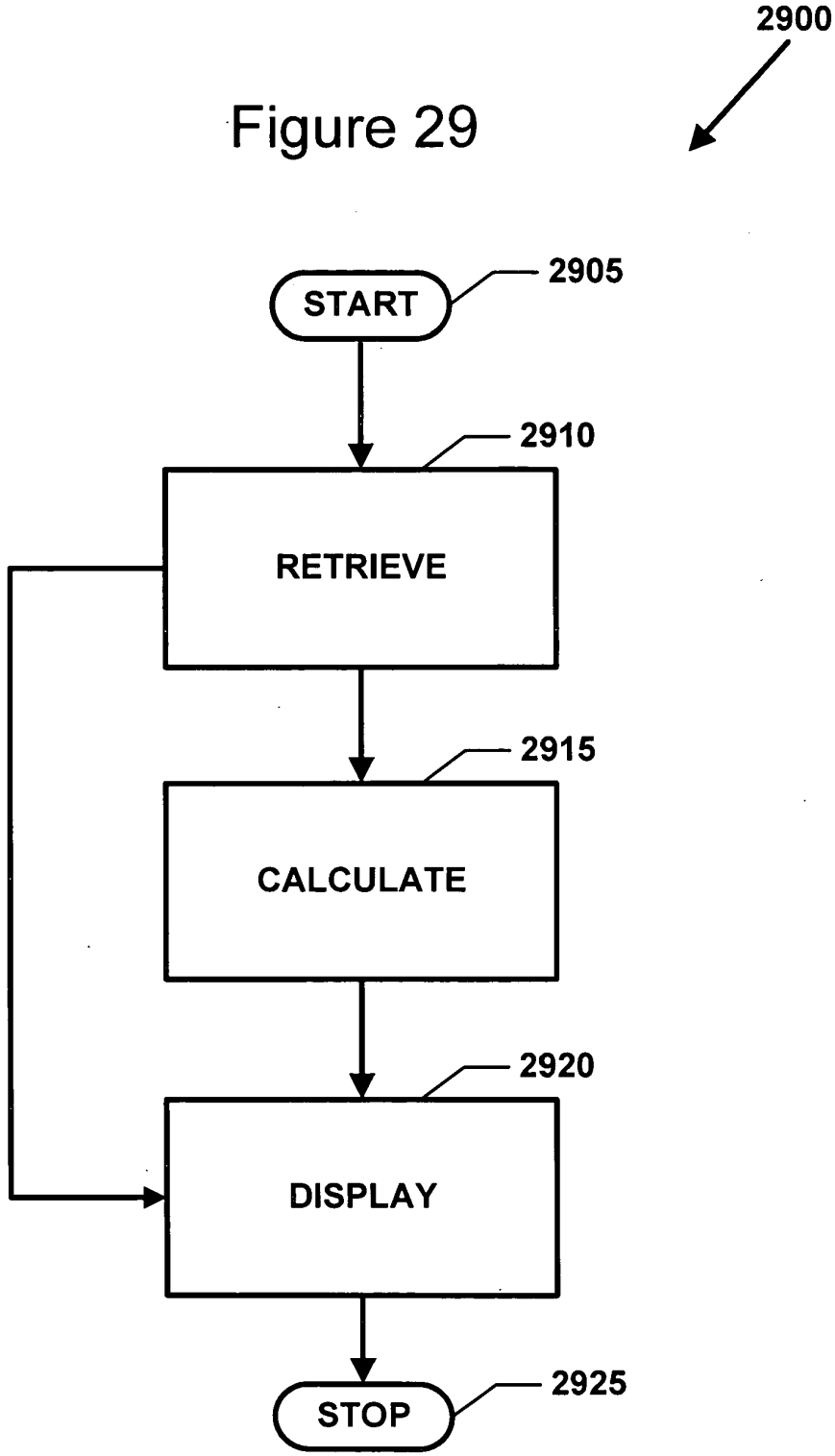

2900
START
2905
2910
RETRIEVE
2915
CALCULATE
2920
DISPLAY
STOP
2925

Figure 29

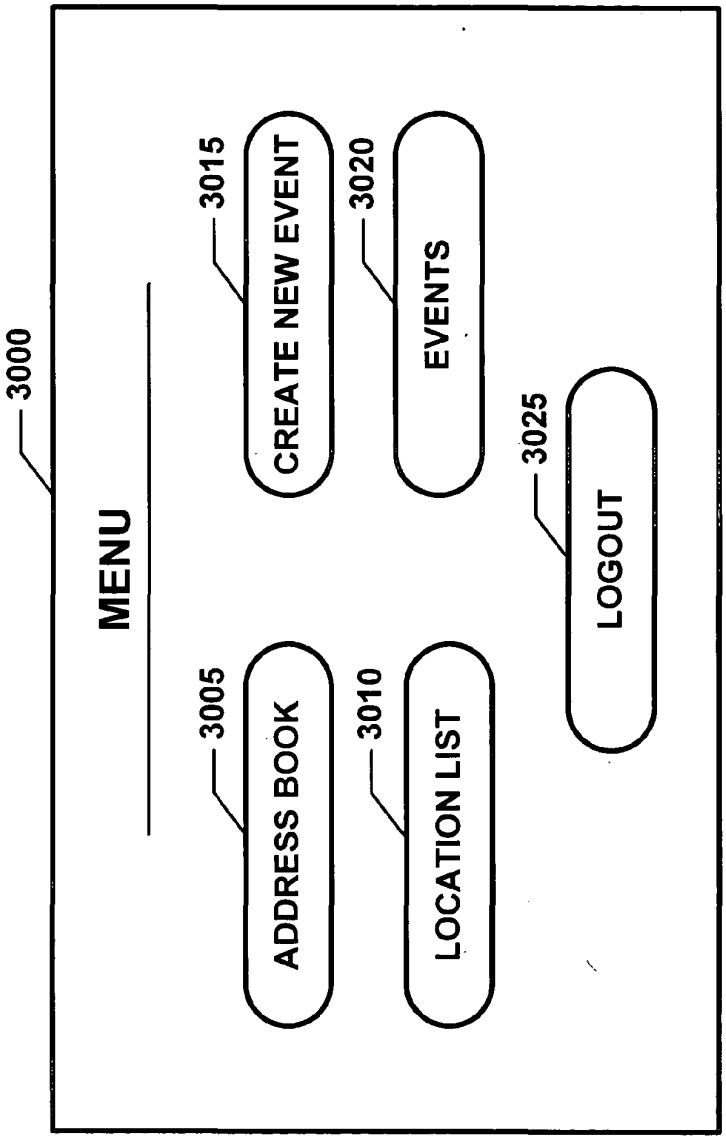

3000
MENU
3005
ADDRESS BOOK
3010
LOCATION LIST
3015
CREATE NEW EVENT
3020
EVENTS
3025
LOGOUT

Figure 30

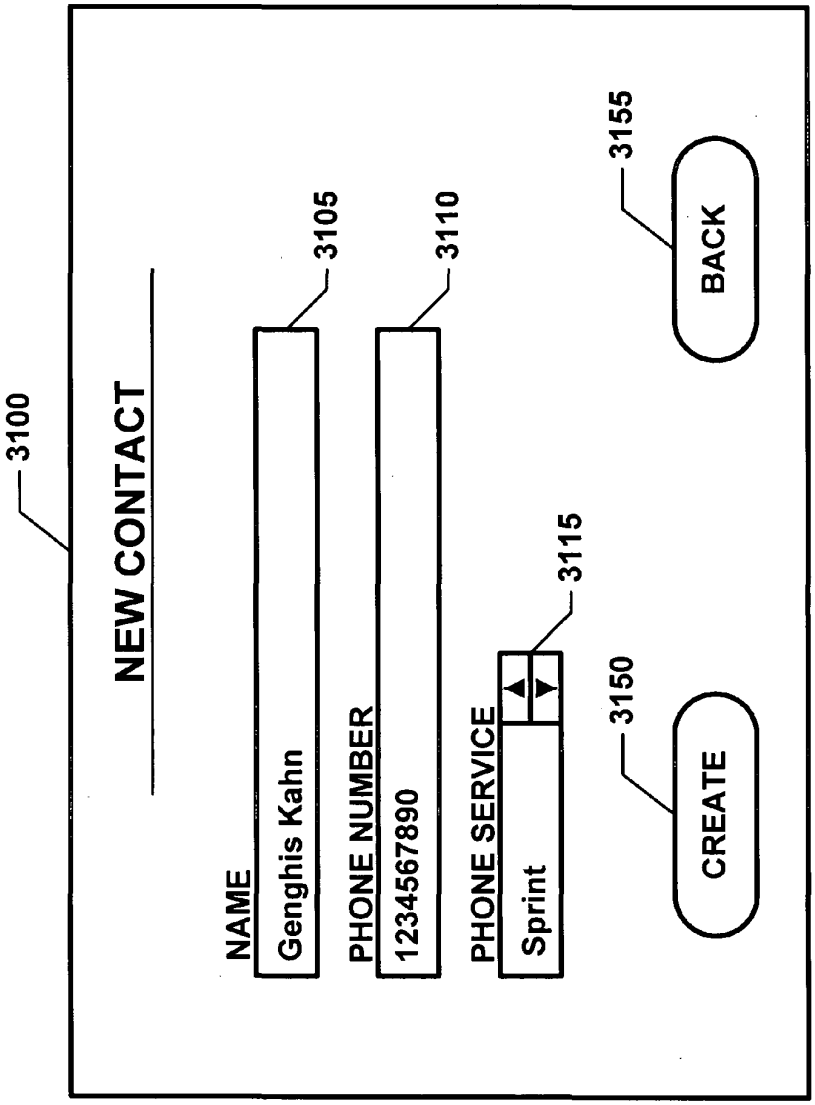

3100
NEW CONTACT
NAME
Genghis Kahn
3105
PHONE NUMBER
1234567890
3110
PHONE SERVICE
Sprint
3115
CREATE
3150
BACK
3155

Figure 31

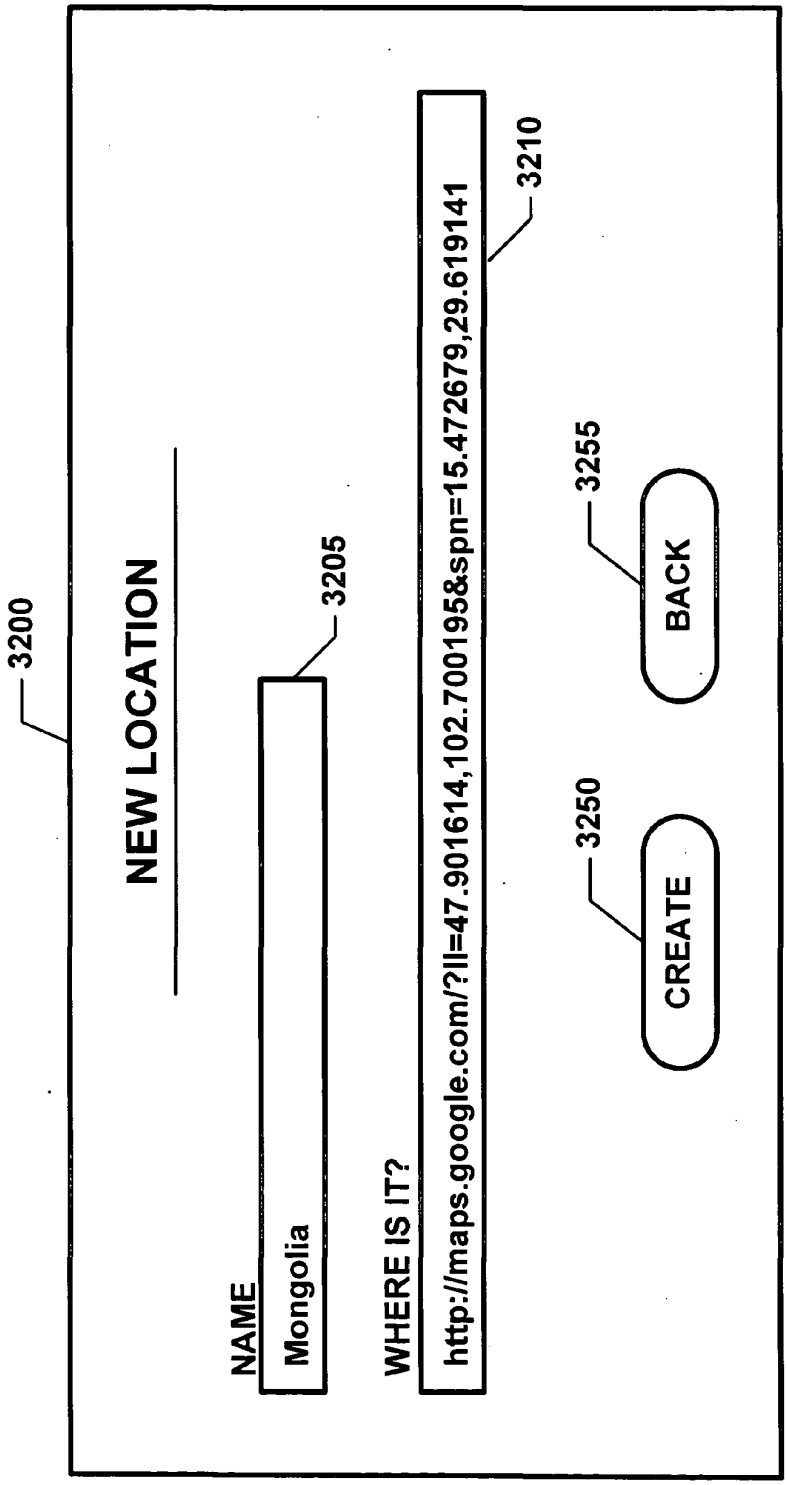

3200
NEW LOCATION
NAME
Mongolia
3205
WHERE IS IT?
http://maps.google.com/?ll=47.901614,102.700195&spn=15.472679,29.619141
3210
CREATE
3250
BACK
3255

Figure 32

Figure 33

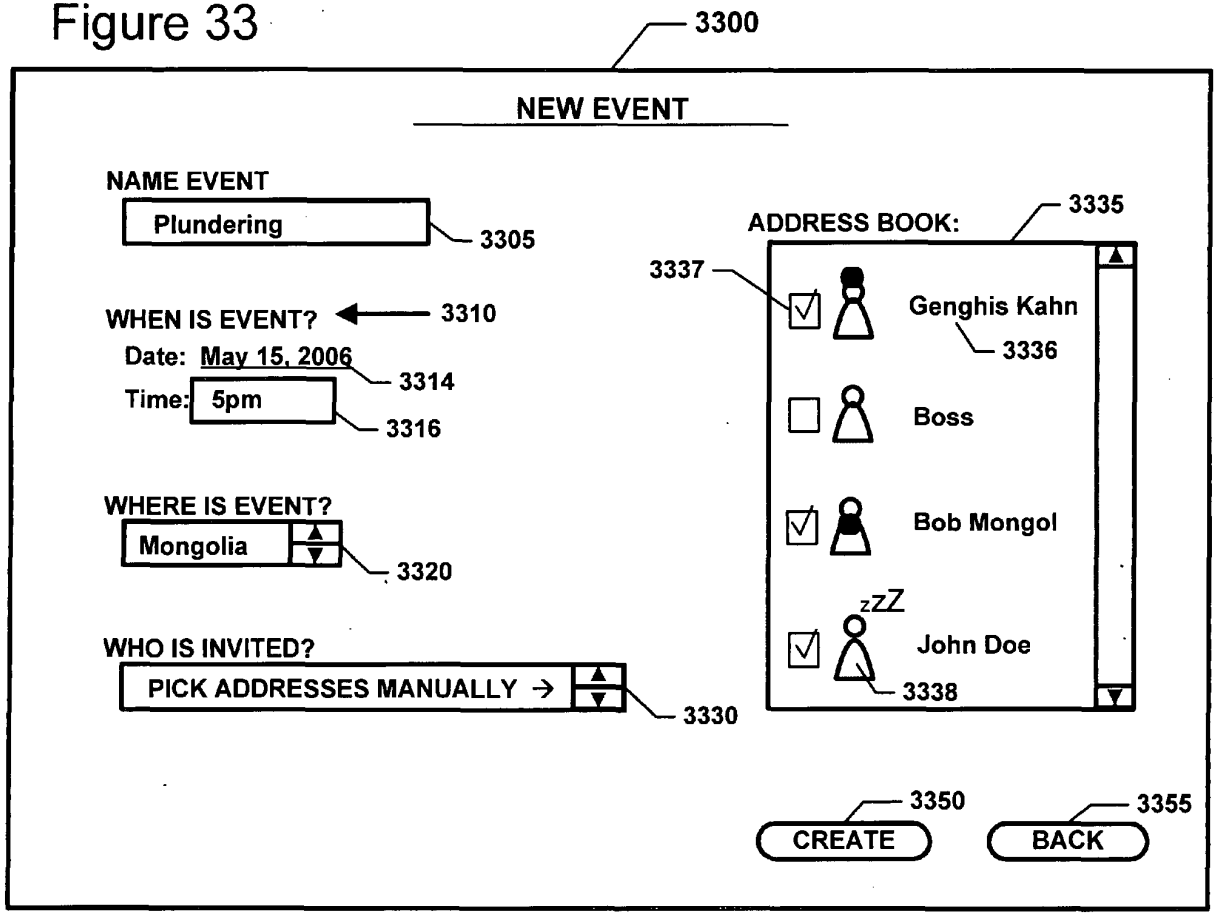
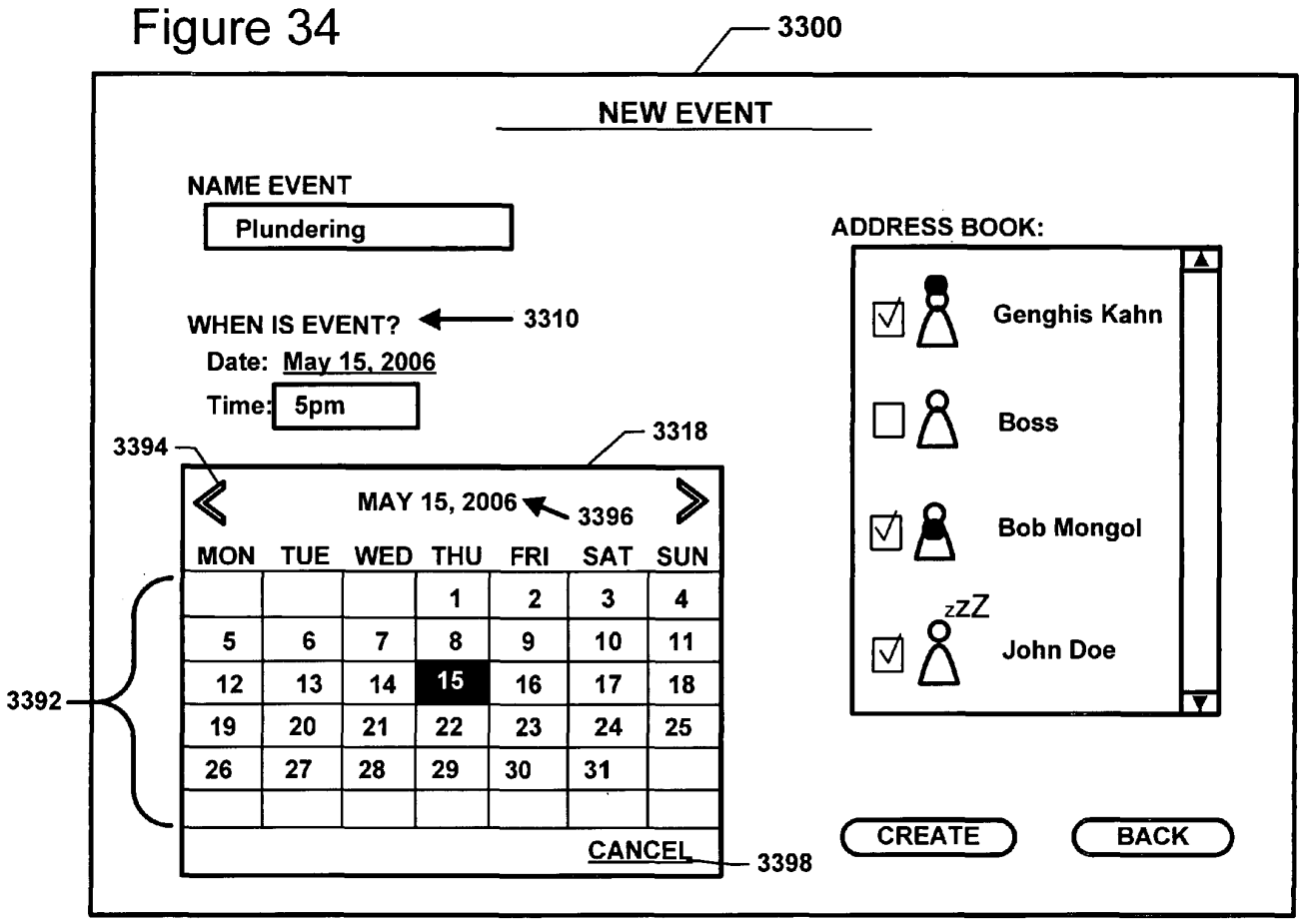

3300
NEW EVENT
NAME EVENT
Plundering
3305
WHEN IS EVENT?
3310
Date: May 15, 2006
3314
Time: 5pm
3316
WHERE IS EVENT?
Mongolia
3320
WHO IS INVITED?
PICK ADDRESSES MANUALLY →
3330
ADDRESS BOOK:
3335
3337
Genghis Kahn
3336
Boss
Bob Mongol
zZZ
John Doe
3338
3350
CREATE
3355
BACK

Figure 34


3300
NEW EVENT
NAME EVENT
Plundering
WHEN IS EVENT?
3310
Date: May 15, 2006
Time: 5pm
3394
3318
MAY 15, 2006
3396
MON TUE WED THU FRI SAT SUN
1 2 3 4
5 6 7 8 9 10 11
12 13 14 15 16 17 18
19 20 21 22 23 24 25
26 27 28 29 30 31
3392
CANCEL
3398
ADDRESS BOOK:
Genghis Kahn
Boss
Bob Mongol
zzZ
John Doe
CREATE
BACK

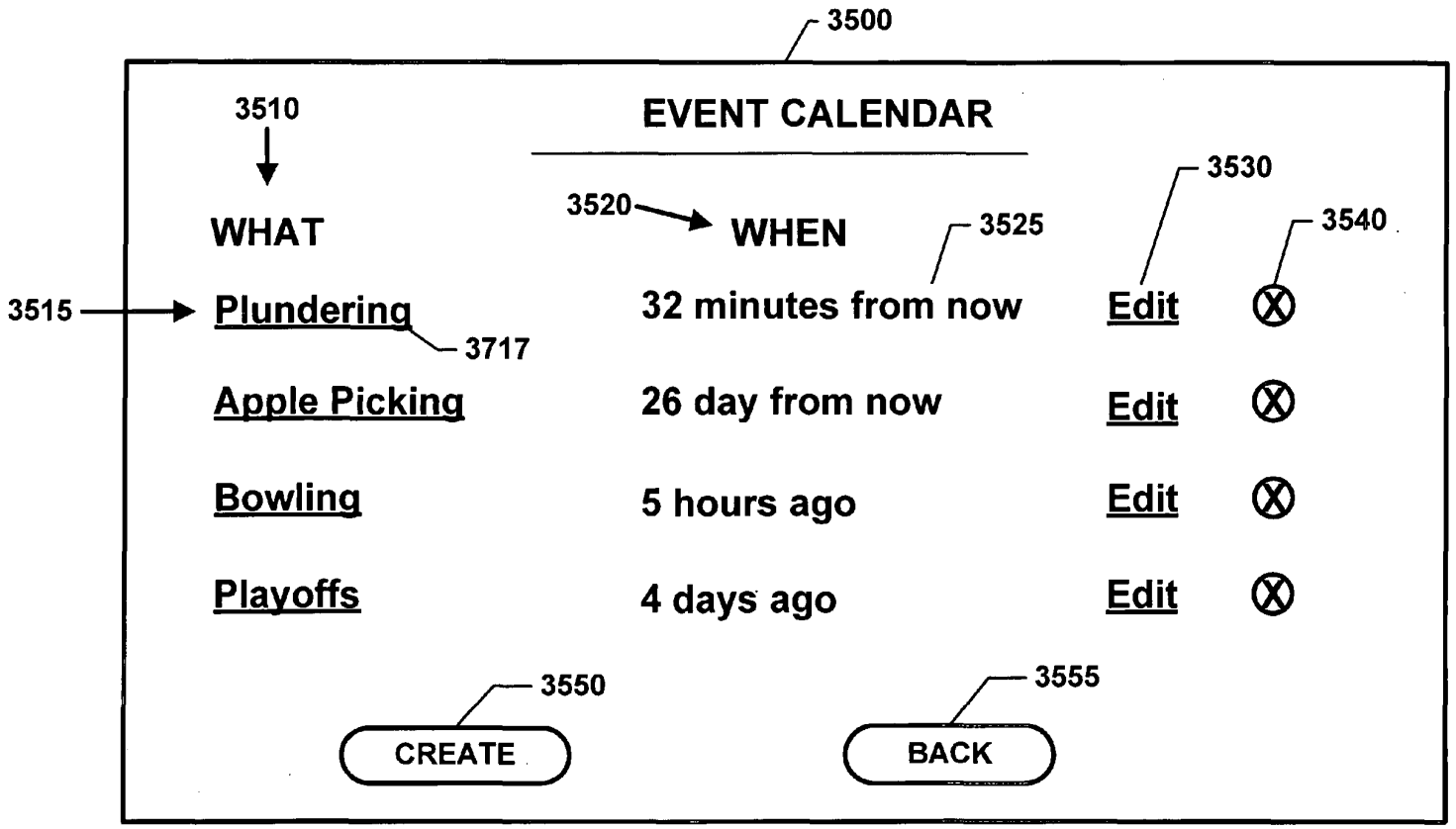

3500
EVENT CALENDAR
3510
WHAT
3520
WHEN
3525
3530
3540
3515
Plundering
3717
32 minutes from now
Edit
Apple Picking
26 day from now
Edit
Bowling
5 hours ago
Edit
Playoffs
4 days ago
Edit
3550
CREATE
3555
BACK

Figure 35

Figure 36

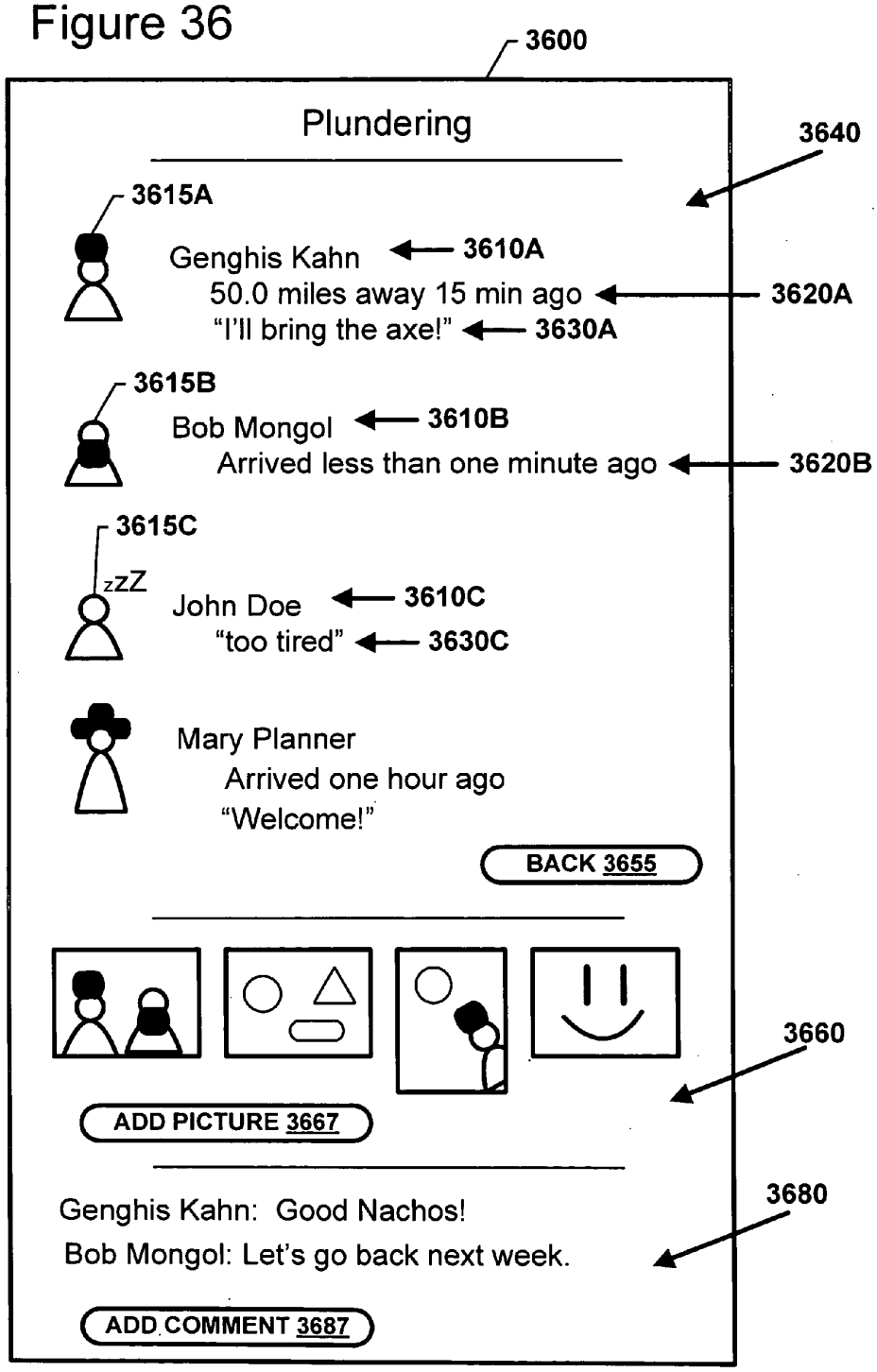

3600
Plundering
3640
3615A
Genghis Kahn
3610A
50.0 miles away 15 min ago
3620A
"I'll bring the axe!"
3630A
3615B
Bob Mongol
3610B
Arrived less than one minute ago
3620B
3615C
zzZ
John Doe
3610C
"too tired"
3630C
Mary Planner
Arrived one hour ago
"Welcome!"
BACK 3655
3660
ADD PICTURE 3667
3680
Genghis Kahn: Good Nachos!
Bob Mongol: Let's go back next week.
ADD COMMENT 3687

Figure 37

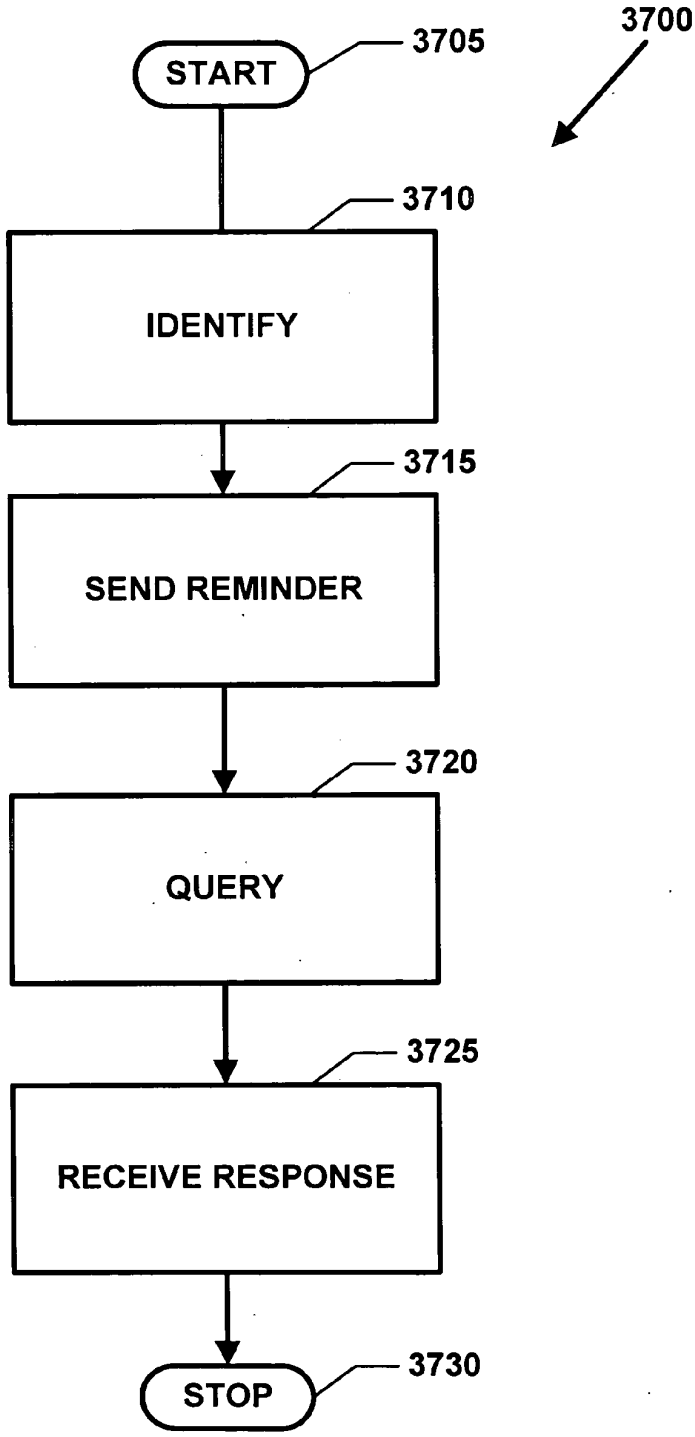
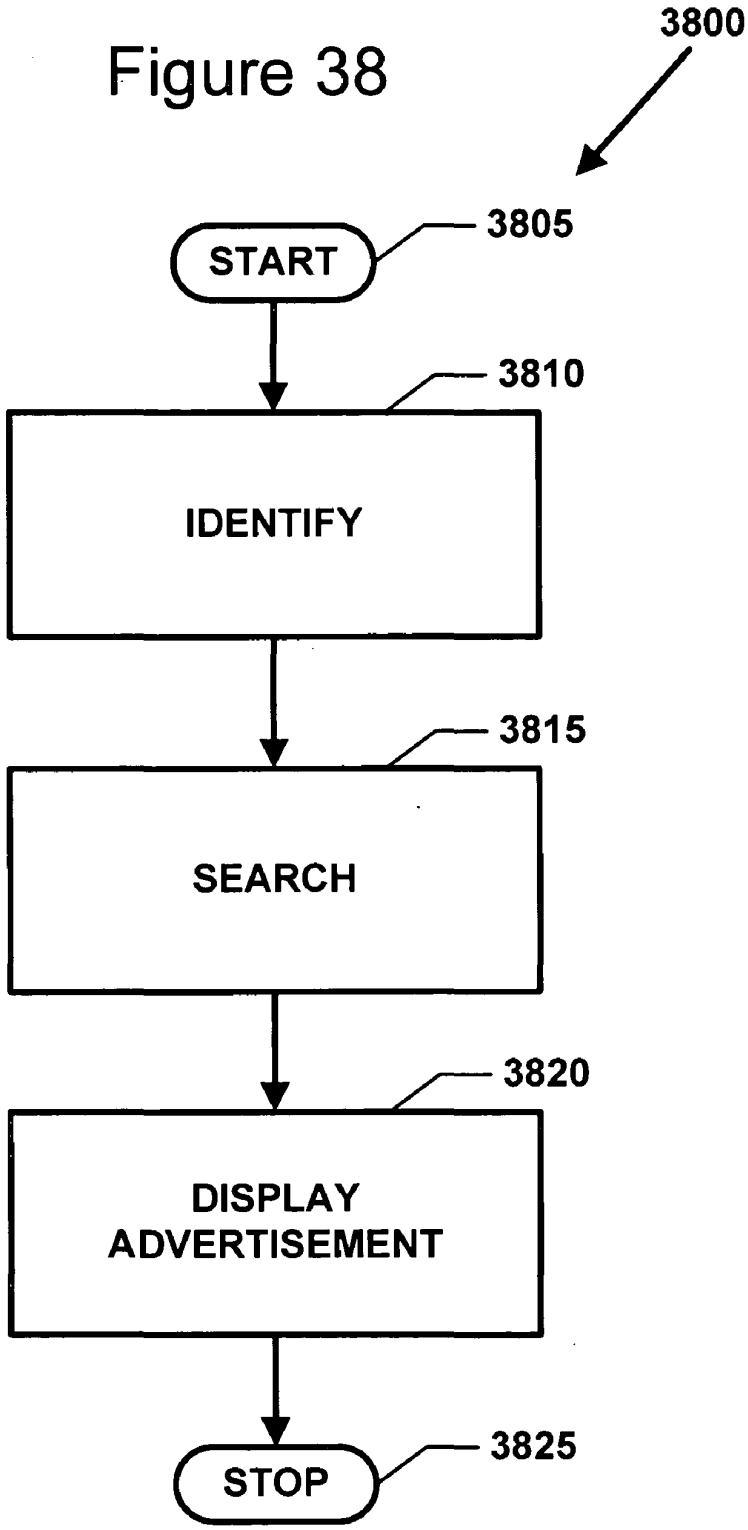

3700
START
3705
IDENTIFY
3710
SEND REMINDER
3715
QUERY
3720
RECEIVE RESPONSE
3725
STOP
3730

Figure 38


3800
START
3805
IDENTIFY
3810
SEARCH
3815
DISPLAY ADVERTISEMENT
3820
STOP
3825

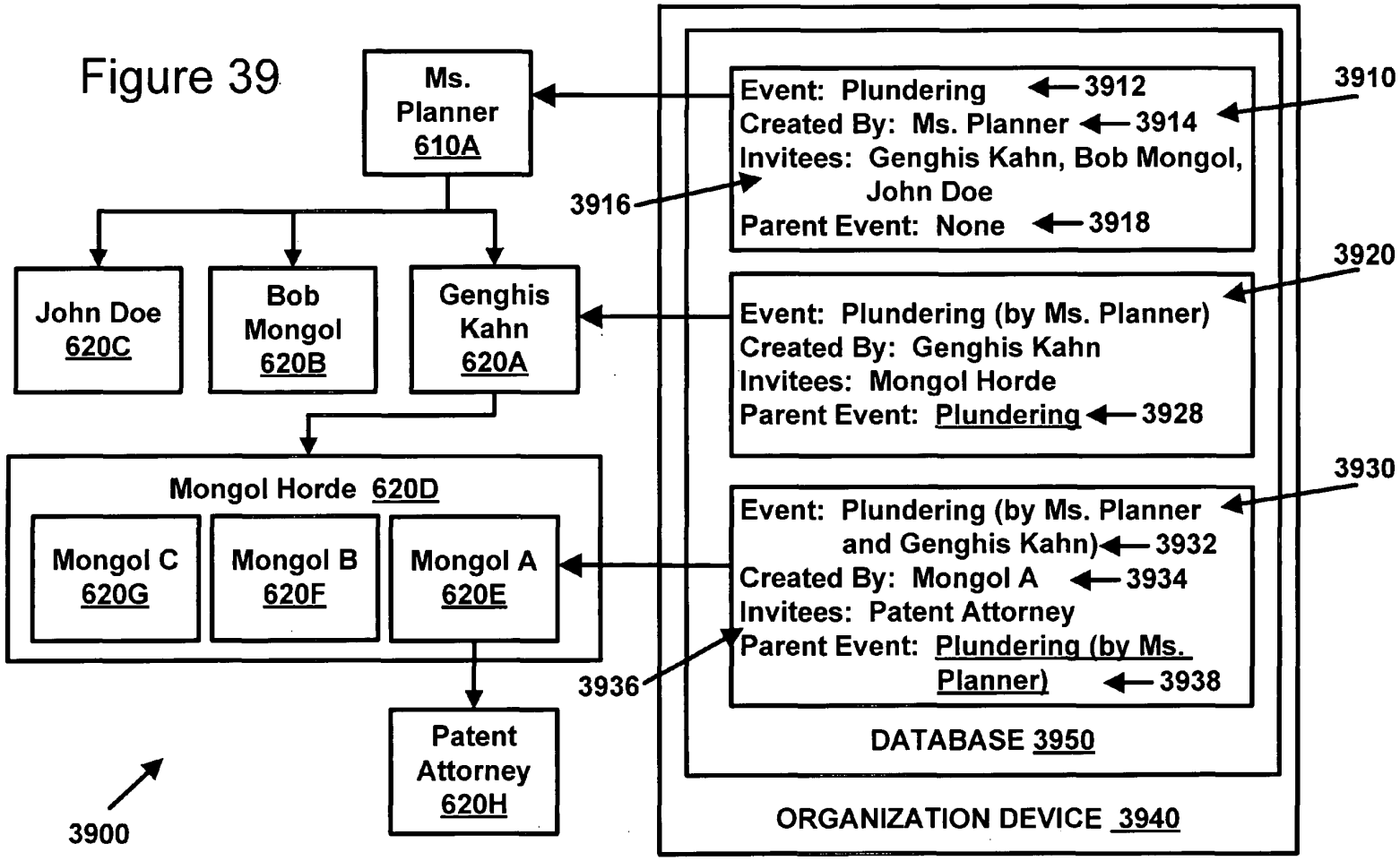

Ms. Planner 610A
John Doe 620C
Bob Mongol 620B
Genghis Kahn 620A
Mongol Horde 620D
Mongol C 620G
Mongol B 620F
Mongol A 620E
Patent Attorney 620H
3900
Event: Plundering 3912
Created By: Ms. Planner 3914
Invitees: Genghis Kahn, Bob Mongol, John Doe
Parent Event: None 3918
3916
3910
Event: Plundering (by Ms. Planner)
Created By: Genghis Kahn
Invitees: Mongol Horde
Parent Event: Plundering 3928
3920
Event: Plundering (by Ms. Planner and Genghis Kahn) 3932
Created By: Mongol A 3934
Invitees: Patent Attorney
Parent Event: Plundering (by Ms. Planner) 3938
3936
3930
DATABASE 3950
ORGANIZATION DEVICE 3940

Figure 39

Figure 40

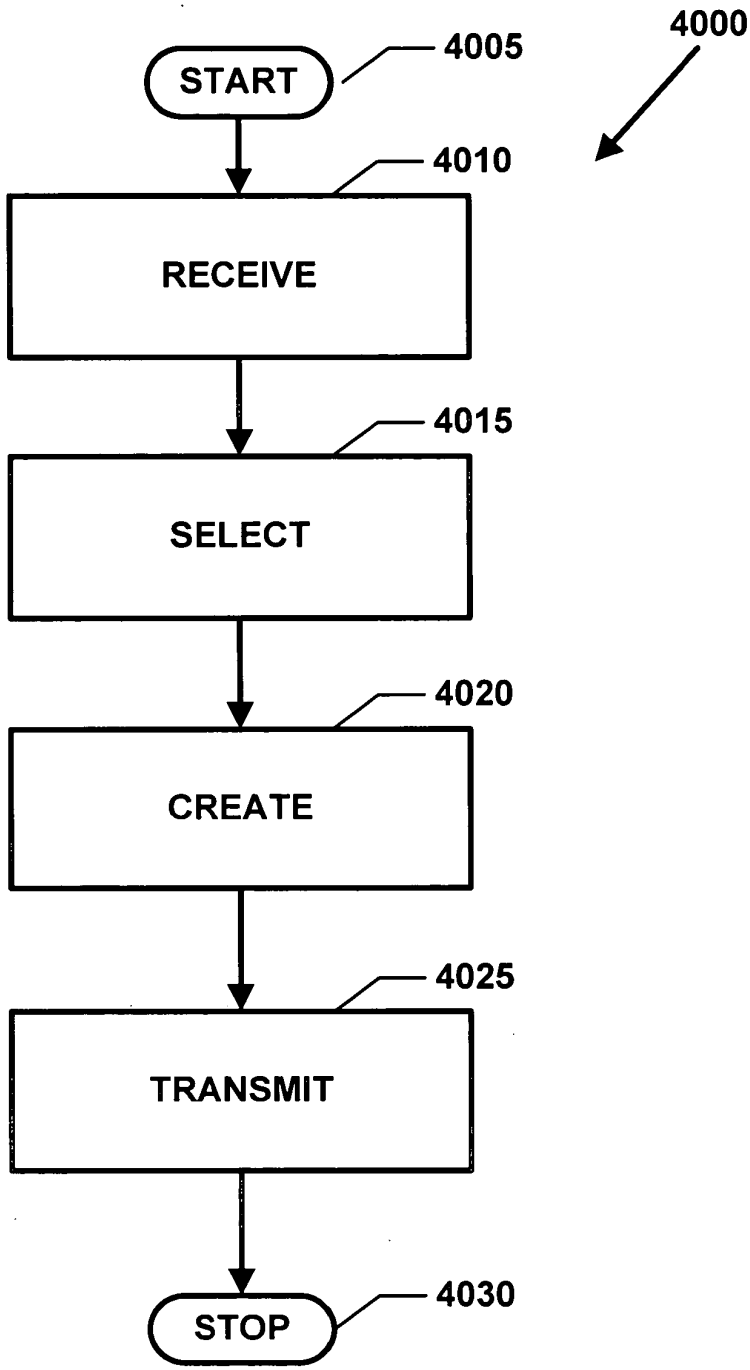

4000
START
4005
RECEIVE
4010
SELECT
4015
CREATE
4020
TRANSMIT
4025
STOP
4030

Figure 41

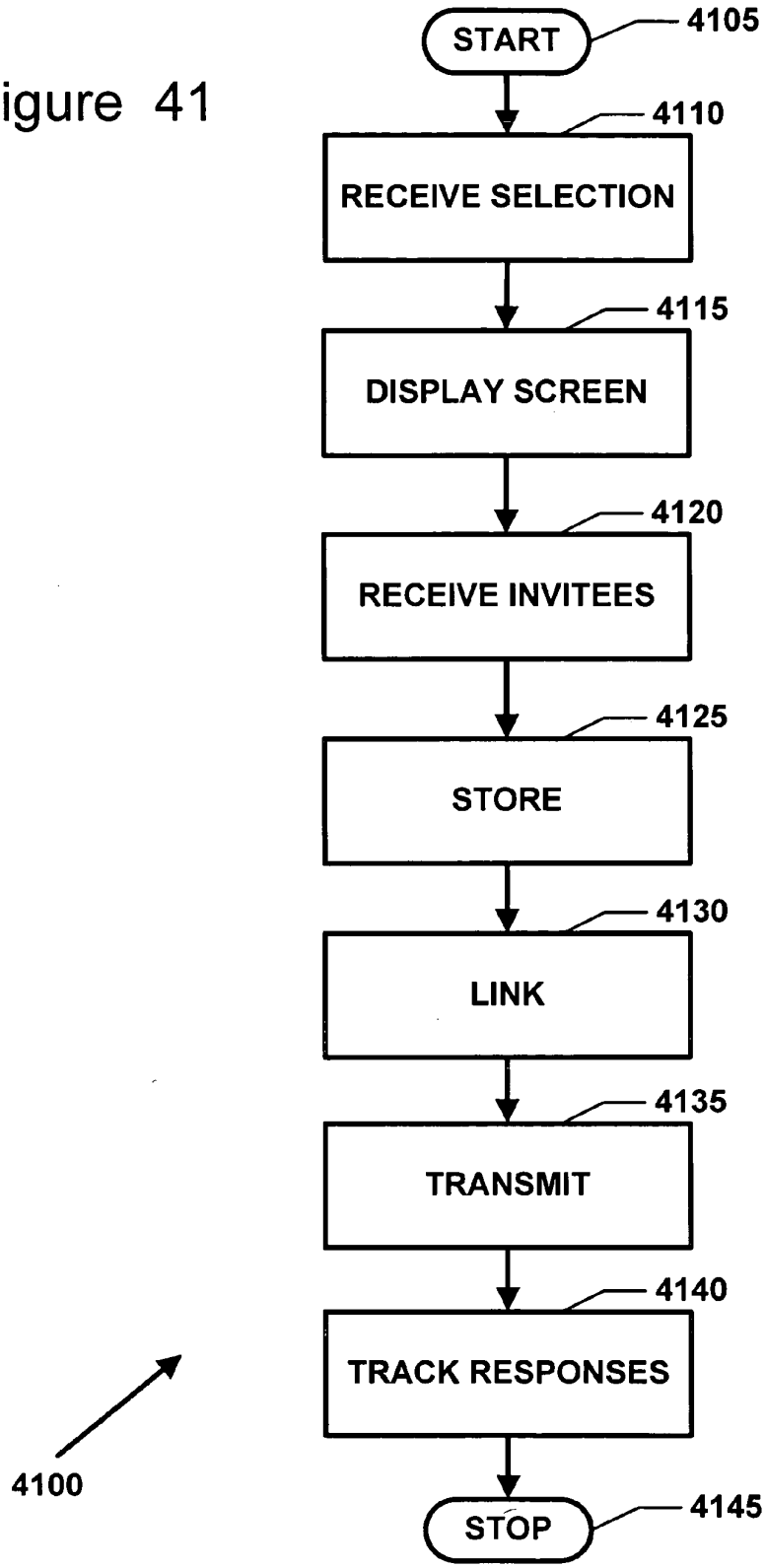

START
4105
4110
RECEIVE SELECTION
4115
DISPLAY SCREEN
4120
RECEIVE INVITEES
4125
STORE
4130
LINK
4135
TRANSMIT
4140
TRACK RESPONSES
STOP
4145
4100

Figure 42

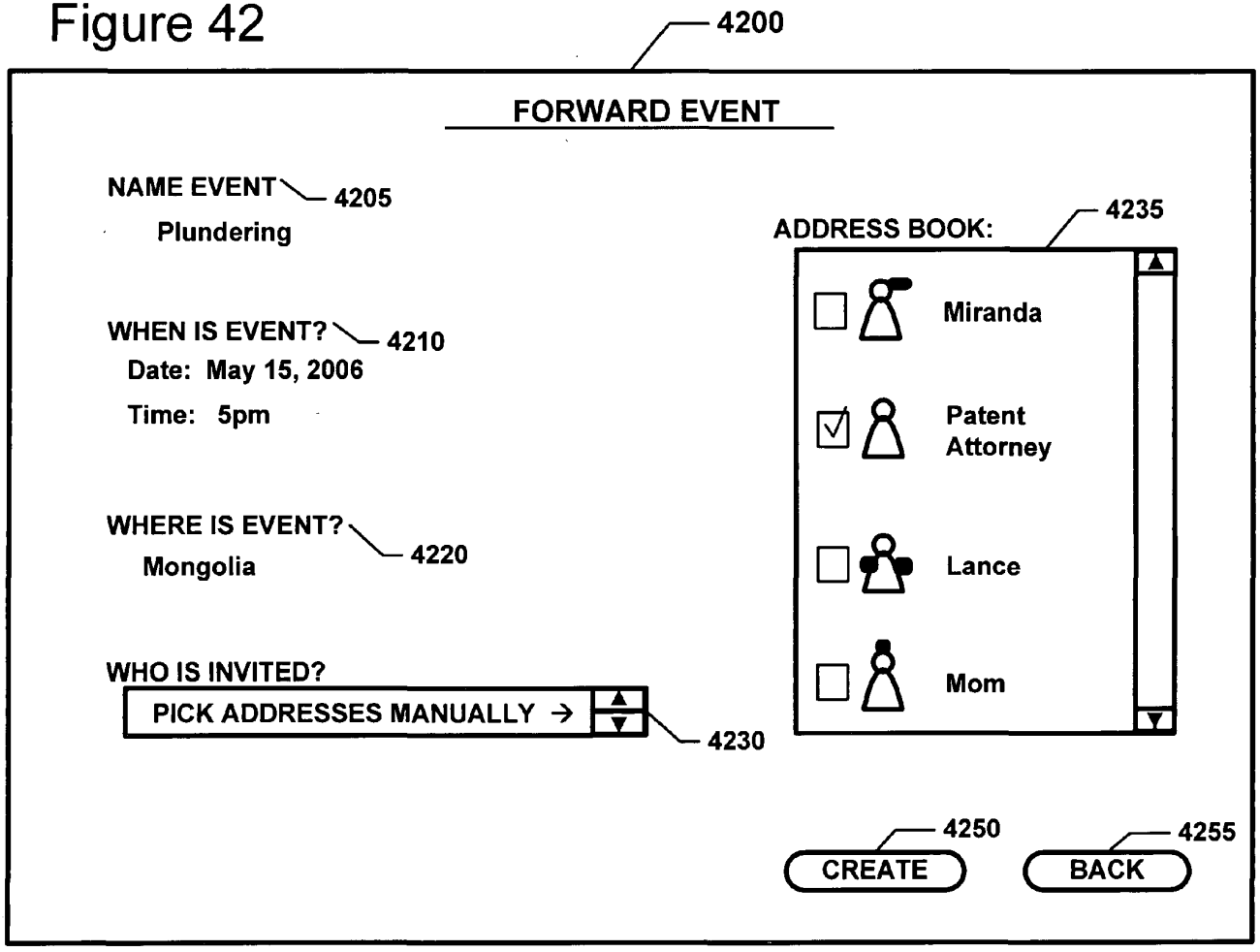

4200
FORWARD EVENT
NAME EVENT
4205
Plundering
WHEN IS EVENT?
4210
Date: May 15, 2006
Time: 5pm
WHERE IS EVENT?
4220
Mongolia
WHO IS INVITED?
PICK ADDRESSES MANUALLY →
4230
ADDRESS BOOK:
4235
Miranda
Patent Attorney
Lance
Mom
4250
CREATE
4255
BACK

Figure 43

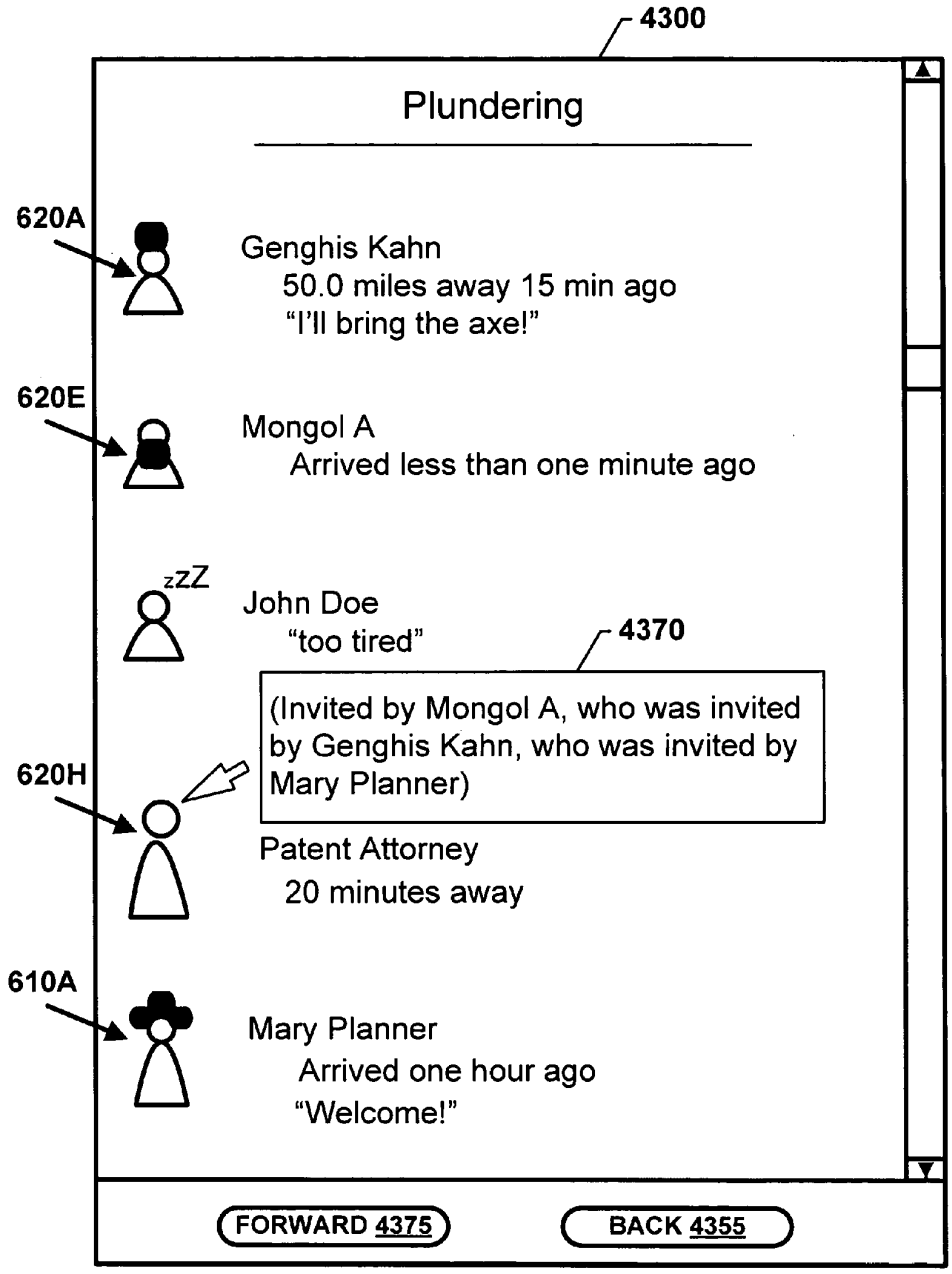
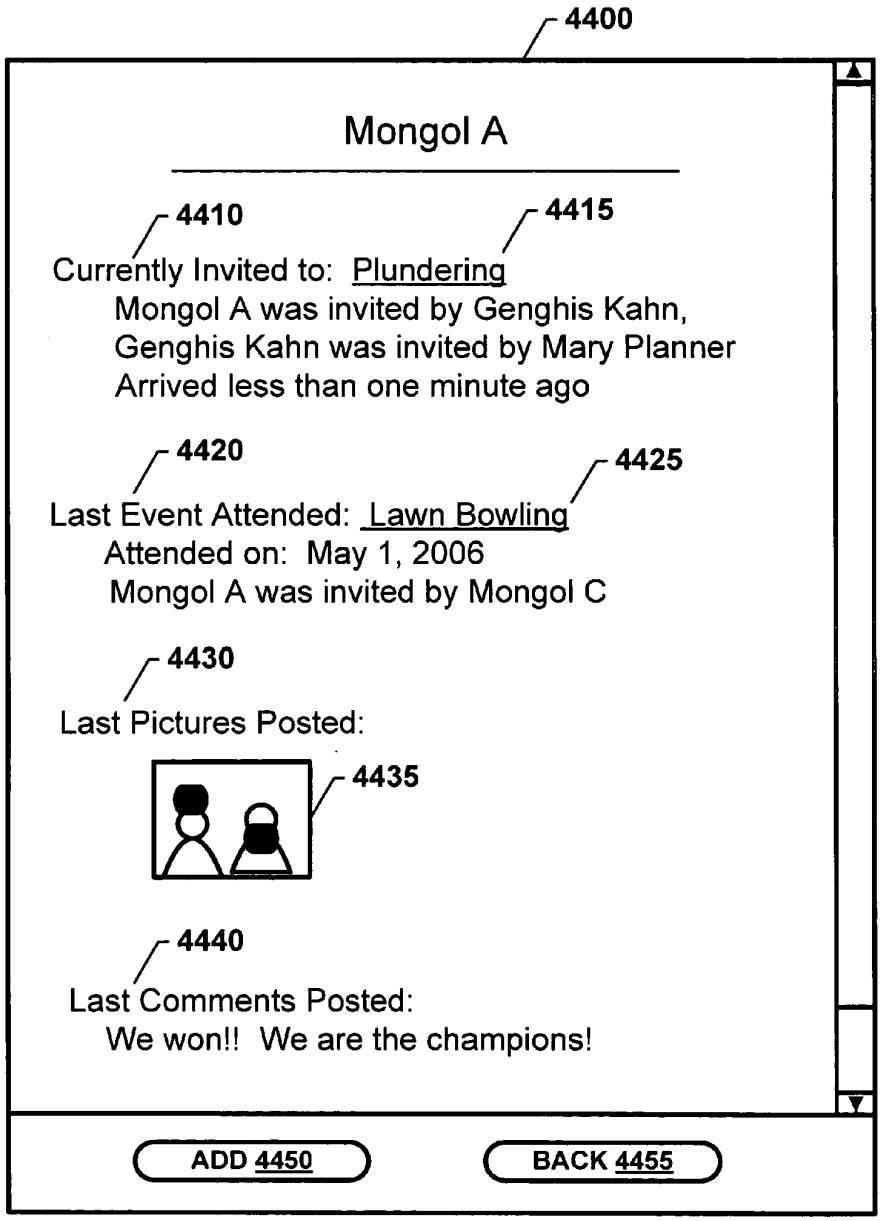

4300
Plundering
620A
Genghis Kahn
50.0 miles away 15 min ago
"I'll bring the axe!"
620E
Mongol A
Arrived less than one minute ago
zzZ
John Doe
"too tired"
4370
(Invited by Mongol A, who was invited by Genghis Kahn, who was invited by Mary Planner)
620H
Patent Attorney
20 minutes away
610A
Mary Planner
Arrived one hour ago
"Welcome!"
FORWARD 4375
BACK 4355

Figure 44


4400
Mongol A
4410
4415
Currently Invited to: Plundering
Mongol A was invited by Genghis Kahn,
Genghis Kahn was invited by Mary Planner
Arrived less than one minute ago
4420
4425
Last Event Attended: Lawn Bowling
Attended on: May 1, 2006
Mongol A was invited by Mongol C
4430
Last Pictures Posted:
4435
4440
Last Comments Posted:
We won!! We are the champions!
ADD 4450
BACK 4455

SYSTEMS AND METHODS FOR ORGANIZING AN EVENT AND TRACKING ATTENDANCE STATUS

BACKGROUND

[0001] Planning events can be time consuming and complicated. Event information, such as location and time, must be communicated to multiple parties. Keeping track of who is planning on attending adds to the complication. As the time for the event nears, guests often call the organizer and/or each other to determine who is coming, who has arrived, and how late they are. There exists a need for better event organization systems and methods.

SUMMARY

[0002] In general, the present disclosure describes methods and systems for organizing an event. In particular, the present disclosure describes systems and methods for organizing an event and tracking the attendance status of event participants.

[0003] According to some embodiments, a user accesses an organization device and schedules a location-specific event. The user has the option of inviting event participants.

[0004] According to one aspect, the organization device tracks the participation status of each invitee. In some embodiments, the invitees can send to the organization device a response to an event invitation regarding the participation status of the invitee.

[0005] According to another aspect, the organization device can also provide the participation status of each invitee to other invitees.

[0006] According to yet another aspect, the organization device can also track and provide the arrival status of these invitees. In some embodiments, the organization device can communicate with a portable, location-aware electronic device of one or more of the invitees to determine a current geographic location of the portable device.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

[0007] FIG. **1** illustrates an operation flow for a process for creating an event and tracking the attendance status of event participants according to one embodiment of the present disclosure;

[0008] FIG. **2** illustrates a schematic of one exemplary embodiment of a network including multiple interconnected entities according to one embodiment of the present disclosure;

[0009] FIG. **3** illustrates a block diagram of an example network and communication environment of an organization device according to one embodiment of the present disclosure;

[0010] FIG. **4** illustrates a block diagram of an example hardware and operating environment of an organizing device according to one embodiment of the present disclosure;

[0011] FIG. **5** illustrates a block diagram of an example hardware and operating environment of a portable device according to one embodiment of the present disclosure;

[0012] FIG. **6** illustrates a block diagram of an example operating environment in which a portable device can access the Internet according to one embodiment of the present disclosure;

[0013] FIG. **7** illustrates one example of a menu interface according to one embodiment of the present disclosure;

[0014] FIG. **8** illustrates an operation flow for a process for displaying a menu interface according to one embodiment of the present disclosure;

[0015] FIG. **9** illustrates an operation flow for a process for adding a contact to an address book according to one embodiment of the present disclosure;

[0016] FIG. **10** illustrates one example of a new contact interface according to one embodiment of the present disclosure;

[0017] FIG. **11** illustrates an operation flow for a process for creating a group of contacts according to one embodiment of the present disclosure;

[0018] FIG. **12** illustrates one example of a new group interface according to one embodiment of the present disclosure;

[0019] FIG. **13** illustrates one example of an edit group interface according to one embodiment of the present disclosure;

[0020] FIG. **14** illustrates an operation flow for a process for adding a location to a locations list according to one embodiment of the present disclosure;

[0021] FIG. **15** illustrates one example of a new location interface according to one embodiment of the present disclosure;

[0022] FIG. **16** illustrates an operation flow for a process for creating an event according to one embodiment of the present disclosure;

[0023] FIG. **17** illustrates an operation flow for a process for scheduling a new event according to one embodiment of the present disclosure;

[0024] FIG. **18** illustrates one example of a create event interface according to one embodiment of the present disclosure;

[0025] FIG. **19** illustrates an operation flow for a process for receiving an event invitation according to one embodiment of the present disclosure;

[0026] FIG. **20** illustrates an operation flow for a process for receiving a response to an invitation according to one embodiment of the present disclosure;

[0027] FIG. **21** illustrates one example of an event calendar interface according to one embodiment of the present disclosure;

[0028] FIG. **22** illustrates an operation flow for a process for viewing a calendar of events according to one embodiment of the present disclosure;

[0029] FIG. **23** illustrates an operation flow for a process for editing an event according to one embodiment of the present disclosure;

[0030] FIG. **24** illustrates an operation flow for a process for canceling an event according to one embodiment of the present disclosure;

[0031] FIG. **25** illustrates an operation flow for a process for providing participation status of event invitees according to one embodiment of the present disclosure;

[0032] FIG. **26** illustrates one example of an event status interface according to one embodiment of the present disclosure;

[0033] FIG. **27** illustrates an operation flow for a process for obtaining invitee location information according to one embodiment of the present disclosure;

[0034] FIG. **28** illustrates an operation flow for a process for tracking invitee location information according to one embodiment of the present disclosure;

[0035] FIG. **29** illustrates an operation flow for a process for providing invitee arrival information according to one embodiment of the present disclosure;

[0036] FIG. **30** illustrates one example menu interface configured to display on a WAP browser of a cellular phone;

[0037] FIG. **31** illustrates one example new contact interface configured to display on the WAP browser of FIG. **30**;

[0038] FIG. **32** illustrates one example new location interface configured to display on the WAP browser of FIG. **30**;

[0039] FIG. **33** illustrates one example new event interface configured to display on the WAP browser of FIG. **30**;

[0040] FIG. **34** illustrates one example date scheduling interface tool configured to display on the WAP browser of FIG. **30**;

[0041] FIG. **35** illustrates one example event calendar interface configured to display on the WAP browser of FIG. **30**;

[0042] FIG. **36** illustrates one example event status interface configured to display on the WAP browser of FIG. **30**;

[0043] FIG. **37** illustrates an operation flow for a process for sending reminders to event invitees according to one embodiment of the present disclosure;

[0044] FIG. **38** illustrates an operation flow for a process for providing targeted advertisements according to one embodiment of the present disclosure;

[0045] FIG. **39** depicts an example invitation chain and corresponding event records according to one embodiment of the present disclosure;

[0046] FIG. **40** illustrates an operation flow for a process by which an invitee can invite additional people to an event according to one embodiment of the present disclosure;

[0047] FIG. **41** illustrates an operation flow for a process by which the organization device can track the invitation chain for an event according to one embodiment of the present disclosure;

[0048] FIG. **42** illustrates an example forward event interface according to one embodiment of the present disclosure;

[0049] FIG. **43** illustrates another example event status interface according to one embodiment of the present disclosure; and

[0050] FIG. **44** illustrates an example invitee status interface according to one embodiment of the present disclosure.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

[0051] In the following description of preferred embodiments, reference is made to the accompanying drawings that form a part hereof, and in which is shown by way of illustration specific embodiments in which the invention may be practiced. It is understood that other embodiments may be utilized and changes may be made without departing from the scope of the present disclosure.

[0052] In general, the present disclosure describes methods and systems for organizing an event. According to the disclosure, a user accesses an organization device and schedules a location-specific event. The user has the option of inviting event participants, who can send to the organization device a response regarding the participation status of the invitee. The organization device tracks the participation status of each invitee. The organization device can also provide the participation status of each invitee to other invitees. In some cases, the organization device can communicate with a portable, location-aware electronic device of one or more of the invitees. In such cases, the organization device can also track and provide the arrival status of these invitees.

[0053] Referring now to the figures in general, FIG. **1** illustrates an operational flow for an example process **100** that can be implemented by embodiments of the present disclosure. The process **100** begins at start module **105** and proceeds to a create operation **110**. The create operation **110** enables a user to create an event, such as that described below. A track operation **115** enables the user and/or event invitees to track the attendance status of other event invitees. As the term is used herein, attendance status refers to both participation status and arrival status, such as that described in more detail herein. The process **100** ends at stop module **120**.

[0054] FIG. **2** illustrates an example user network **200** in which users **201**, such as event participants, are communicatively coupled to an organization device **310**. Event participants refer to both an event organizer **610** and individuals invited to the event, referred to as "invitees **620**". The event organizer **610** creates an event using the organization device **310** and sends invitations to the event invitees **620**.

[0055] FIG. **3** is a schematic of one exemplary embodiment of a network **300** including multiple interconnected user devices. An organizing device **310**, such as organization device **310** of FIG. **2**, is configured to transmit and receive information and requests for information to and from user devices **210** and other computing devices, such as a server **240**. In some example embodiments, the organization device is configured to transmit information over the Internet **330**. In other example embodiments, the organization device **310** is configured to transmit information through a wireless carrier **510**. One example embodiment of the organization device will be described in more detail with reference to FIG. **4**.

[0056] A user device **210** refers to a device associated with an event participant, such as participants **610**, **620** of FIG. **2**. Examples of user devices **210** include non-portable devices, such as desktop computers **21** OA. Further examples of user

devices **210** include portable devices **410**, such as cellular phones **41** OA, personal digital assistants (PDAs), and notebook computers. According to some embodiments, each user device **210**, **410** communicates directly with other user devices **210**, **410**. According to other embodiments, however, the user devices **210**, **410** communicate with one another through the organizing device. More information regarding possible portable user devices **410** will be provided herein with respect to FIG. **5**.

[**0057**] In some example embodiments, the event organizer **610**, FIG. **2**, accesses the organization device **310** from a portable device **410**, FIG. **3**, such as cellular phone **410**A. In other embodiments, the event organizer **610** accesses the organization device **310** from a non-portable user device **210**, such as desktop computer **210**A. In still other embodiments, the event organizer **610** accesses the organization device **310** directly using an input device, such as input device **317** of FIG. **4**, of the organization device **310**.

[**0058**] Referring to FIGS. **4-6**, block diagrams of example hardware and operating environments in which different embodiments of the present disclosure can be practiced are illustrated. Some embodiments of the present disclosure are described in terms of a computer executing computer-executable instructions. However, some embodiments of the present disclosure can be implemented entirely in computer hardware in which the computer-executable instructions are implemented in read-only memory. Some other embodiments of the present disclosure can also be implemented in client/server computing environments where remote devices, linked through a communications network, perform tasks. Program modules can be located in both local and remote memory storage devices in a distributed computing environment.

[**0059**] FIG. **4** illustrates an example embodiment of an operating environment **400** for an organization device **310**. Embodiments of the present disclosure are not limited to any particular type of organizing device **310**. In some example embodiments, the organizing device **310** is a computer server. In varying embodiments, the organizing device **310** includes a PC-compatible computer, a MacOS®-compatible computer or a UNIX-compatible computer. The construction and operation of such computers are well known within the art. In some example embodiments, the organization device **310** can be operated using at least one operating environment to provide a graphic user interface including a user-controllable pointer. Such operating environments include operating systems such as versions of the Microsoft Windows® and Apple MacOS® operating systems. Embodiments of the present disclosure are not limited to any particular operating environment, however, and the construction and use of such operating environments are well known.

[**0060**] In such embodiments, the organizing device **310** includes a processing unit **311**, such as a processor commercially available from Intel®, Motorola®, Cyrix® and other such companies, random-access memory (RAM) **312**, read-only memory (ROM) **313**, and one or more mass storage devices **314**, and a system bus **315**, that operatively couples various system components including the system memory to the processing unit **311**. The RAM **312** can store an operation system **320** and one or more programs **324** executable by the organization device **310**. The ROM **313** can store a basic input/output system (BIOS) **328**. The processing unit **311** executes computer programs stored on the computer-readable media.

[**0061**] The mass storage devices **314** are more specifically types of nonvolatile storage media and can include a hard disk drive, a floppy disk drive, an optical disk drive, and a tape cartridge drive. The memory **312**, **313** and mass storage devices **314** are types of computer-readable media. In some example embodiments, the mass storage devices **314** can store information such as one or more databases **330**, **340**, **350**, **360**. In one example embodiment, a mass storage device **314** of the organization device **310** stores an address book database **320**, a locations database **340**, an events database **350**, and a user locations database **360**. In another example embodiment, other databases (not shown) store information relating to a particular event, invitee participation status, and any other desired information.

[**0062**] An organizing device **310** can be operatively coupled to an input device **317** via the system bus **315**. The input device **317** and the display device **318** are connected to the system bus **315**. A user can enter commands and information into the organization device **310** through input devices **317** such as a pointing device and a keyboard. Other input devices (not shown) can include a mouse device, microphone, joystick, game pad, touch pads, trackballs, scanner, remote control, point stick, or the like. For example, a keyboard permits entry of textual information into the organizing device **310**, as known within the art, and embodiments of the present disclosure are not limited to any particular type of keyboard or input device.

[**0063**] The organizing device **310** can also be operatively coupled to a display device **318** over the system bus **315**. The display device **318** permits the display of information, including computer, video, textual, and other information, for viewing by a user of the computer. Embodiments of the present disclosure are not limited to any particular display device **318**. Such display devices **318** include cathode ray tube (CRT) displays (monitors), as well as flat panel displays such as liquid crystal displays (LCD's). Other output devices can typically include printers and speakers.

[**0064**] Furthermore, the organizing device **310** can be communicatively connected to the Internet **330** via a communication device **316**. Internet connectivity is well known within the art. In one example embodiment, the communication device **316** is a modem that responds to communication drivers to connect to the Internet via what is known in the art as a "dial-up connection." In another example embodiment, the communication device **316** is an Ethernet or similar hardware (network) card connected to a local-area network (LAN) that itself is connected to the Internet via what is known in the art as a "direct connection" (e.g., T**1** line, etc.). In yet another example embodiment, the communication device **316** includes a wireless modem and hub to connect to the Internet via what is known in the art as a "wireless connection." Embodiments of the present disclosure are not limited to a particular type of communications device **316**.

[**0065**] The organizing device **310** can have at least one web browser application program executing within at least one operating environment, to permit users of the organizing device **310** to access an intranet or the Internet **330** as addressed by a Universal Resource Locator (URL)

addresses. Such browser application programs include Netscape Navigator® and Microsoft Internet Explorer®.

[0066] The organizing device **310** can operate in a networked environment using logical connections to one or more remote computers or other electronic devices, such as portable device **410**. Logical connections are achieved via the communication device **316**. The remote computer can be another computer, a server, a router, a network PC, a client, a peer device, a mobile device such as a cell phone or PDA, or any other suitable network node. The logical connections depicted in FIGS. **4** and **5** include a local-area network (LAN) **334** and a wide-area network (WAN) **338**. Such networking environments are commonplace in offices, enterprise-wide computer networks, intranets and the Internet.

[0067] When used in a LAN-networking environment **334**, the organizing device **310** and remote electronic device **410** are connected to the local network **334** through a network interface or adapter, which is one type of communications device **316**. When used in a conventional WAN-networking environment, the organizing device **310** and remote electronic device **410** communicate with a WAN **338** through modems, which are another type of communications device **316**. The modem of the organizing device **310**, which can be internal or external, is connected to the system bus **315**. In a networked environment, program modules depicted relative to the organizing device **310**, or portions thereof, can be stored in the remote memory storage device.

[0068] FIG. **5** illustrates a block diagram of an example hardware and operating environment **500** in which different embodiments of a portable device **410** can be practiced. Embodiments of the present disclosure are not limited to any particular type of portable device **410**. In one example embodiment, the portable device **410** is a cellular phone. In varying embodiments, the portable device **410** is a mobile device capable of accessing the Internet, sending text messages, receiving and transmitting locations information, and taking digital pictures. The construction and operation of such portable devices **410** are well known within the art.

[0069] In general, the portable device **410** includes a processing unit (i.e., CPU) **411**, memory storage **412**, and a system bus **415** that operatively couples various system components including the system memory **412** to the processing unit **411**. The memory **412** can store an operation system **420** and one or more programs **424** executable by the processing unit **411**. In some embodiments, the processing unit **411** executes computer programs stored on the computer-readable media. One example of a program **424** is an application **427** enabling the wireless device to access and interface with the organization device **310**. Such an application **427** will be discussed in more detail herein.

[0070] In some example embodiments, the portable device **410** can be operated using at least one operating environment to provide a graphic user interface. In such embodiments, the portable device **410** includes a user interface control **423**. However, embodiments of the present disclosure are not limited to any particular operating environment and the construction and use of such operating environments are well known within the art.

[0071] The portable device **410** can be operatively coupled to an input device **417** via the system bus **415**. A user can enter commands and information into the organization device **410** through input devices **417** such as a pointing device and a keyboard. In some embodiments, the input device **417** can include a microphone for obtaining auditory information from a user. Other input devices (not shown) can include a mouse device, game pad, touch pads, trackballs, camera, remote control, point stick, or the like. For example, a keyboard permits entry of textual information into the portable user device **410**, as known within the art, and embodiments of the present disclosure are not limited to any particular type of keyboard.

[0072] The portable user device **410** can also be operatively coupled to a display device **418** over the system bus **415**. The display device **418** permits the display of information, including graphical, textual, and other information, for viewing by a user of the computer. In some embodiments, the display device **418** includes a speaker for presenting auditory information to a user. Embodiments of the present disclosure, however, are not limited to any particular display device **418**.

[0073] Furthermore, the portable device **410** can be communicatively connected to other devices, such as other portable devices **410**, other non-portable user devices **210**, and other non-user devices **240**, via a communication device **416**. In some example embodiments, the communication device **416** includes a radio transmitter and receiver for transmitting and receiving electromagnetic waves carrying speech and data packets. Embodiments of the present disclosure are not limited to a particular type of communications device **416**. In one example embodiment, the communication device **416** couples the portable device **410** to the Internet **330**. Internet connectivity is well known within the art and additional details regarding the Internet connectivity are discussed with reference to FIG. **6**.

[0074] The portable device **410** can have at least one web browser application program executing within at least one operating environment, to permit users of the portable device **410** to access the Internet **330**. For example, in some embodiments, a portable device **410** accesses the Internet **300** using a Wireless Application Protocol (WAP). In other example embodiments, the portable device **410** can send and receive text messages via a text messaging service, such as SMS and GMS. In still other example embodiments, the portable device **410** can send and receive email messages. Such features for portable devices are well known in the art and the invention is not limited to a particular system for implementing these features.

[0075] In some example embodiments, the portable device **410** includes a location determination device **419** operably coupled to the CPU **411** via the system bus **415**. The location determination device **419** is configured to ascertain the current location of the portable device **410**. One example location determination device **419** includes a GPS (Global Positioning System) transceiver. The portable device **410** can determine its current location using the location determination device **419** and transmit its location using the communication device **416** to an organization device **310** or other device.

[0076] FIG. **6** illustrates one example embodiment of an operating environment **600** through which a portable device **410**, such as a WAP- and GPS-enabled cellular phone **410**A, can connect to the organization device **310**, the Internet **330**, or another device through a wireless carrier **510**. In general,

the wireless carrier **510** maintains a WAP gateway **520** and a firewall **515**. The WAP gateway is device independent and service independent.

[**0077**] In some example embodiments, a WAP gateway **520** includes a translate module **522** and a push module **524**. The translate module **522** encodes and decodes WAP pages between the cell phone browser and the web server to which the cell phone is connecting. For example, in one embodiment, the WAP gateway **520** translates HTML (i.e., hypertext markup language) to WML (i.e., wireless markup language), and vice versa. The push module **524** directs the user of a portable device **510** to a WAP address where content can be stored ready for viewing or downloading. Non-limiting examples of content stored at a WAP address include web pages, multimedia content, and Java applications.

[**0078**] Referring now to FIGS. **7-18**, an event organizer **610** can schedule an event and invite participants (i.e., invitees) **620** to the event using the organization device **310**. The organization device **310** executes a number of processes at the request of the event organizer **610**. In some example embodiments, the event organizer **610** requests the organization device **310** to perform the processes through a series of interfaces displayed on a display screen, such as display screen **318** of FIG. **4**, of the organization device **310**. Examples of some of these processes and interfaces are disclosed herein with respect to claims **7-18**.

[**0079**] FIG. **7** illustrates one example embodiment of a menu interface **700** capable of being displayed to the event organizer **610**. In this embodiment, the menu interface **700** displays a first option **710**, a second option **720**, and a logout option **730**. The logout option **730** enables the event organizer **610** to end communication with the organization device **310**. Examples of different options displayed on the menu interface **700** will be discussed in detail below.

[**0080**] FIG. **8** illustrates an operation flow for a process **800** for accessing a menu, such as menu interface **700**, and selecting a menu option. The process **800** beings at start module **805** and proceeds to display operation **810**. The display operation **810** displays to the event organizer **610** a menu interface including at least two options. An enable operation **815** provides an interface tool with which the event organizer **610** can select one of the options displayed on the menu. In some embodiments, the display operation **810** presents the options in the form of buttons and the enable operation **815** allows a user to select one of the options by pressing or "clicking" on the corresponding button. In other embodiments, however, options can be selected via radio buttons, hyper-links, and other suitable interface tools. A receive operation **820** receives the selection from the event organizer **610**. The process ends at stop module **825**.

[**0081**] Referring now to FIGS. **9-13**, the event organizer **610** creates and maintains a contact list (i.e., or address book) of individuals the event organizer **610** may wish to invite to an event. In some example embodiments, the contact list is stored in a database, such as the address book database **330**, on the organization device **310** (FIG. **4**). In other example embodiments, the contact list is stored in the memory **412** of the portable device **410** (FIG. **5**) of the event organizer **610**. As the term is used herein, a "contact" refers to either an individual or a group of individuals for whom contact information is available to the event organizer **610**.

[**0082**] FIG. **9** illustrates an operational flow for a process **900** for adding an individual to the contact list. The process **900** begins at a start module **905** and proceeds to a display operation **910**, which displays to the event organizer **610** a new contact interface. One example of such an interface is depicted as display screen **1000** in FIG. **10**. The process **900** collects information that will enable the event organizer **610** to send information to the individual being added.

[**0083**] A first receive operation **915** receives the name of the individual. A second receive operation **920** receives the phone number of the individual. A third receive operation **925** receives the service provider of the individual. In some embodiments, the second and third receive operations **920**, **925** obtain information from the user adding the contact. In other embodiments, however, the organization device, such as organization device **310** of FIG. **2**, can access the contact information of each user. In one example embodiment, the organization device stores contact information for each user.

[**0084**] In another example embodiment, second and third receive operations **920**, **925** can obtain information pertaining to a new contact from the address books of other users if the other users have such information in their address books. For example, if Mary Planner wanted to add Mongol A as a contact to her address book, and if Genghis Kahn already had Mongol A listed as a contact, then receive operations **920**, **925** could obtain Mongol A's service provider or phone number from Genghis Kahn's address book.

[**0085**] In still other embodiments, however, the process **900** can collect other types of information, such as a mailing address, an email address, or an alternative phone number corresponding to the individual. A save operation **930** stores the collected information. For example, in some embodiments, the save operation **930** adds an entry in an address book stored on the organization device **310**. The process **900** ends at a stop module **935**.

[**0086**] FIG. **10** illustrates one example embodiment of a "New Contact" interface **1000** capable of being displayed to the event organizer **610**. The screen **1000** includes text boxes **1005**, **1010** into which the event organizer **610** can type the name and phone number, respectively, of the individual. In some embodiments, the interface **1000** also includes a text box (not shown) into which the event organizer **610** can enter the service provider of the new contact. In other embodiments, the screen **1000** includes a drop down box **1015** from which the event organizer **610** can select the appropriate service provider from a predetermined list of service providers. In still other embodiments, other text boxes and other interface tools (not shown) can be provided for entering any desired contact information relating to the individual being added.

[**0087**] In some embodiments, the new contact interface **1000** also includes interface tools enabling the event organizer **610** to add the new contact to the address book and to return to the menu screen **800** without adding the new contact. For example, in one embodiment, the interface screen **1000** includes a create button **1050** and a back button **1055**. In other embodiments, other navigation tools (not shown) can be added as desired.

[**0088**] In some embodiments, a user, such as a user **201** of user network **200**, will not have any contacts stored in her address book until she creates a new contact. In other

embodiments, however, contact information is automatically created for all users who have the user listed in their address books. For example, in such an embodiment, if a first user, Mary Planner, was listed as a contact for a second user, Genghis Kahn, then contact information for Mr. Kahn would be automatically added to Ms. Planner's address book.

[0089] Referring to FIGS. **11-13**, individual contacts can be associated together to form a group. Thereafter, the event organizer can invite the members of the group without having to select and identify each individual member. FIG. **11** illustrates an operational flow for a process **1100** for creating a grouping of individuals from the contact list of the event organizer **610**.

[0090] The process **1100** begins at a start module **1105** and proceeds to a first display operation **1110**, which displays a group interface to the event organizer **610**. One example of such an interface is depicted as new group interface **1200** in FIG. **12**. A name operation **1115** enables the event organizer **610** to input a designation by which the group will be known.

[0091] A second display operation **1120** provides a list of existing contacts, such as list **1320** of FIG. **13**, from the contact list of the event organizer **610**. In some embodiments, the second display operation **1120** displays the list of contacts on the interface displayed in the first display operation **1110**. In other embodiments, the second display operation **1120** provides a new display, such as the "Edit Group" interface **1300** shown in FIG. **13**.

[0092] An enable operation **1125** provides the event organizer **610** with an interface tool arrangement for selecting one or more contact entries, such as contact entry **1322** in FIG. **13**. In some embodiments, the enable operation **1125** provides checkboxes, such as checkboxes **1326** in FIG. **13**, to allow the event organizer **610** to select one or more entry. In other embodiments, the enable operation **1125** provides radio buttons, hyperlinks, or other such tools to allow the event organizer **10** to select entries. In still other embodiments, the enable operation **1125** provides an interface arrangement for deselecting one or more entries from being included in the group. For example, in one embodiment, the enable operation **1125** provides a deselect button, such as deselect button **1340** in FIG. **13**, that allows an event organizer **610** to remove or exclude one or more entries from the group.

[0093] When the event organizer **610** has finished selecting the contacts desired to be included in the group, a confirm operation **1130** enables the event organizer **610** to indicate that the selected entries should be associated with the group. A group operation **1135** associates the selected contact entries with the group name. The process **1100** ends at a stop module **1140**.

[0094] FIGS. **12** and **13** illustrate example "Group" interfaces provided by the display operations **1110**, **1120** of process **1100**. In some embodiments, forming a group involves first providing a group designation and then adding contacts to the group. The above steps can be performed using one or more interfaces. For example, FIG. **12** illustrates an interface **1200** for creating a new group designation and FIG. **13** illustrates an interface **1300** for defining which contacts belong to the group created using interface **1200**. In other embodiments, however, the creation and definition steps can be executed using the same interface or other suitable interfaces (not shown).

[0095] FIG. **12** illustrates one example embodiment of a new group interface **1200** provided by the first display operation **1110** in process **1100**. The interface **1200** includes an interface tool **1210**, such as a textbox, enabling an event organizer **610** to designate a name for the group. As with the "New Contact" interface **1000** of FIG. **10**, the interface **1200** includes interface arrangements for enabling the event organizer **610** to add the new group contact to the address book and to return to the menu screen **800** (FIG. **8**) without adding the new group contact. For example, in the embodiment shown in FIG. **12**, the interface **1200** includes a create button **1250** and a back button **1255**. In other embodiments, other interface and navigation tools (not shown) can be used as desired.

[0096] FIG. **13** illustrates one example embodiment of an interface **1300** provided by the second display operation **1120** of process **1100**. In some embodiments, the interface **1300** is an "Edit Group" interface that is provided to the event organizer **610** separately from the new group interface **1200**. The display screen **1300** provides an interface tool **1310** enabling an event organizer **610** to provide or select the name designation of the group the event organizer **610** desires to edit.

[0097] The display screen **1300** also provides a list **1320** of contacts previously provided by the event organizer **610**. The list **1320** includes one or more entries **1322** and each entry **1322** has a corresponding interface tool **1326**. In some embodiments, each entry **1322** also includes text **1324** indicating a contact name and an icon **1328**. In one example embodiment, the icon **1328** indicates whether the contact is an individual or a group. In other embodiments, the icon **1328** is unique to each contact. In one such embodiment, the event organizer **610** chooses the icon **1328** for each contact. In another such embodiments, each individual contact chooses an icon **1328** to represent the individual.

[0098] In the example interface **1300** shown in FIG. **13**, the interface **1300** includes an "add" button **1330** and a "delete" button **1340** enabling the event organizer **610** to associate selected entries **1322** with and dissociate selected entries **1322** from the designated group. In other embodiments, however, different interface tools can be provided to enable the event organizer **610** to forms groups. In the example shown, a save button **1350** is provided to enable the event organizer **610** to indicate that the event organizer **610** has finished forming the group. A back button **1355** is also provided to enable the event organizer **610** to return to the main menu **1000** without saving the group information.

[0099] Referring now to FIGS. **14** and **15**, the event organizer **610** creates and maintains a list of locations at which events can be scheduled. In some example embodiments, the locations list is stored in a database, such as the locations database **330**, on the organization device **310** (FIG. **4**). In other example embodiments, the locations list is stored in the memory **412** of the portable device **410** (FIG. **5**) of the event organizer **610**.

[0100] FIG. **14** illustrates an operational flow for a process **1400** for adding a new location to the locations list associated with the event organizer **610**. The process **1400** beings

at a start module **1405** and proceeds to a display operation **1410**. The display operation **1410** provides a "New Location" interface to the event organizer **610**. One example "New Location" interface is depicted in FIG. **15**. Of course, the invention is not so limited and any suitable interface can be used.

[**0101**] Continuing with the process **1400**, a first receive operation **1415** receives a name designating the location to be added. For example, in one example embodiment, the receive operation **1415** receives a name input into an interface tool, such as textbox **1510** of FIG. **15**. A second receive operation **1420** receives information indicating the geographic position of the location. In some example embodiments, the second receive operation **1420** receives geographic coordinates (e.g., latitude and longitude) of the location. In such embodiments, the process **1400** proceeds to a store operation **1425**.

[**0102**] In other example embodiments, the second receive operation **1420** receives an address associated with the location. In some such embodiments, the process **1400** proceeds to a geo-locate operation **1422** that determines the geographic coordinates of the location based on the received address. In other such embodiments, however, the process **1400** proceeds to the store operation **1425** without determining geographic coordinates for the location. In still other embodiments, the second receive operation **1420** receives a link to a graphical portrayal of the geographic position of the location (e.g., an electronic map or picture).

[**0103**] A store operation **1425** encodes both the name and the geographic position information in memory. In some embodiments, the store operation **1425** adds an entry in the locations database **330** of the organization device **310**. In other embodiments, the store operation **1425** encodes the received designation and corresponding geographic information into the memory **412** of the portable device **410** of the event organizer **610**. The process **1400** ends at stop module **1430**.

[**0104**] FIG. **15** depicts one example embodiment of a "New Location" interface, such as the interface provided by display operation **1410**. The example interface **1500** includes a first interface tool **1510** enabling the event organizer **610** to provide a location name designation. The example interface **1500** also includes a second interface tool **1520** enabling the event organizer **610** to enter a corresponding geographic position.

[**0105**] In some embodiments, the second interface tool **1520** is configured to accept text, for example, an address associated with the location. In other embodiments, the second interface tool **1520** is configured to accept a hyperlink associated with a virtual map or other graphical depiction. In one example embodiment, the second interface tool **1520** is configured to accept a URL including geo-positioning information. In still other embodiments, the second interface tool **1520** is configured to determine the current location of the portable device **410** of the event organizer **610**.

[**0106**] The display screen **1500** also includes interface tools for enabling the event organizer **610** to save the new location and to return to the menu screen **800** (FIG. **8**) without saving the new location. For example, in one embodiment, the display screen **1500** includes a create button **1550** and a back button **1555**. In other embodiments, other navigation tools (not shown) can be used as desired.

[**0107**] Referring now to FIGS. **16-18**, the event organizer **610** can create and schedule one or more events. FIG. **16** illustrates an operational flow for a process **1600** by which the event organizer **610** creates an event. The process **1600** begins at a start module **1605** and proceeds to a receive operation **1610**. The receive operation **1610** obtains from the event organizer **610** information specifying the time and location of an event. The receive operation **1610** also obtains from the event organizer **610** one or more contacts whom the event organizer **610** desires to invite to the event.

[**0108**] An invite operation **1615** transmits invitations to each of the contacts (i.e., invitees) **620** provided by the event organizer **610** in the receive operation **1610**. In some embodiments, the invite operation **1615** sends a text message to user devices, such as user devices **210** of FIG. **3**, of one or more contacts indicating that the contact is invited to the event. In one such embodiment, the text message identifies the event organizer **610**, the location at which the event is to take place, and the date and time at which the event is to take place. In other embodiments, the invite operation **1615** sends a text message including a hyperlink to a website providing the event information. In still other embodiments, the invite operation **1615** sends an email or other type of message providing the event information to the invited contacts **620**. The process **1600** ends at a stop module **1620**.

[**0109**] FIG. **17** illustrates an operational flow for a process **1700** for executing the receive operation **1610** of the process **1600**. The process **1700** begins at a start module **1705** and proceeds to a display operation **1710**. The display operation **1710** provides to the event organizer **610** an interface, such as interface **1800** of FIG. **18**. Next, a first receive operation **1715** receives input from the event organizer **610** designating the name of the event. A second receive operation **1720** receives additional data from the event organizer **610** indicating the date on which the event will occur. A third receive operation **1725** receives from the event organizer **610** a time selection indicating the time at which the event will occur.

[**0110**] A fourth receive operation **1730** receives information indicating the location at which the event will occur. In some embodiments, the event organizer **610** selects a location entry from the list of locations associated with the event organizer **610**. In other embodiments, the fourth receive operation **1730** determines the current geographic location of the portable device **410** of the event organizer **610**. A fifth receive operation **1735** receives information indicating which of the contacts associated with the event organizer **610** are invited to the event. A store operation **1740** adds a new entry to a list of events associated with the event organizer **610**. The process **1700** ends at a stop module **1745**.

[**0111**] FIG. **18** depicts one example embodiment of an interface provided to the event organizer **610** by the display operation **1710** of process **1700**. The "Create Event" interface **1800** includes a first interface tool **1810** configured to enable the event organizer **610** to provide a name designation for the event. The screen **1800** further includes an interface arrangement **1820** enabling the event organizer to provide scheduling information. In some embodiments, the interface arrangement **1820** includes interface tools **1821**, **1823**, **1825**, **1827**, **1829** configured to enable the event organizer to specify the year, month, day, hour, and minute,

respectively, at which the event is to begin. In the example shown, the interface tools **1821**, **1823**, **1825**, **1827**, **1829** include dropdown menus, which are well known in the art. Of course, other suitable interface tools could also be used.

[**0112**] The "Create Event" interface **1800** also includes an interface tool **1830** configured to enable the event organizer **610** to indicate the geographic location of the event. For example, in one example embodiment, the interface tool **1830** includes a dropdown menu listing all locations included on the locations list associated with the event organizer **610**. In another example embodiment, the interface tool **1830** includes a button by which the event organizer **610** can trigger the organization device **310** to determine the current location of the portable device **410** of the event organizer **610**. In other embodiments, however, other interface tools, such as textboxes, could also be used to receive information indicating the desired location.

[**0113**] In some embodiments, the "Create Event" interface **1800** also includes an interface tool **1840** configured to enable the event organizer **610** to indicate contacts that the event organizer **610** desires to invite to the event. In the example shown in FIG. **18**, the interface tool **1840** includes a dropdown menu listing each of the contacts included in the address book of the event organizer **610**. In other embodiments, however, any suitable interface tool can be used to indicate which contacts should be invited to the event.

[**0114**] The interface **1800** also includes interface tools for enabling the event organizer **610** to store the new event (and corresponding information) on the organization device **310** (FIG. **3**) or to return to the menu screen **800** (FIG. **8**) without saving the new event. For example, in one embodiment, the interface **1800** includes a create button **1850** and a back button **1855**. In other embodiments, other navigation tools (not shown) can be used as desired.

[**0115**] Referring now to FIGS. **19** and **20**, the organization device **310** transmits invitations to and tracks responses received from the event invitees **620**. In some example embodiments, these processes can be executed by a portable device belonging to an event participant, such as a cellular phone **410**A of FIG. **3**, and an organization device **310**. In other example embodiments, these processes can be executed by a non-portable device belonging to an event participant, such as a desktop computer **210**A of FIG. **3**, and an organization device **310**.

[**0116**] FIG. **19** illustrates an operational flow for a process **1900** by which an invitee receives an invitation to an event. The process **1900** begins at a start module **1905** and proceeds to a receive operation **1910**. In some embodiments, the receive operation **1910** receives a text message from the organization device **310** indicating that the invitee **620** has been invited to the event. In one example embodiment, the text message includes textual information identifying the location, date, and time of the event. In another example embodiment, the text message includes a hyperlink to a web page on which information relating to the event is provided.

[**0117**] A reply operation **1915** transmits a response from the invitee **620** to the organization device **310**. In some embodiments, the reply operation **1915** transmits a response including a participation status of the invitee **620**. In one example embodiment, the reply operation **1915** transmits a "Y" if the invitee **620** plans to attend the event and an "N" if the invitee **620** plans to not attend. In other embodiments, however, other indications of participation status can be used.

[**0118**] In some example embodiments, the reply operation **1915** transmits a message provided by the invitee **620** along with the participation status. For example, in one embodiment, the reply operation **1915** transmits a "Y" to indicate that the invitee **620** is planning to attend and a message, such as "I'll bring the nachos," provided by the invitee **620**. The process **1900** ends at a stop module **1920**.

[**0119**] FIG. **20** illustrates an operational flow for a process **2000** by which the organization device **310** tracks the participation status of event invitees **620**. The process **2000** begins at a start module **2005** and proceeds to a receive operation **2010**. The receive operation **2010** receives from the invitee **620** a response to the invitation. A determine operation **2015** reads the received response and ascertains the participation status of the invitee **620**. In some embodiments, the determine operation **2015** checks whether the first character in the response is a "Y" or an "N." In other embodiments, however, the determine operation **2015** uses other indicia to determine the participation status of each invitee **620**. A store operation **2020** saves the participation status of each invitee **620** for future reference. In some embodiments, the store operation **2020** saves the participation status of each invitee **620** in a database on the organization device **310**. The process **2000** ends at a stop module **2025**.

[**0120**] Referring now to FIGS. **21-24**, an individual can view the status of each event to which the individual is a party. As the term is used herein, a party to an event is either the event organizer **610** or one of the event invitees **620**. In some embodiments, for example, the individual can access a calendar interface, such as interface **2100** of FIG. **21**, to obtain information about pending and recent events.

[**0121**] The example interface **2100** shown in FIG. **21** includes a listing **2110** of events to which the individual is a party. The entries **2115** in the listing **2110** of events provide the designation given to the event by the event organizer **610**. In some example embodiments, each entry **2115** in the listing **2110** includes an interface tool **2117** enabling the individual to access additional information related to the corresponding event. In the example shown, each entry **2115** includes a hyperlink **2117** associated with a webpage containing additional information about the event.

[**0122**] The example interface **2100** also includes information **2120** indicating when the event is scheduled to occur. In some example embodiments, schedule information **2125** for each event indicates the date and time at which each event is scheduled to begin. In other example embodiments, however, the schedule information **2125** indicates time remaining until the event begins or time elapsed since the event occurred. In some embodiments, the interface **2100** includes navigational tools **2150**, **2155** enabling an accessing individual to create a new event or return to a menu interface, respectively, such as menu interface **800** of FIG. **8**.

[**0123**] In some example embodiments, as shown on the example interface **2100**, interface tools **2130**, **2140** enabling the event organizer **610** to modify or cancel, respectively, each event entry **2115** can also be provided. In one example embodiment, an edit interface tool **2130** includes a hyperlink

associated with an interface configured to enable the event organizer **610** to modify the date, time, location, and other information associated with the event. In another example embodiment, a cancel interface tool **2140** includes an icon on which the event organizer **610** can click to cancel the event. In other embodiments, however, the edit and cancel interface tools **2130**, **2140** are not provided.

[**0124**] FIG. **22** illustrates an operational flow for a process **2200** for displaying event calendar information. The process **2200** begins at a start module **2205** and proceeds to a request operation **2210**. The request operation **2210** receives a request from an individual to review the status of events to which the individual is a party. A display operation **2215** provides to the individual a listing of the requested events and schedule information corresponding with each event. In some embodiments, the display operation **2215** displays a calendar interface, such as calendar interface **2100** of FIG. **21**.

[**0125**] A select operation **2220** enables the individual to trigger an action with regard to one or more of the events listed. For example, in some example embodiments, an individual can choose to obtain more information about the event, edit the event, and/or cancel the event. Each of these options will be discussed in more detail below. A receive operation **2225** receives an indication from the individual that the individual wishes to trigger an action. For example, in one embodiments, the receive operation **2225** receives a request from the individual to edit the second listed event.

[**0126**] FIG. **23** illustrates an operational flow for an example process **2300** by which an event organizer **610** can edit an event. The process **2300** begins at a start module **2305** and proceeds to a receive operation **2310**. The receive operation **2310** receives input from the event organizer **610** indicating that the event organizer **610** desires to edit the event. In some embodiments, the receive operation **2310** occurs when the event organizer **610** selects an interface tool, such as interface tool **2130** of FIG. **21**.

[**0127**] A display operation **2315** provides to the event organizer **610** current information relating to the event. In some example embodiments, the current information includes the name designation of the event, the time and date on which the event is to take place, the location of the event, and a list of invitees **620**. In other example embodiments, however, the display operation **2315** provides any desired information regarding the event.

[**0128**] A modify operation **2320** enables the event organizer **610** to change any of the information displayed in operation **2315**. For example, in some embodiments, the event organizer can change the time, date, and/or location of the event. In other example embodiments, the event organizer can add and delete invitees **620** to the event. Update operation **2325** transmits a message to the invitees **620** indicating the changes to the event. The process **2300** ends at a stop module **2330**.

[**0129**] FIG. **24** illustrates an operational flow for a process **2400** by which an event organizer **610** can cancel an event. The process **2400** begins at a start module **2405** and proceeds to a receive operation **2410**. The receive operation **2410** receives input from the event organizer **610** indicating that the event organizer **610** desires to cancel the event. In some embodiments, the receive operation **2410** occurs when the event organizer **610** selects an interface tool, such as interface tool **2140** of FIG. **21**.

[**0130**] Next, a determine operation **2415** determines the contact information for each event invitee **620**. In some example embodiments, contact information includes a phone number associated with the portable device **410** of each invitee **620**. In other embodiments, however, any information that will enable the organization device **310** to transmit a message to the event invitees **620** can be used. A transmit operation **2420** sends a cancellation message to each event invitee **620**. A delete operation **2425** removes the event from the listing of events associated with each event participant. The process **2400** ends at stop module **2430**.

[**0131**] Referring now to FIGS. **25-29**, an organization device, such as organization device **310** of FIG. **3**, can track the attendance status of each event invitee **620**. The organization device can also provide to event participants the attendance status of each invitee **620** and other information pertaining to the event. As the term is used herein, "attendance status" refers to both participation status and arrival status. Participation status is based on whether the invitee **620** indicated that the invitee **620** would be attending the event. Arrival status refers to the geographic location of an invitee **620** with respect to the event location.

[**0132**] FIG. **25** illustrates an operational flow for a process **2500** by which an event participant can obtain additional information pertaining to an event. The process **2500** begins at a start module **2505** and proceeds to a retrieve operation **2510**. The retrieve operation **2510** obtains stored information pertaining to the event. In some embodiments, the retrieve operation **2510** accesses one or more databases on the organization device. In one example embodiment, the retrieve operation **2510** accesses an event database, such as event database **350** stored on organization device **310** of FIG. **3**.

[**0133**] A first analyze operation **2515** determines the identity of the event invitees **620**. A second analyze operation **2520** determines the participation status of each identified invitee **620**. In some example embodiments, the participation status of each invitee **620** was obtained and stored by the organization device when the invitee **620** responded to the invitation sent by the organization device. In one example embodiment, the participation status of each invitee **620** is determined based on whether the first character of the response message was a "Y" or an "N."

[**0134**] A display operation **2525** provides the attendance status of each invitee **620** to the individual. In some example embodiments, the display operation **2525** provides the participation status of each invitee **620**. For example, in one embodiment, the display operation **2525** displays the contact name and the response (e.g., "Y" or "N") of each invitee **620**. In another embodiment, the display operation **2525** displays only the contact name of the invitees **620** who indicated they intended on attending the event.

[**0135**] In other example embodiments, the display operation **2525** displays an optional message provided by the invitee **620** adjacent the contact name. In one example embodiment, the displayed message communicates further information relating to the invitee's attendance at the event. For example, in such an embodiment, the display operation **2525** might display the contact name of an invitee **620** and

a message from the invitee **620** indicating the invitee **620** will bring a particular item or will arrive late.

[**0136**] In still other example embodiments, the display operation **2525** displays arrival information. Arrival information refers to information indicating the geographic location of the invitee **620**. For example, in one embodiment, if a GPS location for the invitee **620** is known, then GPS coordinates and an estimated time of arrival can be displayed. In another embodiment, the display operation **2525** can provide last known coordinates of the invitee **620** and the time at which the coordinates were obtained. In another embodiment, the display operation **2525** can show that the invitee **620** is currently at the event. The process **2500** ends at a stop module **2530**.

[**0137**] FIG. **26** depicts one example embodiment of an event status interface **2600** indicating the attendance status of invitees **620** of a particular event. The interface **2600** includes indicia **2605** designating the name of the event. The interface **2600** also includes a list **2640** of invitees **620** including a contact name **2610** and attendance information. In one example embodiment, an icon **2615** is displayed adjacent the contact name **2610**.

[**0138**] In some example embodiments, the displayed attendance information includes arrival information **2620**. In one such embodiment, the arrival information **2620** indicates the distance the invitee **620** is from the event location. In another such embodiment, the arrival information **2620** indicates an estimated time of arrival for the invitee **620**. In yet another embodiment, the arrival information **2620** indicates the current location of the invitee **620**. In another embodiment, the arrival information **2620** indicates the invitee **620** is at the event. In other example embodiments, the displayed attendance information includes an optional message **2630** provided by the invitee **620**. In still other embodiments (not shown), the displayed information includes a participation status of the invitee **620**.

[**0139**] In some example embodiments, the event status interface **2600** includes additional information **2660** pertaining to the event. For example, in some embodiments, the event status interface **2600** includes pictures uploaded to the organization device. In other example embodiments, the event status interface **2600** includes comments provided by event participants. Of course, any desired information can be provided to event participants on the event status interface **2600**. In still other embodiments, individuals not invited to the event can view the event status interface **2600**. In one such embodiment, uninvited individuals can view, but cannot upload, pictures or comments to the organization device.

[**0140**] Referring to FIGS. **27-29**, the organization device can track the arrival status of event participants carrying location aware portable devices, such as portable device **410** of FIG. **5**. FIGS. **27** and **28** illustrate operational flows for example processes **2700**, **2800** by which location information relating to an event participant is obtained. The portable device of the invitee **620** executes process **2700** and the organization device **310** executes process **2800**.

[**0141**] The process **2700** begins at a start module **2705** and proceeds to an obtain operation **2710**. The obtain operation **2710** determines the geographic location. of the portable device. In some example embodiments, the portable device includes a location determination unit, such as the location determination unit **419** of FIG. **5**. In such embodiments, the portable device obtains the current location information from the location determination unit. In one example embodiment, the location determination unit includes a GPS transceiver.

[**0142**] In some embodiments, the location information is obtained automatically without direct interaction with the invitee **620**. For example, a portable device can be configured to automatically obtain location information at predetermined time intervals. In one such example embodiment, a cellular phone **410**A (FIG. **3**) determines its current GPS coordinates using a built-in GPS transceiver. In other example embodiments, the location information is obtained at the direction of the invitee **620**. A transmit operation **2715** sends the obtained location information to the organization device. The process **2700** ends at stop module **2720**.

[**0143**] The process **2800** begins at a start module **2805** and proceeds to a receive operation **2810**. The receive operation **2810** receives location information sent from one or more portable user devices, such as portable user devices **410** of FIG. **5**. In one example embodiment, the organization device receives a data string containing GPS information indicating the location of a portable device **410** of an invitee **620**. A store operation **2815** saves the location information on the organization device **310**. In some example embodiments, the location information received for each invitee **620** is saved in a GPS database **360** stored on the organization device **310**. The process **2800** ends at a stop module **2820**.

[**0144**] FIG. **29** illustrates an operational flow for a process **2900** by which the organization device displays arrival information for one or more event participants. The process **2900** begins at a start module **2905** and proceeds to a retrieve operation **2910**. In some embodiments, the retrieve operation **2910** obtains the location information of each invitee **620**. In other embodiments, the retrieve operation **2910** obtains location information for each invitee **620** and for the event organizer **610**. In one example embodiment, the retrieve operation **2910** accesses a user location database, such as the GPS database **360** of FIG. **4**, storing the last known GPS coordinates of each of the event participants. In other embodiments, the retrieve operation **2910** requests location information from the portable devices **410** of the event participants.

[**0145**] Next, in some example embodiments, the process **2900** proceeds to a display operation **2920**, skipping a calculate operation **2915**. In such embodiments, the display operation **2920** provides "raw" invitee location information. For example, in one embodiment, the display operation **2920** provides coordinates of latitude and longitude of the invitee **620**. In other embodiments, however, the process **2900** first proceeds to a calculate operation **2915**. The calculate operation **2915** calculates new information based on the information retrieved by the retrieve operation **2910**. For example, in some embodiments, the calculate operation **2915** determines an estimated time of arrival based on the retrieved location information and the event location. In such embodiments, the display operation **2920** can display the estimated arrival time as well as the retrieved location information. The process **2900** ends at a stop module **2925**.

[**0146**] Referring now to FIGS. **30-35**, the above described embodiments can best be understood through the use of an example application. In some example embodiments, the

interfaces depicted in FIGS. **30-35** are adapted to be displayed on the display screen of a mobile device, such as a cellular phone **410**A of FIG. **5**, configured to access an organization device, such as the organization device **310** of FIG. **4**. In other example embodiments, the interfaces are adapted to be displayed on the display screen of a non-mobile device. In still other embodiments, the interfaces are adapted to be displayed on a display device of the organization device, such as display device **317** of FIG. **4**.

[**0147**] The following will walk through example interfaces viewed by an event organizer **610**, Ms. Mary Planner, as she creates an event and tracks the attendance status of her guests on her cellular phone. It is assumed in the following disclosure that the cellular phone is configured to execute an application enabling the cellular phone to access an organization device. It is further assumed that the cellular phone has text messaging and WAP browsing capabilities.

[**0148**] FIG. **30** illustrates an example main menu interface **3000** by which Ms. Planner can access and modify various databases stored on the organization device **310**. In the example shown, the main menu interface **3000** includes an "address book" button **3005**, a "locations list" button **3010**, a "create new event" button **3015**, an "event status" button **3020**, and a "logout" button **3025**. By selecting the logout button **3025**, Ms. Planner can exit the application, thereby terminating the connection to the organization device.

[**0149**] Selecting the "address book" button **3005** provides Ms. Planner with an interface through which she can add and edit the her list of contacts. For example, FIG. **31** illustrates an example interface **3100** enabling Ms. Planner to enter a new individual contact. In the example shown, Ms. Planner is adding Genghis Kahn to her address book.

[**0150**] The example interface **3100** shown in FIG. **31** includes a first textbox **3105** in which Ms. Planner has typed the name of the new contact (i.e., "Genghis Kahn"). The interface **3100** also includes a second text box **3110** and third text box **3115** in which Ms. Planner has typed the phone number (i.e., "123456789") and phone service provider (i.e., "SPRINT™") of Mr. Kahn.

[**0151**] The example interface **3100** also includes a create button **3150** enabling Ms. Planner to indicate that she has finished entering information and that she wishes to create a new entry in her address book. Selecting the create button **3150** saves the information entered in the textboxes **3105**, **3110**, **3115** to the organization device. Thereafter, Ms. Planner will be able to invite Mr. Kahn to events that she creates. The example interface **3100** also includes a back button **3155** enabling Ms. Planner to return to the main menu **3000** without adding Mr. Kahn to her address book if she so desired.

[**0152**] In some embodiments, selecting the "locations list" button **3010** from the main menu interface **3000** will provide Ms. Planner with an interface enabling her to add a new location to her locations list. In other embodiments, selecting the "locations list" button **3010** will provide Ms. Planner with an interface enabling Ms. Planner to edit information associated with her current locations. FIG. **32** illustrates an example interface **3200** through which Ms. Planner can enter a new location. In the example shown, Ms. Planner is adding Mongolia to her list of locations.

[**0153**] The example interface **3200** includes a first textbox **3205** in which Ms. Planner has typed a name designating the new location (i.e., "Mongolia"). The example interface **3200** also includes a second text box **3210** in which Ms. Planner has typed a URL (Uniform Resource Locator) address leading to a web page displaying a map indicating the geographic position of the designated location. In other embodiments, Ms. Planner could have typed in a street address associated with the named location. In still other embodiments, Ms. Planner could have typed in the name of a well-known landmark or site when more specific directions are not necessary.

[**0154**] The example interface **3200** also includes a create button **3250** enabling Ms. Planner to indicate that she has finished entering information and that she wishes to create a new entry in her list of locations. Selecting the create button **3250** saves the information entered in the textboxes **3205**, **3210** to the organization device. Thereafter, Ms. Planner will be able to create events occurring in Mongolia. The example interface **3200** also includes a back button **3255** enabling Ms. Planner to return to the main menu **3000** without adding Mongolia to her list of locations.

[**0155**] Selecting the "create new event" button **3015** from the main menu interface **3000** enables Ms. Planner to create a new event and to invite guests to her event. FIGS. **33-34** illustrate an example interface **3300** enabling Ms. Planner to create a new event. In the example shown, Ms. Planner is creating a plundering event occurring in Mongolia on May 15, 2006 at 5:00 pm. Ms. Planner has chosen to invite Genghis Kahn, Bob Mongol, and John Doe to the plundering event.

[**0156**] The example interface **3300** includes a first textbox **3305** in which Ms. Planner has typed the name designating the new event (i.e., "Plundering"). The example interface **3300** also includes a series of interface tools **3310** with which Ms. Planner has indicated a date and time for the event to occur. For example, Ms. Planner has scheduled the Plundering event for May 15, 2006 at 5:00 pm. In some example embodiments, the interface tools **3310** include a date interface trigger **3314** and a time interface **3316**. In one example embodiment, the time interface **3316** is a textbox. In the example shown, Ms. Planner has entered her desired time, "5 pm," into the textbox **3316**.

[**0157**] In some example embodiments, selecting the date interface trigger **3314** causes a calendar interface **3318** to be displayed as shown in FIG. **34**. The calendar interface **3318** includes a listing of dates **3392** in a calendar format. In one example embodiment, the dates are displayed by month. In such an embodiment, the calendar interface **3318** includes navigation tools, such as navigation tools **3394**, to view dates corresponding to different months and years. In one embodiment, "pointing" and "clicking" on a particular date selects the date. In the example shown, Ms. Planner has indicated that she wishes to schedule the event for May 15, 2006 by selecting the "15" square in the listing **3392**.

[**0158**] In some example embodiments, the calendar interface **3318** is superimposed over the interface **3300**. In other embodiments, however, the calendar interface **3318** can be part of the interface **3300** and always visible. In one example embodiment, the currently selected date is displayed in text format as shown at **3396** in FIG. **34**. In another embodiment, the calendar interface **3318** includes an interface tool **3398**, such as a cancel button, that enables the event organizer **610**, such as Ms. Planner, to return to the interface **3300** without

selecting a date. Of course, in other embodiments, different interface tools can be used to schedule the event. For example, Ms. Planner could have used the interface tools **1820** discussed above with respect to FIG. **18**.

[**0159**] The interface **3300** also includes a dropdown menu **3320** (FIG. **33**) with which Ms. Planner can select a location from her list of locations. In the example shown, she has selected the location "Mongolia." In some embodiments, invited contacts can also be selected from a dropdown menu, such as dropdown menu **3330**. In one such embodiment, multiple contacts can be selected from the group dropdown menu **3330**. By selecting one or more groups, such as "Mongol Horde," Ms. Planner would not need to select the individual members of the group, such as Bob Mongol and Genghis Kahn. Rather, invitations would be sent to all members of the group. In the example shown, however, Ms. Planner has chosen to select addresses manually from her address book.

[**0160**] In some embodiments, the address book **3335** of the event organizer **610** provides a listing of the designation **3336** to all individual contacts and a corresponding selection interface **3337** for each contact. In one example embodiment, a corresponding icon **3338** is also displayed. Invitees are selected using the selection interface **3337**. In the example shown, Ms. Planner has added a checkmark in the checkmark boxes **3337** corresponding to Genghis Kahn, Bob Mongol, and John Doe. Ms. Planner has chosen not to invite her boss and has not added a checkmark in his box **3337**.

[**0161**] In other embodiments, the dropdown menu **3330** could include a listing of both groups and individuals, rather than having a separate menu **3330** and address book **3335**. In still other embodiments, other interface tools could be provided from which to select event invitees **620**. For example, in one example embodiment, Ms. Planner could type a name and phone number for each guest into a textbox.

[**0162**] The example interface **3300** also includes a create button **3350** enabling Ms. Planner to indicate that she has finished entering information and that she wishes to create a new entry in her list of events. Selecting the create button **3350** saves the information entered using interfaces **3305**, **3310**, **3320**, **3330**, and **3335** to the organization device. Thereafter, Ms. Planner will be able to track the attendance status of her guests. The example interface **3300** also includes a back button **3355** enabling Ms. Planner to return to the main menu **3000** without creating the "Plundering" event.

[**0163**] Referring now to FIGS. **35** and **36**, an individual can view information pertaining to events the individual has created or to which the individual has been invited. For example, Ms. Planner can review events to which she is invited and she can monitor the attendance status of her guests for the "Plundering" event.

[**0164**] For example, selecting the "events" button **3020** from the main menu interface **3000** provides Ms. Planner with an interface enabling her to view pending events, including the newly created "Plundering" event. FIG. **35** depicts one example of such an interface **3500**. The example events interface **3500** provides a listing **3510** of pending events. In some embodiments, recently pending events are also included in the listing **3510** on the events interface **3500**.

[**0165**] Each entry **3515** in the listing **3510** indicates the name designating the event. For example, in the example shown, the name designating the first listed event is "Plundering" and the name designating the next listed event is "Apple Picking." A time **3520** at which the event is scheduled to occur is also provided. In some embodiments, the time **3520** includes indicia **3525** specifying the amount of time remaining before the event occurs. In the example shown, the "Plundering" event is scheduled to occur thirty-two minutes from when the interface **3500** was accessed. The "Bowling" event, however, occurred five days before the interface **3500** was accessed.

[**0166**] In some embodiments, each entry **3415** in the listing **3510** also includes a corresponding interface tool **3530** with which Ms. Planner can choose to modify the event. The process for modifying an event is discussed in more detail herein with respect to FIGS. **21** and **23**. Each entry **3515** also includes a corresponding interface tool **3540** with which Ms. Planner can choose to cancel the event. The process for canceling an event is discussed in more detail herein with respect to FIGS. **21** and **24**.

[**0167**] The example interface **3500** also includes a create button **3550** enabling Ms. Planner to indicate that she has finished viewing the displayed information and that she wishes to create a new event. The process to add an event is discussed herein with respect to FIGS. **16-18**, and **33**. The example interface **3500** also includes a back button **3555** enabling Ms. Planner to return to the main menu **3000**.

[**0168**] In some embodiments, each event entry **3515** in the interface **3500** includes an interface tool **3517** enabling Ms. Planner to access additional information about the event. For example, to obtain additional information about the "Plundering" event, Ms. Planner would select the hyperlinked word "Plundering"**3517**. In particular, selecting the interface tool **3517** would bring her to a status interface corresponding to the "Plundering" event.

[**0169**] FIG. **36** depicts an example embodiment of the status interface **3600** for the "Plundering" event. The status interface **3600** includes at least a first section **3640** indicating the attendance status of invitees **620** to the plundering event. In the example shown, the first section **3640** provides the attendance status for three guests: Genghis Kahn, Bob Mongol, and John Doe. The interface **3600** also provides an interface tool **3655** enabling Ms. Planner to return to the main menu interface **3000**.

[**0170**] In some embodiments, the interface **3600** displays a name, an icon, arrival information, and an optional message for each invitee **620**. For example, in the interface **3600** shown, the first entry lists a name **3610**A of "Genghis Kahn," an icon **3615**A, and arrival information **3620**A indicating that Mr. Kahn was fifty miles from Mongolia fifteen minutes before the interface **3600** was accessed. A message **3630**A provided by Mr. Kahn to the organization device is also displayed.

[**0171**] In other embodiments, however, the invitee **620** has not provided a message **3630** and/or arrival information **3620**. For example, the second entry lists a name **3610**B of "Bob Mongol," an icon **3615**B, and arrival information **3620**B. The icon **3615**B for Bob Mongol can be the same or different from the icon **3615**A for Genghis Kahn. The second entry does not list a message from Mr. Mongol. The third

entry in the example lists a name **3610**C of "John Doe," an icon **3615**C, and a message **3630**C provided by Mr. Doe. However, the third entry does not provide arrival information for Mr. Doe. In still other embodiments, participation status of each event participant can also be shown.

[**0172**] In some example embodiments, the event status interface **3600** includes a second section **3660** in which pictures, movies, and other such media files can be displayed. In one example embodiment, the Ms. Planner can upload a picture **3665** of the building in which the event is being held or otherwise provide to her invitees **620** graphical information pertaining to the event. In another example embodiment, event participants can upload pictures **3665** taken at the event. In another example embodiment, a map to the event could be displayed.

[**0173**] In the example shown, the second section **3660** includes an interface tool **3667** with which Ms. Planner or another event participant can choose to upload one or more pictures **3665** to the event status interface **3600**. In some embodiments, the pictures are uploaded to and stored on the organization device. In one example embodiment, uploaded pictures are stored in the event status database **350** of the organization device **310** of FIG. **5**. In other example embodiments, the event status interface **3600** enables Ms. Planner to delete pictures **3665** from the section **3660**.

[**0174**] In some example embodiments, the event status interface **3800** includes a third section **3680** in which event participants can post a comment **3685** pertaining to the event. For example, in the interface **3600** shown in FIG. **38**, the third section **3680** includes two comment entries **3685**. Mr. Kahn has commented that he enjoyed the refreshments and Mr. Mongol has commented about his eagerness to return. In one example embodiment, the third section **3680** provides an interface tool **3687** with which event participants can add a comment entry **3685**.

[**0175**] In other example embodiments, the event status interface **3600** is not separated into separate sections **3640**, **3660**, **3680**. Rather, pictures **3665** and comments **3685** can be intermixed with invitee **620** attendance information.

[**0176**] Referring now to FIGS. **37-44**, some additional features are disclosed. FIG. **37** illustrates an operational flow for a process **3700** by which event reminders can be sent to invitees **620**. In one example embodiment, the organization device automatically sends out event reminders to all of the invitees **620**. In another example embodiment, reminders are sent only to invitees **620** who requested a reminder (i.e., "opted in"). In other embodiments, however, the event organizer **610**, such as Ms. Planner, executes the process **3700** using either her user device, such as user device **210** of FIG. **5**, or the organization device, such as organization device **310** of FIG. **4**.

[**0177**] The process **3700** begins at a start module **3705** and proceeds to an identify operation **3710**. The identify operation **3710** determines which contacts were invited to an event and obtains the contact information for each invitee **620**. In some example embodiments, the identify operation **3710** determines which invitees **620** opted in for receiving an event reminder.

[**0178**] A transmit operation **3715** sends reminders to the invitees **620**. In some embodiments, the reminders are text messages sent to the user devices **210** of the invitees **620**. In other embodiments, the reminders are WAP Push messages that direct the invitees **620** to a WAP page containing reminder information. In still other embodiments, the reminders are sent via email to the invitees **620**.

[**0179**] In some embodiments, from the transmit operation **3715**, the process **3700** proceeds to a stop module **3730**. In other embodiments, however, the process **3700** proceeds to a query operation **3720**. The query operation **3720** enables the invitees **620** to provide or update their participation status. For example, if an invitee **620** previously responded to the event invitation by indicating he would attend, and if the invitee **620** later realized that the event occurred during his anniversary, then he could update his participation status to reflect that he would not be attending the event. Alternatively, in another example embodiment, the same invitee **620** could provide a message indicating that he would be bringing another person to the event.

[**0180**] A receive operation **3725** receives information sent from the invitee **620** in response to the reminder. In some embodiments, the receive operation **3725** receives an updated participation and/or an updated message. In such an embodiment, the participation status and/or message are added to the event status interface, such as event status interface **3600** of FIG. **36**. The process **3700** ends at a stop module **3730**.

[**0181**] FIG. **38** illustrates an operational flow for a process **3800** with which the organization device, such as organization device **310** of FIG. **4**, can provide targeted advertisements to event participants. The process **3800** begins at a start module **3805** and proceeds to an identify operation **3810**. The identify operation **3810** determines the geographic location of the event.

[**0182**] A search operation **3815** determines whether one or more advertisements available to the organization device correspond with the geographic location of the event. In some embodiments, the advertisements are stored in a database (not shown) or other storage device on the organization device. In other embodiments, the advertisements are stored on a server, such as server **240** of FIG. **3**, communicatively coupled to the organization device **310**. In such embodiments, the search operation **3815** can search an advertisement index stored on the organization device **310** or can request the desired information from the server.

[**0183**] A display operation **3820** transmits any advertisements found by the search operation **3815** to the user device **210** of the invitees **620**. For example, when an invitee **620** accesses an event status WAP page, such as event status interface **3800**, on her cellular phone **410** for an event occurring at the Mall of America in Bloomington, Minnesota, then the invitee **620** may view advertisements for stores and restaurants located in the Mall of America. Processes for obtaining and displaying targeted advertisements on a web browser are well known in the art. The process **3800** ends at stop module **3825**.

[**0184**] FIGS. **39-44** illustrate one example of an event forwarding feature that enables an invitee to invite additional people to an event. In some embodiments, the second and later generation invitees send responses to the invitation to the organization device, such as organization device **3940** of FIG. **39**. In one such embodiment, the organization device tracks the attendance status of the second and later genera-

tion invitees as well as the first generation invitees. In some embodiments, the organization device also tracks the invitation chain for the event. Tracking the invitation chain enables the sequence of event invitations to be traced forwards or backwards from any invitee.

[0185] For example, FIG. **39** is a block diagram depicting an invitation chain beginning with Ms. Planner **610**A and ending with Mongol B **620**F, Mongol C **620**G, and Patent Attorney **620**H. According to FIG. **39**, the first generation of invitees, which were invited by Ms. Planner **61** OA, includes Genghis Kahn **620**A, Bob Mongol **620**B, and John Doe **620**C. Mr. Kahn **620**A, after receiving his invitation, forwarded the invitation on to his Mongol Horde contacts **620**D. Individuals Mongol A **620**E, Mongol B **620**F, and Mongol C **620**G are associated with the Mongol Horde group **620**D. Mongol A **620**E has chosen to forward his invitation on to Patent Attorney **620**H.

[0186] In some embodiments, an organization device, such as organization device **3940**, tracks the invitation chain by creating a new event each time an event invitation is forwarded. In one such embodiment, as shown in FIG. **39**, each new event is saved in an event record in an event database, such as event database **3950** on organization device **3940**. For example, when Ms. Planner **610**A first creates the event, she creates a first record **3910** in the event database **3950**. In the example embodiment shown, the first record **3910** identifies an event designation **3912** (i.e., "Plundering"), an event organizer **3914** (i.e., "Ms. Planner"), a list **3916** of invitees **620** (i.e., first generation invitees), and a parent event **3918**, if any.

[0187] When Genghis Kahn decides to forward the "Plundering" event invitation to his Mongol Horde group contact, the organization device **3940** creates a second event record **3920** in the event database **3950**. In the embodiment shown, the new event record **3920** lists the event designation **3922** as "Plundering (by Ms. Planner)" and Mr. Kahn is listed as the event organizer at **3924**. In other embodiments, however, Mr. Kahn can modify the event designation **3922**. In some embodiments, the second record also includes a link **3928** to the parent event record **3910**. The link **3928** enables the organization device **3940** to trace the newly created "Plundering (by Ms. Planner)" event to the original "Plundering" event.

[0188] FIG. **40** provides an operation flow for a process **4000** by which an invitee **620** to an event can forward his invitation to one or more additional invitees. The process **4000** begins at start module **4005** and proceeds to receive operation **4010**. The receive operation **4010** obtains an invitation to an event. For example, as discussed above, Mongol A **620**E of FIG. **39** receives an invitation from Mr. Kahn. Next, select operation **4015** enables Mongol A to choose whether or not to forward the event to one or more of Mongol A's contacts.

[0189] A create event **4020** enables Mongol A **620**E to access the organization device **3940** to create a new event. In some embodiments, the create event **4020** operation enables Mongol A **620**E to add a new event record, such as event record **3930**, to an event record database, such as event record database **3950**. In the example shown in FIG. **39**, event record **3930** lists the event designation **3932** as "Plundering (by Ms. Planner and Genghis Kahn") and the event organizer **3934** as Mongol A **620**E. The event record **3930** also includes a link **3938** to the parent event, "Plundering (by Ms. Planner)," which was created by Genghis Kahn. Mongol A **620**E has chosen to invitee Patent Attorney **620**H to the event. Transmit operation **4025** sends the invitation to the new event (i.e., "Plundering (by Ms. Planner and Genghis Kahn)") to Patent Attorney **620**H. The process ends at stop module **4030**.

[0190] FIG. **41** illustrates an operation flow for a process **4100** by which the organization device, such as organization device **3940** of FIG. **39**, can track the invitation chain for each event. The process **4100** begins at start module **4105** and proceeds to a first receive operation **4110**, which receives a request from an event invitee (hereafter referred to as an "event forwarder") to forward an event. A display operation **4115** displays an event forwarding interface, such as interface **4200** of FIG. **42**, to the second event organizer. A second receive operation **4120** obtains a list of additional invitees to whom the event forwarder wishes to forward the event invitation.

[0191] Store operation **4125** saves relevant information on the organization device. In some embodiments, store operation **4125** creates a new event record, such as record **3930**, and saves the record **3930** on an event database, such as database **3950** of FIG. **39**. In one such embodiment, the store operation **4125** stores the designation of the event, the event organizer (i.e., the event forwarder), and the identity of each additional invitee in the event record **3930**. Link operation **4130** creates a link in the database record to the parent database record. For example, link operation **4130** creates a link **3938** in record **3930** to the event record **3920** of the parent event (i.e., "Plundering (by Ms. Planner))." Through this link **3938**, the organization device can trace the creation and invitation chain of the forwarded event.

[0192] Transmit operation **4135** sends invitations to the newly created event to the additional invitees selected by the event forwarder (e.g., Mongol A **620**E). In the example shown in FIG. **39**, the transmit operation **4135** sends an invitation to "Plundering (by Ms. Planner and Genghis Kahn)" to Patent Attorney **620**H. Track operation **4140** receives and saves any response sent from the additional invitees regarding the attendance status of the additional invitees. The process ends at stop module **4145**.

[0193] FIG. **42** illustrates one example of an event forwarding interface **4200** displayed by the display operation **4115** of process **4100**. The interface **4200** includes a listing of the event designation **4205**, the event schedule **4210**, and the event location **4220**. In the example shown in FIG. **42**, the event forwarding interface **4200** only enables selection of additional invitees and does not enable modification of the other event information. In other examples, however, the event forwarding interface **4200** can enable modification of the event designation, event schedule, and/or event location.

[0194] In some embodiments, the event forwarder selects additional invitees using an interface tool **4230**. In one example embodiment, the interface tool **4230** includes a dropdown menu listing groups created by the event forwarder. In other embodiments, however, the event forwarding interface **4200** also provides access to the event forwarder's address book **4235** similar to the create event interface **3300** of FIG. **33**.

[0195] In some embodiments, the example interface **4200** also includes a create button **4250** enabling the event for-

warder to indicate that he has finished entering information and that he wishes to transmit the event invitations to the additional invitees. In one example embodiment, selecting the create button **4250** saves the information entered using interfaces **4230**, **4235** to the organization device and transmits the invitations to the selected invitees. The example interface **4200** also includes a back button **4255** enabling the event forwarder to return to the main menu **3000** without forwarding the event.

[**0196**] FIG. **43** illustrates another example event status interface **4300** similar to the event status interface **3600** of FIG. **36**. As in the event status interface **3600**, the event status interface **4300** provides the attendance status of event participants **610**, **620**. In addition, however, the event status interface **4300** can provide additional information about the event participants **610**, **620**.

[**0197**] In some embodiments, selecting one of the displayed event participants **610**, **620** provides additional information about the participant. For example, in one embodiment, selecting an event participant displays a pop-up box **4370** providing the invitation chain for the selected event participant. In the example shown, Patent Attorney **620**H has been selected. Pop-up box **4370** indicates that Patent Attorney **620**H was invited by Mongol A **620**E, that Mongol A **620**E was invited by Genghis Kahn **620**A, and that Genghis Kahn **620**A was invited by Mary Planner **610**A. In other embodiments, however, any desired information can be provided for the selected event participant.

[**0198**] In still other embodiments, information pertaining to a selected event participant can be displayed on an invitee information interface, such as the example invitee information interface **4400** shown in FIG. **44**. In general, an invitee information interface **4400** provides information about a selected invitee **620**.

[**0199**] In some embodiments, the information interface **4400** provides information related to the current event. For example, in the embodiment shown, the example interface **4400** provides arrival information and invitation chain information for Mongol A at **4410**. The example interface **4400** also provides a link **4415** to the event status page of the current event. In other example embodiments, however, any desired information can be displayed.

[**0200**] In some embodiments, for example, the interface **4400** provides information on the last event(s) attended by the selected event participant. For example, the interface **4400** provides the designation, date, and invitation chain of the last event attended by Mongol A. In other example embodiments, the location of the event or other desired information is also shown. In still other example embodiments, the interface **4400** provides a link **4425** to the event status page of the previous event.

[**0201**] In some example embodiments, the example interface **4400** displays recent pictures/movies posted by the selected event participant. For example, the example interface **4400** includes at **4430***a* picture **4435** posted by Mongol A. In one such example embodiment, an event designation or a posting date pertaining to the picture is also provided at **4430**. In other example embodiments, the example interface **4400** also displays recent comments posted by Mongol A, such as the comment "We won!! We are the champions!" at **4440**.

[**0202**] The example interface **4400** also includes an add button **4450** enabling a selector to add the selected event participant to her address book. In some embodiments, selecting the add button **4450** automatically saves contact information for the selected event participant to the address book of the selector. In other embodiments, however, selecting the add button **4450** displays a new contact interface, such as new contact interface **3100** of FIG. **31**, enabling the selector to manually enter at least some of the contact information of the selected event participant. Thereafter, the selector will be able to invite the selected event participant to events she creates. The example interface **4400** also includes a back button **4455** enabling the selector to return to the main menu, such as menu **3000** of FIG. **30**.

[**0203**] The above specification, examples and data provide a complete description of the manufacture and use of the composition of the invention. Since many embodiments of the invention can be made without departing from the spirit and scope of the invention, the invention resides in the claims hereinafter appended.

We claim:

1. A method comprising:

scheduling an event occurring at a location;

inviting event participants to the location-specific event;

tracking an attendance status of each event participant; and

providing the attendance status of each event participant to a requesting event participant;

wherein the attendance status of at least one event participant includes a geographic position of the event participant in relation to the location.

2. The method of claim 1, further comprising receiving a response from the event participants, the response including an indication of participation status.

3. The method of claim 2, wherein the response includes a message provided by the event participant.

4. The method of claim 2, wherein the response includes a request for a reminder message.

5. The method of claim I, further comprising sending reminders to the event participants.

6. The method of claim 1, further comprising:

receiving pictures uploaded by event participants;

providing the uploaded pictures to the requesting event participant;

receiving comments uploaded by event participants; and

providing the uploaded comments to the requesting event participant.

7. The method of claim 1, wherein scheduling an event includes selecting a date and time for the event.

8. The method of claim 1, wherein inviting event participants includes selecting contacts from an address book.

9. The method of claim 1, wherein scheduling an event includes selecting a location from a list of locations.

10. The method of claim 1, further comprising:

receiving a request to forward an event from one of the invited event participants;

receiving a selection of at least one additional event participant;

transmitting an event invitation to the additional event participant;

tracking an attendance status of each additional event participant; and

providing the attendance status of each additional event participant to the requesting event participant.

11. A system comprising:

an organization device configured to enable an event organizer to schedule an event occurring at a location, the organization device further configured to transmit invitations to the event; and

a plurality of user devices configured to receive the transmitted invitations and to send responses to the organization device, at least one of the plurality of user devices configured to determine a current location of the at least one device and to transmit the current location to the organization device.

12. The system of claim 11, wherein the at least one user device is a cellular phone configured to receive text message.

13. The system of claim 11, wherein the at least one user device includes a GPS transceiver.

14. The system of claim 11, wherein the organization device is configured to provide the current location of the at least one device so as to be accessible to the plurality of user devices.

15. The system of claim 14, wherein the organization device provides the current location of the at least one device on a web page.

16. The system of claim 11, wherein the organization device stores an address book associated with at least one user.

17. The system of claim 11, wherein the organization device stores pictures pertaining to an event scheduled on the organization device.

18. The system of claim 11, wherein the organization device transmits the invitation as a text message.

19. A method comprising:

scheduling an event occurring at a location including selecting the location and selecting a date and time at which the event will occur;

inviting event participants to the event including selecting at least some of the event participants from an address book;

enabling event participants to invite additional event participants;

tracking which event participants invited which additional event participants;

receiving replies from the event participants and the additional event participants including receiving a participation status of the event participants and the additional event participants;

receiving a request from a requesting event participant to view the participation status of the event participants and the additional event participants;

providing to the requesting event participant the participation status of the event participants and the additional event participants;

receiving an arrival status from at least one of the event participants or the additional event participants, the arrival status including GPS coordinates corresponding to a location of the at least one event participant or additional event participant;

calculating an estimated time at which the at least one event participant or additional event participant will arrive at the location of the event; and

providing to the requesting event participant the estimated time at which the at least one event participant or additional event participant will arrive at the location of the event.

20. The method of claim 19, further comprising:

enabling event participants to submit pictures pertaining to the event;

associating pictures submitted by the event participants with the corresponding event participants;

enabling event participants to submit comments pertaining to the event;

associating comments received from the event participant with the corresponding event participants;

associating events created by event participants with the corresponding event participants;

associating events to which each of the event participants is invited with the corresponding event participants; and

providing to a second requesting event participant a listing of events created by a selected one of the event participants, a listing of events to which the selected one of the event participants is invited, the pictures associated with the selected one of the event participants, and the comments associated with the selected one of the event participants.

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